

**Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 11th
November 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.**

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

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

Members of public: 2

Cllr Parr congratulated the Playing Fields Committee on a fantastic fireworks display.

24/11/51 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllrs Arnott, Gardiner and Chesterton.

24/11/52 Declaration of Interests. Cllr Hay declared at interest on planning application 24/2146/FUL Stoneleat House as his children are adjoining land owners. Cllr Parr declared an interest on planning application 24/2305/TCA Queens Haye as he is a neighbour. Cllr Stenning declared an interest on planning application 24/2305/TCA Queens Haye as her family are neighbours.

24/11/53 Police Report. 7 reported crimes in September. 2 Violence and sexual offences, 1 antisocial behaviour, 1 criminal damage and arson and 3 'other' crimes.

24/11/54 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 14th October 2024. Cllr Mann proposed these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed. Cllrs Real and Parr abstained as they were not present for the meeting.

24/11/55 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.

24/11/56 Public Question time. A member of public asked about the area by the Umborne Business park which is taped off around the Salvation Army bin. He stated that the area looked quite untidy with the tape and the area is often walked past by visitors. He confirmed that he had offered to grass the area and keep it mowed. The handyman has informed him that the plan is to scrape it and put down Road Planings which will look quite ugly.

Cllr Mann answered that yes the plan is to scrape and cover with road planings. This is to create a couple more parking bays and hopefully discourage people from parking on Dolphin Street right up to the bridge and blocking the sight for oncoming traffic and also blocking a bus stop. The area is currently taped off to stop anybody parking on it and churning it up. Cllr Mann agreed that road planings might not look the prettiest but they will create a strong semi permeable surface for cars to park on. The Council has an extremely tight budget and unfortunately cannot afford to put down gravel to match the area to the side. The member of public offered to contribute financially if it made the area look more attractive. Cllr Mann said they would liaise outside of the meeting. This was agreed.

24/11/57 Report from County Councillor – see appendix A

24/11/58 Report from District Councillors – Cllr Arnott circulated his report see appendix B

Cllr H Parr gave an update on the Local Plan. There have been a series of meetings. On 23rd October redrafting of plans were looked at. Meeting housing needs for all is how they are going to look at affordable housing. On the 29th October another meeting took place where the Committee agreed that the two sites in Colyton which were previously discarded should be put back in to be allocated for development.

Unfortunately she was the only person present to speak against this. Coly 06 which is the site by the Playing Fields which the Parish Council and Devon County Council wanted allocated for the future Primary School site was allocated for 12 houses. The Committee stated that without any plan or promise of funding for the School it could not be reserved for the School. Also the current land owner has submitted the site for housing. There will be a final meeting in November to agree to go out to a regulation 19 public consultation for a 6 week period in December. The meetings were very disappointing and felt like a tick box exercise whereby sites were allocated without much consideration. If plans go ahead then there will be 22,500 new houses build all across EDDC but we know that if the sites are not agreed then the government could force that number even higher.

Some good news is that there looks to finally be movement to solve the issues in the Dolphin Street car park and the broken street lights.

The Stock Condition survey on EDDC's affordable housing stock has been received but its findings are currently confidential.

Cllr Hay asked how the sites can be allocated for housing when the current sewage system cannot cope with what we already have.

Cllr H Parr explained that the allocations are not planning permissions, planning applications will still have to be submitted as usual and will be subject to the usual standards, the sewage system will have to be passed as adequate to allow planning permission to be granted.

Cllr Parr commented that the new builds would be utterly unsustainable and any applications will have to be fought hard against and maybe an action group needs to be assembled.

24/11/59 Highway Matters

a) Ref TTRO2559980 temporary prohibition of through traffic from Wednesday 22nd January until Friday 24th January 2025. Sidmouth Road for patching works.

b) Ref TTRO2457748 temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking on Wednesday 4th December. Market Place. Christmas Fayre.

c) Ref TTRO2560282 temporary prohibition of through traffic from Tuesday 6th February until Monday 10th February. South Street to repair dangerous drain cover.

d) HATOC proposed traffic orders.

24/11/60 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Stenning attended a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting. She waited 9 hours to speak and felt it was a complete waste of time as their minds were already made up and nothing said was taken into account.

Cllr Hay attended a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee. All going well and the Firework night was very successful. Unfortunately a report was made after the display of somebody being attacked on their way home. More CCTV to be installed. Cllr Hay also attended a meeting of the Reece Strawbridge Centre. The soakaway has been extended and will hopefully alleviate flooding. There are plans to re-decorate inside. There was another issue after Brownies one evening where three teenagers were outside and displaying threatening behaviour which has been reported to the police.

Cllr Mann added that there are plans to add CCTV to the centre and also to put the outside light on a timer so it doesn't come on at night. Cllr Turner confirmed that the police know who it is that is causing the trouble.

