

**Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held in the Colyton
Town Hall on Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Cllrs S Real, M Mann, P Arnott, A Parr, K Clifford, J Gardiner, J Hay, G Chesterton, G Stephenson and R Turner.

Also in attendance: EDDC Cllr H Parr and S Haines (clerk)

Members of public: 0

25/02/21 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllr Stenning.

25/02/22 Police Report 10 crimes reported in December 2024. 6 X Violence and sexual offences, 1 X other theft, 1 X anti-social behaviour, 2 X all other crime.

25/02/23 Declarations of Interest. None.

25/02/24 Public Question time. No members of public to speak.

25/02/25 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025. Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all bar Cllrs Real and Arnott who both abstained due to not being present for the meeting.

25/02/26 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.

25/02/27 Report from County Councillor. No report provided.

25/02/28 Report from District Councillors Cllr Arnott circulated his report and welcomed any questions – see appendix A.

Cllr H Parr added to Cllr Arnotts report by stating that Exeter would like to become a Unitary Council – leaving even fewer people in the rest of Devon to count. She then moved on to talk about the EDDC Local Plan – the public consultation will begin shortly, any comments will go to an inspector who may take up to a year to make the decision. It is extremely important to submit a comment which is substantial and detailed as this may be the last chance to protect the land.

25/02/29 Highway Matters

a) Ref TTRO2561095 temporary prohibition of through traffic on Dolphin Street from Monday 19th May – Friday 30th May to install a new connection – National Grid.

b) Devon Highways will be undertaking patching works on Dolphin Street, Colyton, overnight between Monday 10th – Thursday 13th February 2025. These works will be done under a road closure between 19.00 – 07.00, with all heavy works completed by 23.00.

25/02/30 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Stephenson attended the webinar for EDDC's Local Plan, he recommended the clerk email EDDC to ask for any slides available. Cllr Parr will draft a response to the plan to be agreed on at the next committee meeting.

25/02/31 Dolphin Street Toilets. Cllr Mann has done a condition survey of the block, the building is mostly good, the ply behind a fascia board is rotten, inside is all serviceable but dated, there is some graffiti on the inside door to the accessible loo. Keys will be needed for electric/plumbing cupboards so this can be isolated for the unisex blocks on the day of the take-over. The iron gates will need to be disconnected and then locked with a padlock for security, these could possibly be re-open for busy weekends or town events in the first year. Plans for the water and sewage systems have been located. Cllr Mann will commit to open/ close/ clean for the first month to give the Council some room to arrange cleaners, he had public liability under his business insurance. He is waiting on a reply from PHS who empty bins at the Reece Strawbridge Centre to see if they would add the toilet bin to the current contract. EDDC cleaning contract will be turned down, clerk to email to confirm that from the actual date of exchanging contracts, the Parish Council will be responsible for the cleaning.

25/02/32 Land next to old Morgue. Clerk to send letter to the Board family.

25/02/33 Date for the Annual Parish Meeting. To be held between 1st March and 1st June – usually on a Wednesday. Suggestions for a guest speaker. Suggested Wednesday 21st May – clerk to check if hall is available. No guest speaker as low attendance of the public.

25/02/34 Rubbish in ditch alongside Reece Strawbridge Centre. Cllr Real reported a large amount of recycling rubbish has appeared in the ditch by the Reece Strawbridge Centre, Cllr Mann to check it.

25/02/35 Handyman replacement advert. Advert to be placed on Heart of Colyton and Coly Times.

25/02/36 Correspondence

- a) Rural Bulletin
- b) Rural Funding Digest
- c) Invitation received for a South West Water Community Road Show. Being held 11th February between 12-4pm at the Seaton Town Football Club.

25/02/37 Finance

Minutes of the finance committee meeting held Monday 27th January 2025 (appendix U) to be noted.
Accounts to be approved for payment

DD Biffa waste management 194.94 VAT 38.99. Total 233.93 pounds.

DD Talktalk phone and broadband 39.17 VAT 7.83. Total 47.00 pounds.

DD British gas lite workshop electricity 17.30 VAT .86. Total 18.16 pounds.

BACS Halcyon cemetery maintenance 526.75 VAT 105.35. Total 632.10 pounds.

BACS K Underdown & Son hedge trimming September 2024 150.00 VAT 30.00. Total 180.00 pounds.

BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. Total 120.00 pounds.

The above accounts were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.

a) Clerks holiday request. Approved.

b) Land registry search. Clerk has contacted the Land Registry to enquire who has the title for Land at Stafford Cross, they have responded

25/02/38 Planning

Minutes of the planning committee meeting held Monday 27th January 2025 (appendix V) to be noted.

a) Planning Applications

24/2384/FUL Coly Dale Station Road Colyton - Sam and Alice Carlisle - Proposed extensions.

Comments due by 19th February.

Cllr Real proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

25/0158/FUL Lea Combe Cottage Station Road Colyton – Mr & Mrs Hollis - Construction of dormers on the North East & South West elevations and First Floor balcony on the South West elevation.

