Minutes for the Annual meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.

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

26/05/21 Election of chairman for 2026-27. Cllr Turner asked for any nominations for Chairman. Cllr Arnott proposed Cllr Parr be elected for Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mann. Cllr Turner asked for further nominees and there were none, the vote for Cllr Parr was unanimous.
26/05/22 Election of vice chairman for 2026/27. Cllr Parr asked for any nominations for vice chairman. Cllr Arnott proposed Cllr Chesterton be elected for vice chairman, seconded by Cllr Mann. Cllr Parr asked for further nominees and there were none, the vote for Cllr Chesterton was unanimous.
26/05/23 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllrs Chesterton and Gardiner.
26/05/24 Declaration of Interests. None
26/05/25 Police Report. 3 crimes reported in March 2026. 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 vehicle crime, 1 other crime.
26/05/26 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 13th April 2026. Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
26/05/27 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.
26/05/28 Public Question time. No members of public present to speak.
26/05/29 Report from County Councillor – See appendix A for Cllr Arnott's county and district report. Cllr Mann asked about the quality of the rivers and if there was any improvement and what it meant for future development within the Axe Valley, Cllr Arnott reported there they are expecting receipt of two papers following months of monitoring, if the bar is lifted then there will be very strict conditions and proof of measure taken to reduce any risks of pollution will be very tight.
Cllr Hay reported that the lamp on Queen Square has been hit again, this will go on the next agenda. He also reported that the railings outside Gordon & Rumsby had been damaged, also the leat at Ridgeway is now about an inch from the highway which would cut of 5 families if it collapses, clerk to report.
26/05/30 Report from District Councillors – See appendix B.
26/05/31 Highway Matters
a) TTRO2669308 temporary prohibition of through traffic. Hillhead, Stafford Lane, Fair View Lane and Love Lane. Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June. Replacement and renewal of existing potable water mains.
26/05/32 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Parr attended a meeting of the Church Fabric Committee, they are very happy with the grounds, work is needed on the cockerel as it is wonky so it will be bought down to repair.
26/05/33 East Devon Nutrient Recycling Plant proposal. No information yet.
26/05/34 Decision for appointments to charitable trusts:
Axe Vale ring and ride – now TRIP – to be taken off
Colyton Chamber of Feoffees – currently T Underdown happy to remain
Community Woodland Trust – currently vacant but managed by EDDC
DALC- currently Cllrs Real and Chesterton
Footpath wardens – currently J List and R Swan – happy to remain
Joint management committee Chairman (Playing fields) – to be taken off
Colyton memorial social club – currently Cllrs Stenning and Stephenson
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.
Cllr Mann proposed all the above be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
26/05/35 Correspondence

a) Notification from the Axe Valley runners informing the Council that they ColyTEN race will take place on Sunday 11th October.
b) Email received from member of public informing the Council of the presence of Japanese Knotweed growing on the river bank opposite the playing fields.

26/05/35 Finance

Minutes of the finance committee held Monday 27th April (appendix A) to be noted.

Accounts to be approved for payment.

DD Talktalk broadbard and telephone 35.83 VAT 7.17. Total 43.00 pounds.
DD British Gas Lite workshop electricity. Total 108.02 pounds in credit.
BACS MM Services dolphin Street toilets cleaning and maintenance. Total 477.00 pounds.
BACS Halcyon cemetery cutting 579.41 VAT 115.88. Total 695.29 pounds.
BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. Total 120.00 pounds.
BACS Devon communities together annual membership. Total 50.00 pounds.
DD EDF Dolphin Street toilet electricity 41.91 VAT 2.10. Total 44.01 pounds.
BACS Zurich insurance from 12/06/2026 to 11/06/2027. Total 2862.93 pounds.
BACS Moleavon fencing stakes and dumpy bag. 24.45 VAT 4.89. Total 29.34 pounds.
BACS Bargain Host webspace 16/05/2026 – 15/05/2027. Total 50.00 pounds.
CARD Currys laptop 399.00, Microsoft subscription 64.99 minus discount 11.98 VAT 77.33. Total 463.99 pounds.

Cllr Real proposed the above accounts be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

a) Quote received to remain with Zurich Insurance on another three-year agreement including discount. Year 1 and 2 £2862.93, year 3 £2639.62 all prices include IPT. Cllr Stenning proposed this be agreed, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.
b) CIL payment received £115,834.99. Noted.
c) Annual rent of £870 received for Cleeves Field. Noted.

26/05/36 Planning

Minutes of the meeting of the planning committee held Monday 27th April (appendix B) to be noted

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

26/0744/LBC The Old Bakehouse – Mr Warren – replace 4 windows and 1 door on north east elevation. Replace with like for like combined set of 5 wooden frame Georgian style windows and door. *Comments due by 15th May.*
Cllr Hay proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.

