Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs S Real, G Chesterton, A Parr, J Hay, G Stephenson, J Gardiner, A Stenning, M Mann, J Watson, R Turner and P Arnott.
Also in attendance: EDDC Cllr H Parr and S Haines (clerk)
Members of public: 3

26/03/90 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. None.
26/03/91 Declaration of Interests. None
26/03/92 Police Report. 4 crimes reported in January – 1 X vehicle crime, 3 X violence and sexual offences.
26/03/93 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 9th February 2026. Cllr Stenning proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.
26/03/94 Matters arising from the Minutes. None
26/03/95 Public Question time. A member of public raised concerns about the handy man, they were assured that an investigation will be conducted.
26/03/96 Report from County Councillor Cllr Arnott submitted his report – see appendix A.
26/03/97 Report from District Councillors Cllr Parr submitted her report – see appendix B
Cllr Real informed Cllrs Parr and Arnott that for the eighth time he has had to go down to EDDC offices and prove to them that he does not own the stream which runs beside his house that he is concerned will collapse.
26/03/98 Highway Matters
a) TTRO2667703 temporary prohibition of through traffic. Hillhead. Tuesday 14th April – Thursday 16th April. Decayed pole change.
b) TTRO2666479 temporary prohibition of through traffic. Road from Sunnygarth to Three Horseshoes (A3052) Monday 23rd March – Saturday 18th April. To carry out resurfacing.
c) Potholes and Ridgeway leat.- Cllr Hay. Cllr Hay listed a number of pot holes, Cllr Arnott asked for an official list to be passed to him by the clerk and he would report them to the highways officer.
26/03/99 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Stephenson attended an allotment committee meeting, he reported the dates for the spring clean-up and confirmed that unfortunately the community shed has been destroyed during a storm.
26/03/00 Date for the Annual Parish Meeting. To be held between 1st March and 1st June – usually on a Wednesday. Suggestions for a guest speaker. Cllr Arnott suggested holding the AGM after the April committees meeting on 27th April. This was agreed.
26/03/01 Local Government Review – consultation now live. Closes on 26th March 2026. Noted. Cllr Arnott stressed what a huge undertaking this was going to be. There will be elections in May 2027 to elect the interim unitary, the districts will continue alongside the unitaries for a year.
26/03/02 East Devon Nutrient Recycling Plant proposal. No application in as of yet – to remain on the agenda.
26/03/03 Notifications for appointments to charitable trusts:
Axe Vale ring and ride – now TRIP – currently K Jones
Colyton Chamber of Feoffees – currently T Underdown – happy to remain.
Community Woodland Trust – currently vacant but managed by EDDC
DALC- currently Cllrs Real and Hay – Cllr Hay wishes to step down.
Footpath wardens – currently J List and R Swan – happy to remain.
Colyton memorial social club – currently Cllrs Stenning and Parr
Parish tree warden – currently J Mair – happy to remain.
Playing fields committee – Currently Cllrs Hay and Real
St Andrews Church fabric committee – currently Cllr Parr
Friends of Colyton Library – currently Cllr Mann.
26/03/04 Correspondence
a)

26/03/05 Finance

Minutes of the finance committee held Monday 23rd February (appendix V) to be noted.
Accounts to be approved for payment.

DD Talktalk phone and broadband 40.77 VAT 8.15. Total 48.92 pounds.
DD British gas lite workshop electricity 15.25 VAT 0.76. Total 16.01 pounds.
BACS MM Services Dolphin street toilets cleaning and maintenance. Total 477.00 pounds.
BACS Halcyon cemetery cuttings 579.41 VAT 115.88. Total 695.29 pounds.
BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. Total 120.00 pounds.
BACS Waste managed waste management – no invoice received,
BACS SLCC annual membership. Total 200.00 pounds.

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

a) Clerk holiday request. Approved,
b) Quote received to remove Skate Park and install pump track at the playing fields. The clerk has contacted four companies for a quote, Clark and Kent contractors submitted an estimate but required a fee to quote, Conservfor confirmed that we are not in their area so declined to quote, MAC Ground work did not respond therefore the quote supplied by Fort Trail Scapes will be accepted, they installed the pump track at Whimple so we know they are competent. This conforms to EDDC procurement requirements.
c) Licence for the Playing fields and permission for Roy Turner to be premise supervisor – next agenda.
d) Workshop electricity contract. YU Energy will provide a £0 standing charge contract but has a higher kwh rate. Our usage is so low that it should work out far cheaper. Cllr Mann proposed going with this company for one year only to see what they are like, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

26/03/06 Planning

Minutes of the meeting of the planning committee held Monday 23rd February (appendix W) to be noted.

a) <u>Planning application from East Devon</u>

25/2243/FUL Megs Roost Higher Watchcombe Farm - Mrs Judy Ogilvie - Provision of parking space by surfacing existing area. *Comments due by 14th March*
Cllr Real proposed this not be supported, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

26/0269/FUL Unit 3 And 4 Old Station Yard Station Road - Proposed storage building and car port
Cllr Mann proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

b) <u>Planning decisions from East Devon</u>

c) <u>c) Planning correspondence.</u>

1 X new memorial application circulated to all Councillors. Approved.

26/03/07 Amenities

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities committee held Monday 23rd February (appendix X) to be noted.

a) Pavilion toilet door. Cllr Mann reported that the toilet is not up to regulations, he will provide a report on what needs doing, he also suggested a hand railing for the steps outside.
b) Memorial bench/tree policy for approval. The clerk thanked Cllr Watson for his help on the policy, the only amendment made was for the term to be 10 years, this was agreed by all.

