

**Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.**

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

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

**Members of public:** 0

Cllr Parr began the meeting by announcing the very sudden and sad passing of Arthur Parsons, the Parish Handyman. He was a huge asset to the town and will be sorely missed. A minute silence was held in his memory.

**25/01/01 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence.** Cllrs Arnott, Real and Chesterton.

**25/01/02 Declaration of Interests.** Cllr Hay declared an interest on planning application 24/2508/FUL Ridgeway Cottage as he is a neighbour.

**25/01/03 Police Report.** 9 crimes reported in November 2024. Violence and sexual offences X 4. Antisocial behaviour X 2. Criminal damage and arson X 1. Other crime X 2

**25/01/04 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.** Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

**25/01/05 Matters arising from the Minutes.** None.

**25/01/06 Public Question time.** No members of public present to speak.

**25/01/07 Report from County Councillor.** Not present, no report sent.

**25/01/08 Report from District Councillors.** Cllr Arnott sent his apologies and submitted a report. See appendix A.

**Cllr H Parr reported on the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.** This was announced by the Government on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. It proposes abolition of District and County Councils and the creation of Unitary Councils in their place. This is not a consultation, it will happen. A response was required so the District held an Extraordinary meeting on Thursday which followed the County Council who had a meeting on Thursday morning. The paper also said that if authorities wanted to go in the first wave then they would need to cancel the May elections as everybody would need to be focused on delivering their plan for the new authority. That is what the County Council agreed, that they would be the Unitary, plus they would look to delay their elections. The District Council did not support this entirely because they wrote a letter saying that they proposed there would be two Unitaries, the County is proposing one. The District Council is also opposed to postponing the election.

Cllr Hay mentioned that the street lights in the car park are still out. The one by the pay machine is working but the double light in the centre is not working. Clerk to email.

Cllr Parr mentioned that with the District potentially going, the Council might wish to think about next steps for Stafford Common – this will go on the next agenda.

**25/01/09 Highway Matters**

a) Ref TTRO2561073 temporary prohibition of through traffic. Sidmouth Road. From Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb to enable patching to take place.

b) Ref TTRO2561190 temporary prohibition of through traffic. Cuthouse Meadow. From Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April for manhole repair.

c) Response from highways officer to email sent by Clerk informing them of persistent areas of flooding around Colyton. Areas included bottom of Lishams Drain and Cownhayne Lane. Officer responded: The issue at the bottom of Lishams Drain appears to be a blocked inlet which would usually be the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. Will have a look when next in the area. The issue at Cownhayne Lane is more problematic as the ditches here drain into the river and the road is tidal, which means if the river level is high the water will not drain. There is a scheme to improve the ditches and verge here but the flooding will always be an issue during heavy rain or high river levels.

Cllr Hay did not agree with Cownhayne Lane, stating that there are a large number of damaged drains along the road, the tide would affect the lane but not to keep it constantly flooded. He proposed writing to highways and ask them to pump out the water and properly inspect the lane, this was seconded by Cllr

Stenning and agreed by all. He also stated regarding Lisham's Drain is also due to blocked drains and not the landowner responsibility.

**25/01/10 Report from Meetings Attended.** No meeting attended over Christmas.

**25/01/11 Handyman update.** Unfortunately the handy man Arthur Parsons has passed away. Nick Weldon has very kindly offered to do the bins for the next month or so until there is a plan in place to carry on. As a mark of respect the job will not be advertised until after the funeral.

Cllr Turner proposed that Mr Weldon be paid the handyman hourly rate, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

**25/01/12 Dolphin Street toilets – Local and Environmental searches against the land can be carried out for approx. £400.** Cllr Mann proposed this not be paid, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

**25/01/13 Parish Council website.** Cllr Chesterton sent an update that he has been working on the website, it should be ready to go live around the spring.

**25/01/14 Correspondence**

- a) The Rural Bulletin
- b) Rural Funding Digest
- c) Rural Services Network

**25/01/15 Finance**

Accounts to be approved for payment.

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

**DD British Gas Lite workshop electricity 17.38 VAT 0.87. Total 18.25 pounds.**

**DD Biffa waste management 219.13 VAT 43.83. Total 262.96 pounds.**

**BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. Total 120.00 pounds.**

**BACS Source for Business allotment water. Total 28.01 pounds.**

**BACS Halcyon cemetery contract 526.75 VAT 105.35. Total 632.10 pounds.**

**BACS Bradfords bench repairs 31.42 VAT 6.28. Total 37.70 pounds**

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

a) Budget for 2025/26 to be approved. Cllr Mann proposed this be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

b) Clerks new working hours to be reviewed. Clerk reported that all seemed to be going well with the reduction in hours. Cllr Mann proposed to continue the way it is and if it is still working then the contract could be amended at the beginning of the next financial year, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

c) Quarterly audit now due. Cllr Gardiner will complete.

**25/01/16 Planning**

**a) Planning application from East Devon**

**24/2508/FUL Ridgeway Cottage Ridgeway Lane** – Ms Smith - Infill under existing Storm Porch Roof. *Comments due by 16<sup>th</sup> January.*

Cllr Mann proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all bar Cllr Hay who abstained due to declaring an interest.

**24/2599/V106 Land North Of Sidmouth Road (Ceramtec) Colyton** – Wain homes limited - Application to modify/vary S106 agreement pursuant to planning permission 18/1850/MOUT to vary: (A) The definition of "Affordable Housing Charges" at Paragraph 1 of Part A of Schedule 1; (B) Paragraphs 6.1, 6.2, 6.2(i) AND 6.2(ii) of Part A of Schedule 1; (C) The definition of "Shared Ownership Lease" at Paragraph 1 of Part A of Schedule 1; (D) Paragraph 6.3.2 of Part A of Schedule 1. *Comments due by 17<sup>th</sup> January.*

Cllr Parr proposed this not be supported as more clarification was required on Wain Homes intensions, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.

