Minutes for the Annual Meeting of Colyton Parish Council held in the Colyton Town Hall on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm

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

25/05/23 Election of Chairman for 2025/26. Cllr Arnott proposed Cllr Parr be elected Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all. Cllr Parr accepted the position.
25/05/24 Election of Vice Chair for 2025/26. Cllr Clifford took this time to announce that he would like to resign from the Council and this will be his last meeting. Cllr Parr accepted his resignation and thanked him for all his help and dedication over the years, this was echoed by all Councillors. Cllr Arnott nominated Cllr Mann for vice chair, Cllr Mann refused due to having too many other commitments and he nominated Cllr Chesterton, this was seconded by Cllr Arnott and agreed by all. Cllr Chesterton accepted the position.
25/05/25 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. None.
25/05/26 Police report. 10 crimes reported in March. Anti-social behaviour – 6, robbery – 1, Violence and sexual offences – 1, public order – 1, other crime -1.
25/05/27 Declarations of Interest. Cllr Arnott declared an interest on finance item f) due to his association with the District Council who would decide on the rates payable.
25/05/28 Public Question time. No members of public present to speak.
25/05/29 Appointment of Councillors to Committees: Finance, Planning, Amenities. Cllr Real proposed that all Councillors remain on all committees to ease pressure to attend and remain quorate at all meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.
25/05/30 Details of Devon Association of local Councils (DALC) Training courses. The clerk confirmed that there are too many courses available to list and the majority of them are very reasonably priced and are on Zoom, if anybody would like any details then speak to the clerk separately.
25/05/31 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)

25/05/32 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2024. Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stephenson and agreed by all.
25/05/33 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.
25/05/34 Highway Matters
a) TTRO2562038 temporary prohibition of through traffic. King Street. Monday 12th May – Tuesday 13th May between 09:30 – 15:00 to enable cabling works.
b) TTRO2563139 temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking. Dolphin and Silver Street. Monday 14th July – Friday 18th July. Scaffolding to enable EDDC flats guttering to be repaired.
25/05/35 Report from County Councillor. Cllr Arnott read through his report – see appendix A
25/05/36 Report from District Councillors. Cllr Arnott read through his report – see appendix B. Cllr H Parr read through her report – see appendix C
25/05/37 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Hay attended a meeting of the Playing Fields committee, they made plans for funding events during the summer and shared concerns over the river eroding the bank. Cllr Real stated the Council should have a meeting at the river to look at the bank. It was agreed to meet Monday 19th May at 7pm at the playing fields. Cllr Real then mentioned the cricket pitch – the clerk cannot find any contract and it is thought that the agreement must be over 20 years old. The surface is now dangerous. Cllr Real then mentioned that about 20 slabs are broken on the path leading to the pavilion, Cllr Mann asked if it would be better to rip it all up and concrete

it. This needs adding to the inspection list. Cllr Mann confirmed that the Library is doing well and it too has a list of summer fund raising events. They require better storage. Seaton library is closing and relocating so staff from there are coming to Colyton for a week to help. Cllr Arnott announced that the youth programme is finally re-opening this week, huge thanks to Cllr Mann for being responsible for getting this up and running.

25/05/38 Dolphin Street toilets update. Cllr Mann confirmed that all is going well, there has been no complaints. The clerk is attempting to get more keys as there is only one. Cllr Parr thanked Cllr Mann for all he is doing.

25/05/39 Parish Council website. Cllr Chesterton confirmed that he is getting there, he wants some new head shots and will require some financing soon. Clerk told him to send an invoice and the funds will be transferred.

25/05/40 Response from the Land Registry. Cllr Parr proposed the Council respond and inform them that there was no court order so they are incorrect, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed. Cllr Parr to draft letter.

25/05/41 Correspondence

a) Rural bulletin

b) EDDC update.

25/05/42 Finance

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28th April (Appendix A) to be noted.