26/03/08 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.
The allotment committee have confirmed that their Spring Clean Weekend will be Saturday and Sunday, 11th and 12th April. They have requested that the skip be delivered on Friday 10th and removed on Monday 13th April. They have also requested that Cllr Mann put his trailer there for metal collection. Noted.

A small business relief rate has now been added to the Pavilion rates bill, therefore a credit on the 23/24, 24/25 & 25/26 bills totalling £3691.00 has been raised. The 26/27 rates bill has been reduced from £1571.85 to £800.00. Noted

Parish Council handyman. Cllrs Mann and Chesterton will hold a meeting with the handyman.
26/03/09 Matters to be taken into Committee. Parish Council handyman. Cllrs Mann and Chesterton will hold a meeting with the handyman.
26/03/10 Dates of future meetings

Committee meetings – Monday 23rd March
Full CPC meeting – Monday 13th April.

Meeting closed: 20:15

Appendix A

Cllr Paul Arnott County & District Parishes Report
March 2026 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

February and March have marked a significant moment for Devon. After months of scrutiny, debate and difficult decisions, the County Council has now agreed its 2026–27 budget. This is our first full budget of the new administration, and it sets a clear direction: stabilising essential services, repairing what has been neglected, and investing in the foundations that keep Devon moving. As you'd expect from a budget of over £2 billion, it has taken a long time to get to this point.

£15 Million Extra for Devon's Roads
The headline for many residents will rightly be highways. This year's budget includes an additional £15 million investment in Devon's roads, alongside a commitment to maintain £10 million per year in additional funding over the following five years. This is a major shift in approach.
For too long, highways funding has been reactive and insufficient, leading to a cycle of patching rather than repairing. The extra funding will allow us to move beyond emergency pothole filling and begin tackling structural deterioration in a more strategic way. That means more resurfacing, more preventative maintenance, and more drainage work to stop water destroying road foundations in the first place.
After one of the worst winters on record for storm damage, this investment is both timely and essential. While it will not fix every problem overnight, it represents a serious and sustained commitment to improving the condition of Devon's roads.
A number of meetings have taken place in the last two months seeking to make progress with a crossing point on the A3052 in Colyford. This is key to achieve following the sad death of a Colyford resident before Christmas.

Protecting Frontline Services Despite the continued unfairness of national funding arrangements, we have delivered a balanced budget that protects frontline services.
Adult social care remains the largest area of council spending, accounting for nearly half of the total budget. Demand continues to rise, particularly as Devon has one of the oldest populations in the

country. This budget provides stability while work continues to modernise services in a way that protects dignity and independence.
Children's services and SEND provision also remain a priority. While financial pressures are significant, we are committed to improving outcomes and ensuring that vulnerable children receive the support they need.
There was also significant national news on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities funding. The Government has confirmed it will write off around 90per cent of councils' historic High Needs deficits, including Devon's, which had reached approximately £200 million. It is important to be clear that this deficit did not arise from local overspending. Councils have a statutory duty to support children with SEND, and when national funding failed to keep pace with rising demand, local authorities were required to meet those costs regardless.
In effect, councils have been carrying debt on behalf of central government in order to protect children and families. This decision is therefore the Government repaying money that should have been properly funded in the first place.
I welcome both the write off and the stated commitment to put SEND funding onto a sustainable national footing so that councils are not placed in this position again.
Importantly, our budget is built around long-term sustainability, with a renewed focus on rebuilding reserves after years of erosion.

Libraries, Communities and Local Investment There is additional funding to strengthen library services and develop the mas resilient community hubs, particularly in rural areas. Libraries are so important for rural communities likes ours, they are warm spaces, digital access points, advice centres and meeting places. In the National Year of Reading, this investment sends an important signal about literacy and opportunity.
As the consultation has only just closed, we will have to wait until later in the spring to hear what residents want the library services to look like in the future, however what is clear is that communities want these spaces protected. Message received, loud and clear.
Locality budgets are set to continue and expand in the new financial year, with the allocation opening in April. Each councillor will now have £10,000 to allocate to community projects, up from £8k last year. These funds may be modest in the context of the overall council budget, but their impact at parish level can be transformational.

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL Budget Setting. In the final week of February EDDC set a balanced budget for 2026/27 and a medium-term financial plan for 2027/28 which is sound, though affected by some recent government reallocation of funds away from districts. The challenge will come in Local Government Reorganisation is not achieved in May 2028, which is a possibility given the government's challenges around LGR. How would a financial year 2029/30 be budgeted? We shall see.
Exmouth Town Hall EDDC is delighted to have agree a sale of ETH to the excellent Town Council, who will continue to use it, expand activities to other services, and for the time being rent out some rooms to EDDC for local operational activities
Waste and Recycling The longstanding and successful contract with Suez comes to an end in April and a new Local Authority Trading Company owned by EDDC takes over operations, retaining most of the existing staff, vehicles etc. The ambition is to offer the company's services to other councils and organisations across Devon to grow it as a profitable business providing an even better service.

Appendix B

Helen Parr District Councillor Report Feb 26-

At the meeting on Weds 25 Feb, the Council approved the Budget as per Cabinet Recommendation-

Council Tax requirement for this Council £11,629,564 resulting in a Council Tax Band D amount of £176.92

For the full report see-
https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s30110/Council%2025%20Feb%2026%20Council%20Tax%20Resolution%202026_27%20new%20committee%20format%20template1.pdf

The Schedule of CT by parish, showing parish precepts may be of interest-
https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s30106/202627%20Schedule%201.pdf