**24/2551/FUL Building And Land Adjacent 4 Prospect Terrace Sidmouth Road** – Downs - Conversion and extension of an existing building into 1 dwelling and associated works. *Comments due by 17<sup>th</sup> January.*

Cllr Stenning proposed his be supported, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.

#### **b) Planning decisions from East Devon**

**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. **Approved.**

**24/1806/VAR & 24/1940/VAR Colcombe Castle Hotel Market Place** – EJ Dayment - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of permission 21/1615/FUL (Proposed demolition of existing lean-to infill extensions, construction of balcony, installation of concealed flue, installation of glazed entrance way and new bin storage area on southeast elevation, and; removal of existing steps on northwest elevation and installation of ramp to provide disabled access) to permit alteration to design of balcony previously approved and construction of bin store (partially retrospective). **Approved with conditions.**

**24/2383/FUL 4 Thornfield Close Colyton** - Construction of a garden wall and associated regrading of land (retrospective). **Approved.**

#### **c) Planning correspondence.**

1 X memorial application circulated to all Councillors. Approved.

Licence application received: Stellaris, Meadowland Farm, Watery Lane, Colyton. Name of Applicant: Test Kitchen Ltd. Premises Open Hours requested Monday to Sunday 12:00 to 23:00 Supply of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises.

This was not supported as there is not enough detail on the application. There were also concerns raised over safety due to access, lighting and the potential for drink driving as the only access is by car.

Licence application received: Finn Studio, Unit 5, Umborne Bridge, Dolphin Street, Colyton. Name of Applicant: Finn Studio Ltd. Premises Open Hours requested Monday to Sunday 08:00 to 20:00 Supply of alcohol for consumption OFF the premises only

Notification of planning appeal, reference: APP/U1105/W/24/3357175. Location: The Old Reservoir Ridgeway Lane Colyton. Proposal: Demolition of existing reservoir tanks and construction of new dwelling house. All representations must be received by 3 February 2025.

No further comment.

#### **25/01/17 Amenities**

No Amenities committee meeting held in December

a) Community garden for Colyton. It was agreed to allow the use of St Andrews garden for a one year trial.

b) Request to metal detect on Parish Council land. It was decided not to allow this due to risk of holes being left in the ground and somebody hurting themselves, the only potential area which could be permissible would be the bottom of the Community Woodland.

**25/01/18 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.** The clerk reported that she and Cllr Clifford had met with EDDC officers regarding them helping taking over management of the Community Woodland. It was agreed that they can fit it in with their schedule. If any jobs require finance from the Parish Council then the Council would be consulted first and have to agree any funding. The boundary would be the hedge which separates the picnic site and the woodland.

**25/01/19 Matters to be taken into Committee.** None.

#### **25/01/20 Dates of future meetings**

Committee meetings – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Full Council meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February

**Meeting closed: 20:00**

## *Appendix A*

**District Report  
Cllr Paul Arnott  
January 2025**

### Devolution, and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

This month's report focussed wholly on the effects of the publication of the government's White Paper on the above published on 16<sup>th</sup> December

Devon County Council voted last Thursday to seek entry for its One Devon idea in Phase One of the LGR pathway. This is unlikely to be agreed by government because there is no unity as yet at such short notice between the county and the districts on the subject, and there is no unity with Cornwall about being in the same Strategic Authority (with a mayor).

I am especially disappointed that County, in seeking to be in Phase One, also passed a motion voted for by all Conservatives to cancel the county elections in May. Government is due to reply to their letter by end third week of this month

The districts reacted collaboratively and quickly, and at East Devon last Thursday an Extraordinary meeting of Council resolved as follows:

That Council;

Notes the key proposals arising from the English Devolution White Paper, including the proposed introduction of a new devolution framework and the plans for local government reorganisation

Endorses the;

1. a. Joint Leaders statement from the Devon Districts Forum
  - b. Potential to promote the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the Peninsular to cover Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall
  - c. Need to engage with our communities, partners and stakeholders to develop considered and coherent proposals around changes to the current model of 10 councils in Devon to a smaller number of suitably sized unitaries rather than defaulting to a single unitary approach.
2. Belief that a preferred pathway should be explored which would create two Devon Unitary Authorities, one of which should be focused around the North Devon, Mid Devon, East

Devon and Teignbridge District Councils, along with Exeter City Council.

3. Belief that the people of Devon would be best served after the abolition of the county council by the two new unitaries, containing a city in each this being Plymouth to the west, and Exeter to the east.

4. Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Council and Corporate Co-ordination to advance discussions around the form and coverage of future Principal Authorities.

5. Receives a further report in February providing an update on the negotiations before interim proposals are submitted to central government.

6. To lobby the government on the importance of a Devon-wide consultation to ensure that any revised local government structures meet the principles of devolved powers in local communities, towns and parishes rather than be imposed by Whitehall.

#### Next steps

- Govt to write to County in next few weeks confirming phase one of two. If one, elections cancelled
- Govt write to all councils in Devon asking for suggested new unitaries, said to be of a minimum of 500k people
- Councils to reply immediately, with greater detail by end March, and near final plans by autumn
- Please note that at EDDC under 6 above we are determined to protect the input of parishes and towns
- Devon District Leaders are meeting twice a week to pursue.

END