Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 9th June 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs S Real, G Stephenson, A Stenning, M Mann, A Parr, J Hay, J Gardiner, G Chesterton, R Turner and P Arnott.
Also in attendance: S Haines (clerk)
Members of public: 0

25/06/48 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. EDDC Cllr H Parr.
25/06/49 Declaration of Interests. None.
25/06/50 Police Report. Not updated since the March report came through.
25/06/51 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 12th May 2025. Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
25/06/52 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.
25/06/53 Public Question time. No members of public present to speak.
25/06/54 Report from County Councillor. Cllr Arnott reported that a new administration is being formed lead by 27 Liberal Democrats out of 60. There is no formal coalition, but hopes are that everybody will work well together. Other areas have reported problems with coalitions not working well together but there is no indication of that being the case here.
Local Government Reorganisation is a main focus, there has been further correspondence from the government, and they have demanded that all district councils go back with their final proposals by November. There are lots of talks happening now, this will probably enter the democratic domain in the early autumn where options for District and County Council will be voted on. There has been attempts to persuade Government to delay or even cancel this process but they seem set on going ahead with their deadlines. Two things could affect us – 1, it could take longer than first thought, in fact it could easily take into 2030 – 31 before it is fully implemented. 2, 85% of the money spent by Devon County Council is already allocated for people services – things like adult and children social care, special education etc. As this progresses, people with vested interests politically will realise they cannot take funds away from those areas. Devon is being monitored by the Childrens Commissioner to deal with the special educational need provision.
Parish Councils may find themselves being given more responsibility and therefore requiring a higher precept.
25/06/55 Report from District Councillors. Cllr H Parr sent her report – see appendix A.
Cllr Arnott reported some exciting news – a major engineering project is going to commence this summer at Seaton Hole to protect against costal erosion. Last week at cabinet, it was agreed an amount of £673,000.00 will go into a pot of £2.27 million approved by the environment agency to bring over 7000 tonnes of rock delivered by sea by September.
Cllr Parr asked Cllr Arnott why the District Council required extra staffing for the LGA, Cllr Arnott explained that it is to release an officer to work directly on all the districts proposals and to bring them together, the funding required to pay for the extra staffing will be covered by the other districts.
Cllr Stenning asked if Cllr Arnott supported the Government bill to give planning inspectors more power to make decisions without going to committee, Cllr Arnott confirmed that he did not support it and thought it could be quite dangerous. There has not been very much information released on this at present but a letter of objection is being drafted.
Cllr Arnott informed the council that he has a meeting with the highways officer at DCC, he is going to bring up the idea of restricted parking being introduced to run from the Kitchen Shop to the Town Hall. It would be between 9am and 5pm maximum stay 30 minutes.
25/06/56 Highway Matters
a) Bottom of Dolphin Street opposite Umborne Business Park. Clerk has sent a photo to highways showing cars parked right up to Green Bridge, opposite the Umborne Business Park, blocking the view of oncoming traffic, the officer responded asking for a plan. Cllr Mann proposed that double yellow line be placed 25 metres along the road from the pillar of the bridge, this would be approx. three cars length. This was seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

Cllr Hay mentioned many traffic issues in Colyton – they were not on the agenda and will be spoken about in the July meeting.

25/06/57 Report from Meetings Attended. No meetings attended.

25/06/58 River Coly maintenance. Cllr Parr proposed that Jason Mair be asked to inspect the site and come up with a plan and a quote, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

25/06/59 Writers for Parish Newsletter. Cllrs Stenning and Stephenson volunteered.

25/06/60 Defib machine – Cllr Mann. Cllr Mann reported that he did some work on the case for the machine and the writing is starting to come off. Cllr Arnott asked if there was a company who would service the machines to keep them in working order. Clerk to investigate.

25/06/61 Voting on nominations of representatives to other organisations

Axe Valley ring and ride X 1 (currently K Jones) *happy to remain.*
Chamber of Feoffees X 2 (currently T Underdown and C Chesterton) *happy to remain*
Community woodland trust X 1 (currently C Pady)
DALC X 2 (currently Cllrs Real and Hay)
Footpath wardens X 2 (currently Mrs List and Mr Swan) *happy to remain.*
Social club X 2 (Currently Cllrs Parr and Stenning) *Cllr Parr wishes to step off. Cllr Stephenson volunteered.*
Tree Warden X 1 (currently J Mair) *happy to remain.*
Playing fields committee X 2 (currently Cllrs Real and Hay)
Reece Strawbridge X 1 (currently Cllr Hay)
Church fabric committee X 1 (currently Cllr Parr)

Cllr Parr asked if anybody had any concerns over the above posts, Cllr Gardiner asked about the Community Woodland and Cllr Parr confirmed as EDDC have now taken over the woodland maintenance we might not need that post. Cllr Mann proposed the above all be approved, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

25/06/62 Correspondence

a) The Rural Bulletin
b) Notice received of the Allotment Open day – Sunday 29th June 2-4pm.
c) Response from insurance company regarding model aircraft flying.