Accounts to be approved for payment

DD British gas Lite electricity 15.86 VAT 0.79. **Total 16.65 pounds.**
DD Talktalk phone and broadband 40.77 VAT 8.15 **Total 48.92 pounds**
DD Biffa waste management 272.59 VAT 54.52. **Total 327.11 pounds.**
BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. **Total 120.00 pounds.**
BACS AM Web design council website 1st Oct 24 – 31st March 25. **Total 83.50 pounds.**

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

a) Clerk holiday request. Approved.
b) Toilets upgrade and decorate – replacement grab bars (5 bars) £112.20 soap dispenser (1) £10.45 liquid soap (2 X 5 litres) £26.99 sanitary bin £40.00 Cllr Real proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Parr agreed by all.
c) Handyman bits – tools (socket and spanner set) £56.94 Tow bar (Cllr Mann will fit) £140.00 Cllr Mann proposed that the tow bar be left for now but the tools be purchased seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.
d) Handyman trailer service and repair approx. £60.00 Cllr Mann proposed this wait for now, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.
e) Memorial bench for Bob Collier. Cllr Real has spoken to Caroline who is pleased with the suggestion, exact location to be decided upon during the parish inspection.
f) Contact from Goodman Nash regarding the possibility of reclaiming some of the money spent on Business rates from the Pavilion at the playing fields. Cllr Arnott left the room. Cllr Parr stated that this can come back to bite you as the valuation office can look into it and you end up spending more. Cllr Mann proposed we do not go any further with this, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

25/05/43 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28th April – (Appendix B) to be noted

a Planning Applications

Amended plans for consultation 21/1782/MFUL Seaton Heights Harepath Hill Seaton – Lyme Bay Leisure - Erection of 9 x 2-bed and 14 x 3-bed and 19 x 4 bed two storey detached holiday homes with associated parking and amenity space.
These amendments relate to Revised Design and Access Statement. Comments due by 23rd May.
Cllr Stenning proposed that the Council does not comment on this as it is no longer a neighbouring Parish – it is now for Colyford to comment. Seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

b Planning Decisions – to be noted

25/0243/LBC The Old Bakehouse Lower Church Street - Replace 3 first floor windows on south east and north east elevation. Approved with conditions.

c Planning Correspondence

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

Decision on an appeal sent from EDDC, appeal was for Removal of condition 4 (holiday accommodation re striction) of planning permission 00/P0545 for conversion of redundant farm buildings to holiday let units at Tritchayne Farm Cottages, Colyton. Appeal dismissed.

25/05/44 Amenities

a) Replacement padlocks for workshop, tennis court and Height barrier. Cllr Real proposed these be purchased, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

b) Request received to fly model aircraft at PMPF – circulated to all Councillors. After a lot of discussion it was agreed to allow a two month trial, on condition of seeing all insurances and the letter from the air ambulance, priority must be given to existing users, only during School time and warning signs should be put at entrances to advice people that aircraft are flying.

c) Report of neglected allotment plots – some appear to have not been touched this year. Cllrs Mann and Real to have a look and report back.

25/05/45 Matters to be taken into Committee. None.

25/05/46 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published.

25/05/47 Dates of future meetings

Annual Parish meeting – Wednesday 21st May

Committees meeting – Tuesday 27th May

June full meeting – Monday 9th June

Meeting closed: 20:15

Appendix A

County Report May 2025

Cllr Paul Arnott

County

Following the county elections on 1st May, the political make-up of the 60-member council has changed significantly. Sixty seats in 58 council divisions were up for election in Devon – two divisions, Exmouth and Broadclyst, have two elected councillors each. The Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) won most seats, 27. Reform UK won 18 seats. The Conservative Party, which previously had overall control, won 7 seats, the Green Party 6 and 2 independents. The Labour Party won no seats.

I am very grateful to have been given a substantial majority over 700 with more than 2000 votes. As an aside, in the parliamentary constituency of Honiton & Sidmouth, the 6 seats contested returned 4 Liberal Democrats and two well-respected Independents. No other parties are represented.