26/0800/FUL 9 Newbury Close – Mr & Mrs Richards – Demolition of conservatory to create a single storey rear extension to the south elevation incorporating partial conversion of existing garage/store. *Comments due by 22nd May.*
Cllr Mann proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed by all.

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

26/0166/FUL Beeches Old Sidmouth Road - Demolition of single storey extension on East elevation. Proposed single storey extension on both East and South elevations, and two storey extension on South elevation; front roof extension; formation of porch; application of stone cladding; and demolition and reconstruction of outbuilding. Approved with conditions.

25/1841/LBC & 25/1840/FUL Home Bush Cottage Home Bush - Retention of walls, stone mullion window frames and doorway on North and South elevations along with retention of roof.

Reinstatement of glazing in all windows, insertion of doors and floors along with repointing. Approved with conditions.

26/0608/DOC Great House South Street - Discharge of condition for 26/0074/LBC: Condition 3 (Materials) Discharge of Condition Approved

c) Planning correspondence.

26/05/37 Amenities

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities committee held Monday 27th April (appendix C) to e noted

a) Pavilion toilet. Cllr Mann is awaiting final quotes to come in.
b) Lines on the PMPF carpark. Cllr Mann is awaiting final quotes to come in.
c) Allotments update.
d) Shed at Cleeves Field (next to the cemetery) Cllrs Mann and Parr to inspect and report at the next meeting.

26/05/38 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.

Cllr Hay reported that the bus shelter at Coly Vale is still damaged, clerk to ask Lee Clifford for a quote.
Cllr Turner reported that two separate parishioners have approached him and complemented the condition of the cemetery, clerk to email Halcyon a thank you.

26/05/39 Matters to be taken into Committee

26/05/40 Dates of future meetings

Committee meetings – TUESDAY 26th May
FULL meeting – Monday 8th June

Meeting closed: 19:45.

Appendix A

Cllr Paul Arnott
District & County Report May 2026

Great achievement for EDDC's Waste & Recycling Service

East Devon has been ranked top nationally for the lowest amount of residual household waste per household in the latest recycling and waste league table. This is a significant achievement and reflects the consistent commitment of residents alongside the dedication of collection crews and the wider recycling and waste team. The district has now retained a top ten position in the national league table for at least the last five years, demonstrating sustained high performance in recycling and waste reduction.

The latest result underlines the effectiveness of East Devon's approach and provides a strong foundation to build upon as the delivery of recycling and waste services transfers later this year to council-owned company EdenServ. The council anticipates that the same high standards of performance and customer focus will continue through the transition and beyond.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who recycles and plays their part in keeping East Devon in great shape.

East Devon District Council invites views on draft Local Nature Recovery Plan in the Ave Valley

East Devon District Council is inviting residents, visitors and local stakeholders to take part in a public consultation on the draft East Devon Local Nature Recovery Plan. The consultation will help the Council understand how people experience and value nature in East Devon and what matters most to local communities. It will also help shape how the East Devon DC Countryside team can continue

to support people and wildlife in the future. This work supports the Council's declaration on nature recovery and its enhanced biodiversity duties. The consultation closes on the 22 of May at 5pm. Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to take part in the consultation and share their views https://eastdevon.gov.uk/edlnrpconsultation.
The draft plan sets out priorities and proposed actions to guide nature recovery across the district. It is structured around five themes: lowland heathland, wetlands, woodland and hedges, species-rich grassland and urban fabric. These themes are based on detailed habitat mapping for East Devon which highlights important habitats and helps identify where action could be focused.

Nature recovery supports a wide range of local priorities. These include action on climate and biodiversity, flood resilience, public health and wellbeing, access to greenspace, air and water quality and place-making. The draft plan has been developed to support realistic and achievable action through existing services, policy, partnerships and influence. This approach reflects the context of local government reorganisation and restricted funding.
The draft plan supports the recently adopted Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy which provides a county-wide framework for coordinated action. Once the consultation has closed, feedback will be used to shape the final version of the East Devon Local Nature Recovery Plan. A detailed action plan will then be developed. This will set out desired outcomes, timelines, key partners, resource implications and priorities.

East Devon working cross-county borders for Stronger Flood and Erosion Protection in the South West

EDDC is positioned for stronger and more cost-effective flood and coastal erosion protection across the county, following a decision by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council's Cabinet. In May 2024, East Devon District Council (EDDC) was the first to join BCP in a new South West Flood & Coastal (SWFaC) shared service, creating a centre of expertise in FCERM and hosted by BCP Council. Since then, the team has seen great success in bidding for and delivering a multitude of projects across the shared service area, as well as supporting other risk management authorities in the South West. Now, Dorset Council's Cabinet has recently voted to join the shared service, and BCP Council's Cabinet voted to approve this request.
Working together will increase our ability to monitor our changing coast, and to access more investment, deliver climate resilience for our residents and reduce reliance on external consultancy support. People living in Dorset, East Devon and BCP will benefit from an increased ability to bid for grant funding to deliver more projects and better long-term protection across the South West; whether they live in Seaton, Swanage, or Southbourne."