24/11/61 Response from the Environment Agency regarding desilting of the river Coly. Clerk received an email explaining that de-silting works were completed but the bank had formed again, there is no budget to do further works this year and a different plan may be formed for next year.

24/11/62 Dolphin Street Toilets. Still awaiting updated costings from EDDC – next agenda.

24/11/63 Parish Council website. Cllr Chesterton was going to speak on this but sent his apologies – next agenda.

24/11/64 Correspondence

a) The Rural Bulletin

b) EDDC Covid update

c) Rural Funding Digest

d) Rural Services Network

e) Letter received from Symonds and Sampson in response from the letter sent 4th November confirming contents are noted.

24/11/65 Finance

Minutes of the finance committee meeting held Monday 28th October (appendix P) to be noted.

Accounts to be approved for payment.

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

DD British Gas Lite 16.84 VAT 0.84. Total 17.68 pounds.

DD Biffa waste management 242.05 VAT 48.41. Total 290.46 pounds.

BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. Total 120.00 pounds.

BACS Halcyon cemetery grounds 526.75 VAT 105.35 verges 130 VAT 26. Total 788.110 pounds.

BACS Wicksteed fencing around trim trail 9084.37 VAT 1816.87. Total 10901.24 pounds.

BACS EDDC emptying of two poo bins 954.72 VAT 190.94. Total 1145.66

BACS Axminster garden machinery new hedge cutter 458.34 VAT 91.66. Total 550.00 pounds.

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

- a) Clerk laptop. Clerks laptop is not performing. Clerk to give to Mike Williams to see if he can fix it.
- b) Quote for cemetery maintenance contract. Clerk has found a second company with Chapter 8 insurance and is awaiting a quote. Next agenda.
- c) Letter received from Lloyds bank confirming that the Treasurers Account will be changed to a Community Account and therefore will be subject to a monthly account fee of £4.25. Cllr Turner stated that we didn't really have a choice as there are no other local banks so it was agreed to stay with Lloyds.
- d) Clerk has sent invoice to EDDC for the remaining balance of £4427.95 S106 funding to pay towards the Trim trail fencing. Noted.

24/11/66 Planning

Minutes for the planning committee meeting held Monday 28th October (appendix Q) to be noted.

a) Planning application from East Devon

24/2146/FUL Stoneleat House The Butts – Mr Eul-Baker - Retrospective application to construct a shed in front of the property. *Comments due by 4th December.*

It was decided that more time is needed to make a decision so this will be on the next agenda.

24/2305/TCA Queens Haye Queens Square – Mr & Mrs Fisher-Crouch - T1, Magnolia grandiflora: target prune the growth on the eastern side by up to 2m, removing encroachment into the neighbouring property. *Comments due by 5th December.*

Cllr Real proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Mann. Agreed by all bar Cllrs Stenning and Parr who abstained due to declaring interests.

b) Planning decisions from East Devon

c) Planning correspondence.

24/11/67 Amenities

Minutes for the amenities committee meeting held Monday 28th October (appendix R) to be noted.

- a) Grave at cemetery bare of grass. Last interment was July 2023. Clerk to contact grave diggers to ask what could be causing this.
- b) Letter received from MOP asking permission to fly model aircraft over the playing fields. This was declined.

24/11/68 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.

24/11/69 Matters to be taken into Committee.

24/11/70 Dates of future meetings

Committee meetings – Monday 25th November

Full Council meeting – Monday 16th December

Meeting closed: 20:00.

Appendix A

DCC Report for Seaton & Colyton Division - November

An interesting couple of weeks where the impacts of the recent budget are yet to fully understood or realised in Devon. Things will no doubt become clearer in coming weeks and months where at the County Council we are expecting to be asked to do more with no real terms uplift in funding.

Countywide Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

All local authorities are required to produce a LCWIP as set out in the government Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. Our own plan will strengthen DCC's bid for future funding and ensure improvements can be incorporated into future development plans.

There are 10 proposed routes that include the 23km route connecting Beer to Uplyme via Seaton, Colyford, Colyton & Axminster. The corridor broadly follows NCN Route 2, connecting key towns and tourist routes. The hilly topography between Beer & Seaton will be challenging to overcome and careful consideration will need to be given to increasing the width of any cycling provision. Along the length of the route potential improvements would see quick wins such as improved wayfinding and advisory cycle routes, alongside more ambitious long-term improvements such as off-road cycleways.

Full details of the proposed improvements can be found on the DCC website. The consultation ends on 30th November.

Devon colleges and council collaborate to enhance SEND education.

Colleges in Devon are working with us to provide more places specifically to support the further education of hundreds of young people with special educational needs and disabilities, (SEND).

At least 350 additional post 16 education places for young people with SEND will be created at Exeter College and PETROC College's two campuses in Barnstaple and Tiverton, thanks to a multi-million-pound bid to the Department for Education (DfE) and Devon County Council.