Comments due by 26th February.

Cllr Gardiner proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

25/0206/FUL The Shippon Blamphayne Farm Northleigh – Mrs King - Solar PV Installation.

Comments due by 28th February.

Cllr Clifford proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

b) Planning Decisions

24/2146/FUL Stoneleat House The Butts Colyton - Retrospective application to construct a shed in front of the property. Approved with conditions.

c) Planning correspondence

The Clyst St Mary & Sowton (Bishops Clyst) Neighbourhood Plan (First Review) has been formally submitted to East Devon District Council, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Comments on the Plan are now invited and must be submitted no later than 9am on 17th March 2025.

25/02/39 Amenities

Minutes of the amenities committee meeting held Monday 27th January 2025 (appendix W) to be noted.

- a) Report of water run-off from Allotments on to Shiphay Farm. Cllr Mann has inspected the area and couldn't see how the situation could be improved, Cllr Real to speak to landowner to gather more information.
- b) P3 bid is due, meeting to be held between P3 officer, wardens and clerk on 27th February at 13:30. Cllr Mann will attend.

25/02/40 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published

Tree down at the allotments – tree fallen on plot 6H. Cllr Mann to inspect and let clerk know if he cannot clear it.

Parish Council website. Cllr Chesterton shared his website design so far, Cllr Stenning commented that the logo should be larger, the list should be finance, planning then amenities and EDDC does not need a mention as it will be gone soon. Cllr Arnott commented that it looked fantastic and that EDDC would be around for at least another three years.

Cllr Mann asked that he be authorised to make the handyman shed more secure as it is not visited every day and does contain valuable tools. This was agreed.

25/02/41 Matters to be taken into Committee**25/02/42 Dates of future meetings**

Committees – Monday 24th February

Full Meeting – Monday 10th March

Meeting closed: 20:10

*Appendix A***Councillor Paul Arnott: Coly Valley Report**

February 2025

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

On December 16th 2024, the government belatedly published its White Paper regarding the above. It is fair to comment that it has caused confusion and chaos in the already defunded and crisis-ridden local government sector across the country.

Unfortunately, Devon County Council seized the opportunity to ask to cancel this May's elections on spurious grounds, and last week they were told by government they had failed in this. All Conservative members voted for the cancellation, which would have resulted in them serving a further year, probably two, unelected. Many of them will now be standing for election in May after all having tried to avoid that democratic process.

The challenge ahead now is for Devon councils to revert to government by the end of March with ideas for reorganisation. This would be to form what will be known as "Principal Authorities", or new Unitaries, to replace the abolished County and District Councils. Discussions are being had daily on this. Those ideas would be expected to be worked into firm and granular proposals by the end of November.

A further challenge is that these Principal Authorities must sit under new Strategic Authorities which will have a Mayor elected by the residents of that area. The minimum number of people set by government is 1.5 million, and Devon alone is not big enough for

this. One option is to form a Strategic Authority with Cornwall, but Cornwall Council and its MPs are taking a hardcore line that they do not wish to join with Devon.

In those circumstances, and if government defies its own policy by allowing Cornwall to go it alone with a population of under 550k, Devon may need to seek a deal with Somerset and Dorset and beyond. We shall see.

Crucial to all of this is that the voices of Parish and Town Councils be heard as proposals begin to be developed. There are opportunities and risks to them in this process.

Colyford Local Government Reorganisation order

It was said at a Colyton Parsh meeting recently that the prospect of local government reorganisation may have some retrospective effect on the process of forming Colyford Parish Council. This is not the case, and perhaps this should be made clear to save further confusion.

- The governance review was a “process” made legally and within the required time limits under the Colyford (Reorganisation of Community) Order dated 11th January 2023
- Under the legally approved Colyford Governance Review process, the Stafford Cross fields were vested to the new Colyford PC through legal consultation at stage 3 of the CGR. Colyton PC failed to take notice of the proposal to do so in the Statutory framework of the consultation.
- This was reinforced on 22nd November 2023 at the High Court, Administrative Order AC-2023-CDF-000048 when Colyton Parish Council’s challenge was refused at the permissions stage. The High Court refused permission for three reasons:
- First, the claim was not prompt and was brought late. Second, the community governance review did not exceed the 12-month period. Third, even if it had exceeded the 12-month period, the alleged consequences do not follow
- Regarding land at Stafford Cross, the transfer of the field was covered by the Schedules to the Colyford Reorganisation Order (RO). The RO is an “output” from the CGR process and is not related to the time schedules applied to the CGR “process”. Therefore, some Colyton councillors are casting a mistruth by relating the RO transfer within the timescales of the legally binding CGR process
- Colyton PC cannot seek to administer the Stafford Cross fields since they are within the Colyford PC boundary set by the CGR.
- There is no evidence that under the forthcoming review of local councils that parish boundaries are to be brought into consideration at all.