There is no business to report to the parishes at this stage as the new council is not constituted until the AGM on 22nd May.

However, early issues are likely to concern Children's Services, where a long-delayed report is just being published, Local Government Reorganisation and Adult Social Care. It is worth noting that of the council's budget, 85% goes on "people services". The legacy challenges across the piece are of great significance.

Appendix B

District report May 2025

Cllr Paul Arnott

District

Similarly, district business has been constrained during the pre-election period due to the many district councillors also standing for county and the need to avoid political advantage or disadvantage. There will be much more to report in my June bulletin.

Communications between Parishes/Towns and Councillors

I will be writing next week to all chairs and clerks to open a dialogue with your councils regarding how better to communicate. While the physical presence of an upper tier councillor is traditional, technology promises more modern means of contact.

Appendix C

Annual Report April 2024/ April 25-
District Councillor Helen Parr

Some major items of note from the year-

1**. New Local Plan**
A series of Local Plan meetings was held over the summer months to select Strategic Development Sites for each of the Towns, Area Centres [including Colyton], and larger villages in East Devon, for inclusion in the new LP.
946 homes will be built per year; a 2nd New Town will be planned; 20,812 houses will be built over the Plan period [till 2042] plus a figure for headroom, in the event government increases the numbers for East Devon.
There were various Consultations throughout the year including-
May/ June 24 Consultation on Green Wedges, late submission Strategic Housing Development Sites and Land for Employment sites - comments were invited on sites where there were conflicts between land designated as Green Wedge and proposed strategic development sites eg. Harepath.
The Regulation 19 Consultation on the Draft Local Plan for Examination, closed Mon 31 March. Comments will be considered and amendments may be made, before the Draft New ED LP with all comments is sent to the Inspector.

2. The new Council Plan was adopted. This plan sets the framework and direction for Council delivery of Services and Projects
https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-business/our-plans/council-plan/

3. Housing- A report in July August made it clear that the **Housing Revenue Account [HRA] was seriously underfunded**. The HRA is a ring-fenced account made up of tenants' rent moneys and government grants: it funds Council Housing.
The 23/24 Overspend was met by using HRA Reserves and borrowing.
A 24/25 predicted Budget Overspend will require £7 million borrowing, to fund works necessary to make homes compliant with Government regulation.
A stock Condition Survey, 4 years in the making, was finally released to Councillors.
It showed significant investment in the council's 4000+ houses was required.

4. Local Government Reorganisation.
In December 2024 the Government published the **Devolution White Paper** which went much further than expected, and announced wholesale **Local Government Reorganisation:** County and District Councils are to be abolished in favour of Unitary Authorities.
The Government invited Devon CC and the DCs to put forward draft proposals for Unitary Authority in Devon by 21 March 2025. Final detailed plans are due in in November 2025.
Discussions between Authorities have been taking place, and many alternative plans are on the table.
There are concerns the proposed scale and timeline for LGR has the potential to disrupt council services and add to the transitional costs.

An Extraordinary District Council meeting was held to agree a proposal, which went through on a majority vote. This plan has been jointly submitted by 7 DCs plus Torbay Unitary Authority: it proposes 2 Unitary Authorities in Devon based around Exeter and Plymouth.

Exeter did not support this proposal and has put forward a plan for Exeter Unitary. Government guideline size for a Unitary is 500 population: Exeter proposes extending its boundaries to enlarge and meet this recommendation. Plymouth Unitary Authority also proposes a land grab to make up its population numbers, taking in numbers of parishes from South Hams.
Devon County Council has put forward various possible Unitary arrangements.

EDDC Medium Term Financial Plan Identifies a significant funding gap in EDDC in 2026/27. Other councils across the region are in the same position, which will not be resolved by LGR.
see Report to Extraordinary Council Meeting March 2025, Item 6
https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=2565&x=1