25/06/63 Finance

Minutes of the Finance meeting held 27th May 2025 (Appendix C) 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 energy 14.04 VAT .70. **Total 14.74 pounds.**

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

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

BACS Halcyon Verges May 2025 130.00 VAT 26.00. **Total 156.00 pounds.**

BACS Zurich insurance for 12/06/25 – 11/06/26 1690.97 Premium tax 202.92. **Total 1893.89 pounds.**

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

a) Plans for CIL money. Clerk to email the CIL officer at EDDC to check if the following issues could be paid for with CIL money – river bank maintenance, soft landings at play parks, Skate Park, pump track, toilets, solar panels and bus shelter.

b) Request for a donation from the South Western Ambulance Charity. Cllr Real proposed that unfortunately the Council must say no to this, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

c) Potential offer of funding from Feoffees to make improvements to PMPF. The Council would agree to help with funding.

d) Energy supplier for toilets. The clerk has been in contact with Total Gas and Energies, they supplied three quotes but all have standing charges which are a lot higher than the out of contract

charges we are being charged at the moment – this is of course variable. Cllr Mann proposed we stay as we are for now and keep an eye on it, this was seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

25/06/64 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held 27th May 2025 – (Appendix D) to be noted.

a) Planning application from East Devon

b) Planning decisions from East Devon

25/0769/FUL Farwood Barton Colyton – Proposed roof on existing silage clamps. Approved with conditions.

25/0633/LBC Brerewood House Vicarage Street - Master bedroom: remove & construct new walls to create en-suite and walk-in wardrobe. Bedroom 2: Remove bathroom to create larger bedroom & block up doorway. Convert bedroom to family bathroom: remove & construct walls for larger airing cupboard & tank, open up blocked up fireplace and install reclaimed cast iron fireplace. Approved with conditions.

Appeal Decision Site visit made on 23 April 2025 The Old Reservoir, Ridgeway Lane. The development proposed is demolition of existing reservoir tanks and construction of new dwelling house. The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for demolition of existing reservoir tanks and construction of new dwelling house at The Old Reservoir, Ridgeway Lane, Colyton EX24 6RP in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref 23/1785/FUL

c) c) Planning correspondence.

25/06/65 Amenities

Minutes of the meeting held 27th May 2025 – (Appendix E) to be noted.

a) Election of Vice Chair. Cllr Stephenson accepted the post.

b) Report of some overgrown allotments. This will have to wait for the inspections next week.

c) Bus shelter at Coly Vale. Cllr Mann to contact Quicks Engineering for a quote to repair shelter.

d) Fence at Road Green. Cllr Chesterton asked if the temporary fence could be removed and something else be put in its place that looks nicer – this will be discussed next week at the Parish inspection.

e) Suggestion to convert one of the tennis courts into a Padel Court. Cllr Chesterton to look in to grants from the NTA and report back.

f) Parish Council notice board. The clerk reported that the Feoffees have offered to potentially purchase a new notice board for the Parish Council if the Council agree. Cllr Real proposed this be agreed, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

25/06/66 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.

Report from 19 Newbury Close that trees from the bottom of Community Woodland are starting to encroach on garden. Clerk has emailed East Devon to see if they would do this, waiting to hear back.

Report of the flush not working on the loo in the pavilion – Simon Parsons to be contacted to ask to have a look.

25/06/67 Matters to be taken into Committee

25/06/68 Dates of future meetings

Annual Parish Inspection – Monday 16th June

Committee meetings – Monday 23rd June

Full CPC meeting – Monday 14th July.

Meeting closed: 20:30.

Appendix A

Cllr H Parr June report.

Re Local Government Reorganisation/ Unitary Devon-
There are a number of proposals for what should replace Devon County and the District councils.
Plymouth City Council plans, to expand Plymouth to meet government criteria for a stand-alone Unitary, are progressing. The city will be holding a series of meetings with the 13 parishes in the South Hams it wishes to take over.
Exeter is working on plans to expand and meet the 300,000 population criteria for a Unitary, taking in parts of East Devon.
It is not clear what is proposed for the rest of Devon in the event Plymouth and Exeter become Unitaries.
The final decisions on reorganisation will be made by the government.
For residents, quality services and low council tax must be priorities.

The Executive Leadership Team has carried out a review of the current staffing structure,
"to ensure that the authority is fit for purpose and has the capacity and resilience required both in terms of the ongoing plans for transformation and also ensuring the authority is a fit for purpose organisation that is able to appropriately respond to the Government's proposals in relation to devolution and local government reorganisation ("LGR")."
There is a need for additional posts, and the Council is recommended to approve a £338k budget to be met from the Transformation Fund to support temporary funding requirements as detailed in the report.
Link to Cabinet minutes below-
https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s27633/ELT%20draft%20structure.pdf