The plans involve creating new on-campus facilities at the three sites, Exeter, Barnstaple and Tiverton, with dedicated, purpose-built spaces designed to meet the requirements of young people with a range of additional needs. The courses that the colleges will offer are currently under review and will be confirmed shortly.

The funding from the DfE is essential in providing quality further education, local to families in Devon that will help young people achieve better educational outcomes, leading to improved employment prospects and independent living.

The colleges are also developing a wide-ranging programme of support for young people with SEND, beginning even before students attend to help make the transitions from school or other educational setting to the colleges as positive as possible.

Devon prepared for winter.

Whatever the weather, Devon's highway teams are prepared and ready to keep the county moving this winter. Last winter's biggest issue was the prolonged wet spell which caused extensive damage to Devon's highway network. This led to a 31% increase in pothole repairs between January and April, compared to 2023, and 94% more than the same period in 2022.

In terms of dealing with icy conditions, last winter was relatively quiet, with Devon County Council's gritting teams only using around 6,200 tonnes of salt, which was less than half the amount used the previous winter. But more time was spent cleaning gullies and clearing debris from roads due to torrential rain and several named storms.

We are sending out newsletters to towns and parishes to ask for up to date contact information for Snow Wardens ahead of the winter service. Those who are signed up to the

snow warden scheme will be allocated 5 tonnes of salt per winter, supplied in 25kg bags. Once approved this will be delivered directly to the town/parish by the salt supplier. Email communityselfhelp@devon.gov.uk to request further details.

Devon has 2nd highest recycling rate in the country!

Recycling rates in Devon have increased by 0.5% to 54.5% during 2023/24. Working in partnership with district councils we deliver a sustainable, cost effective and efficient waste service. The DCC Household Recycling Centres (HWRC) have seen a reduction of waste to landfill, down from 3.4% to 1.3% and 78.7% of items brought to a HWRC are recycled.

Broadband

By now Parishes will have received an update on the planned roll-out of broadband in the division under the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme.

As you will be aware, CDS contracted with broadband supplier Airband in late 2020 to deliver fibre broadband to communities across Devon & Somerset over the course of three years, concluding at the end of 2024. Unfortunately, Airband has faced a range of challenges over the intervening years which have delayed delivery of these contracts. Airband is not the only company with delays to its network build. There are well-evidenced challenges affecting local and central Government contracts showing that costs of delivery in predominantly rural areas have escalated. This has resulted in many broadband providers and their investors refocusing efforts on increasing take-up on their existing networks rather than network expansion.

In early 2024, Airband restructured and in April sought a change to its contract having decided to move away from building new networks to focus on maximising take-up on the existing network and seek revenue returns.

Since then, CDS has worked closely with Airband to retain as much coverage across as many communities as possible under the scope of our contracts. This process has had some success in allowing further clusters to be built. However, there will be a delay.

This is extremely disappointing, and I share your frustration.

Cllr Marcus Hartnell

ENDS

Appendix B

Councillor Paul Arnott: Coly Valley Report

November 2024

Government promoting Devolution across the UK

Two weeks ago, I attended the Local Government Association Annual Conference in Harrogate, where the dominant theme in discussion was Devolution and the national government's resolve to bring together large units of local government, cross county, with mayors in the new units which may emerge. Government left no doubt that they are determined to do this.

At present in Devon we have the still emerging Devon Combined Authority (CCA) which allies Devon County and the Torbay Unitary. Plymouth dropped out last year. The good news for East Devon is that as a district council we bid into the first ever CCA funding round to finance the new 'Cranbox' scheme in Cranbrook. Working together with Cranbrook Town Council, East Devon District Council has been awarded £1,950,742 which will be used to develop a modular community and commercial hub in Cranbrook, East Devon.

However, it is clear from government statements that the new Devon CCA will be time-limited as it is seen as too small in scale. A complicated set of possibilities present themselves, especially with Cornwall sending very clear signals that it does not wish to be included with any other county. As we move forward, it is likely that Devon will be having conversations with Somerset and Dorset, and possibly others. I am pleased that unlike in the process creating the CCA, the Devon Districts (which I chair) are to be included in negotiations with Whitehall.

At present, it appears that the government wants to combine authorities under a mayoral regime to sit above the existing local government structure and there is no appetite to add to that with local government reorganisation below that tier but we will see.

£2 Winter Car Park charges begin

Our officers and councillors listened hard to feedback from residents about the winter offer in previous years, and EDDC is introducing changes at some of the council's busiest car parks. At short-stay car parks in Sidmouth, Exmouth and Honiton, a four-hour maximum stay for the £2 ticket will be introduced, and this ticket will not be transferable to other car parks. As a result of this change, it is expected that more drivers will be able to make use of the best spaces, closer to the town centres. There is no change to the winter offer at EDDC's other car parks. We are hoping that with Christmas approaching, this promotion will encourage people to shop local and support their High Street.

END.