Health Challenges in Rural Devon: Sir Chris Whitty visits Devon County Council

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Chief Medical Adviser to the government, Sir Chris Whitty, visited Devon as part of a tour of the country's rural towns and communities. His fact-finding mission is looking at the health challenges for people in small towns and rural areas, for an annual report he will publish for government later this year.
On his visit, he met senior officers and councillors from Devon County Council's Public Health Devon team, as well as representatives from Trading Standards and the council's Communities and Active Devon teams, at County Hall, Exeter.
Sir Chris wants to understand what the challenges are in respect of good health for people in small towns, and what local authorities, the NHS, and community partners are doing to improve it. The availability of good quality affordable housing and the issue of homelessness were among the topics highlighted by the council as a challenge in Devon.
Sir Chris was told about the challenges around rural deprivation, food insecurity, and fuel poverty. He heard about the health inequalities for people living in urban and rural Devon, the challenge of rural deprivation and exclusion, particularly in relation to access to services.

He also heard about the challenges that young people in rural areas have accessing education, training, and employment opportunities. Devon's aging population was also highlighted as a challenge, with health and adult social care services supporting one of the highest percentages of older people in the country.
This is a key area to explore. In Devon, our records show that some people are dying up to 15-years earlier than they should because essential building blocks of health – things like reliable transport, access to education and training, decent digital connectivity, and services that people can reach – are missing.
Professor Chris Whitty said:
"I was delighted to visit the Devon County Council public health team and for the opportunity to see the excellent work they are delivering, together with partners, to improve the health of people in Devon.
"Improving population health across geographically dispersed rural and coastal communities is difficult, with challenges for many residents accessing physical or digital services. Despite these challenges, the local team is doing fantastic work to support the health of their communities."

My County Councillor Localities Budget

Applications for this funding for local projects has just been reopened for 26/27. My budget will have around £15,000 available and I am looking for local projects of £500-£1000 mainly which will support imaginative improvement to lives delivered by our amazing volunteers in the Seaton & Colyton County division.

Appendix B

Report of District Councillor Helen Parr May 2026

I have attended most Parish Council meetings and given reports on District Council work. Matters reported on throughout the year include:-

1. **Local Government Reorganisation** [LGR]- Labour announced proposals to abolish Devon County Council and all District Councils and replace them with a system of **Unitary Councils** which will provide all services. Parish and Town Councils will remain unchanged. **No agreement between Devon councils. Various options proposed, including Greater Exeter[a new Unitary] and Greater Plymouth Unitary** with **Torbay Unitary** and a **new Coastal and Rural Unitary, encompassing the rest of Devon**. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government recently launched its consultations on the proposals. Government will decide which system of Unitaries will be set up in Devon, announcement expected July.
2. **Housing** - Stock Condition Survey report published; expensive damp issues reported and £5.2 million in catch up repairs required. **The Housing Revenue Account [a ringfenced account for tenants' moneys] is seriously underfunded requiring £7m borrowing. EDDC has pledged to Build or Buy 500 Affordable Homes over the next 5 years- Cost £100m**, to be self-financing- rental income from council tenants to finance the cost of borrowing to fund the project. 3.
3. **New Local Plan**- to be submitted later in the summer. Includes a **2nd new town, Marlcombe. At least 10,000 homes and 25,000 residents,** to be built along the A3052 between Farringdon and Westpoint and spreading to the A30. **Not selected for the next phase of the national New Towns programme. This will have infrastructure funding implications**. East Devon District Council and Devon County Council are challenging the government's decision. The District Council Leader, Cllr Arnott, and the Planning Portfolio Holder, Cllr Olive, have stated that EDDC is committed to delivering an 'infrastructure-first'

new community despite "frustrating" Government decision. **How the infrastructure is to be funded is the subject of ongoing discussions to agree a package of support**. Further info re the new town- https://news.eastdevon.gov.uk/east-devon-commits-to-delivering-infrastructure-first-new-community-despite-frustrating-government-decision

4. **Consultations** eg. on Local Government Reorganisation, Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultations, 1 and 2
5. **EDDC Council Tax- Council Tax for a Band D property- £176.92, an increase of 2.99%**, the maximum within the government threshold before triggering a council tax referendum. 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
6. **Community Grant Fund**- restored after no grants given for 2 years. Next round of applications later this year, see EDDC Grants webpage- https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/the-community-grant-fund/