Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.

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

26/04/01 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllrs Mann, Chesterton and Gardiner.
26/04/02 Declaration of Interests. None
26/04/03 Police Report. None received.
26/04/04 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 9th March 2026. Cllr Real proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.
26/04/05 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.
26/04/06 Public Question time. No members of public present.
26/04/07 Report from County Councillor. *See appendix A* Cllr Hay asked if there has been any feedback on the list of issues he reported last meeting, Cllr Arnott confirmed he was looking in to it and asked if all defects had been reported on the portal. Cllr Hay stated that the steps outside Gordon & Rumsby needed repainting and the entrance to the car park is becoming damaged and needs resurfacing. Cllr Arnott asked if works had been announced on Church Street as lots of cones had appeared, the clerk confirmed no report had been received.
26/04/08 Report from District Councillors *Cllr Arnott sent his report – see appendix B* Cllr Parr stated that if the Council were to ask for a Judicial Review into the LGR that could take 2 years, if every Council were to do this then it would be a huge job.
Cllr H Parr talked through her report – see appendix C
26/04/09 Highway Matters
a) 20mph and double yellow lines. Clerk to email highways with areas to go forward to HATTOC and request to join the 20 is plenty scheme.
Cllr Real received a report that the Wain Homes site contains no drop curbs, this could be a huge oversight.
26/04/10 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Hay attended a meeting of the playing fields committee, everything is going well and plans are coming together for summer events and pitch maintenance. Cllr Hay also attended a Reece Strawbridge committee meeting, all is well there too, the youth club is doing well but works are needed on the Rain Water Harvesting tank.
Cllr Stephenson attended a meeting of the allotment society, they thanked the Parish Council for the skip and asked that 'allotments' have a constant item in Amenities for any updates. He also attended a Social Club meeting.
26/04/11 Land Registry. Cllr Parr has been in negotiations with the Land Registry regarding Stafford Common, he is trying to get a caution put on the land saying the Colyton Parish Council still dispute the ownership of the land. As of yet they will not do it. Cllr Parr proposed that a letter be sent to East Devon, attempting to get them to answer the question as to why they cannot see that the decision was made outside of the allocated time for a Community Governance Review. All we can do is keep renewing this so they can see that our objections are there and if Colyford wanted to sell the land, any good solicitor should see that there are concerns over legal ownership.
26/04/12 East Devon Nutrient Recycling Plant proposal. No application in as of yet, Cllr Arnott confirmed he is keeping a close eye on this, as is Branscombe Parish Council.
26/04/13 Nominations 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 Hay – Cllr Hay would like to step down. Cllr Chesterton was nominated.
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.

26/04/14 Correspondence

a) Email received from MOP highlighting concerns over parking on the triangle on the cross roads of Sellers Grave and Clay Lane, also reporting dog walkers in the picnic site. Highways will not put yellow lines on this, the Parish Council may consider planting a small tree and fencing this off.

26/04/15 Finance

Minutes of the finance committee held Monday 23rd March (appendix Y) to be approved for publication. Cllr Real proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed.

Accounts to be approved for payment.

DD Talktalk phone and broadband 32.72 VAT 6.54. Total 39.26 pounds.
DD Bitish gas lite workshop electricity 120.71 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.
DD Waste managed waste management. Not received.
BACS DALC membership 729.00 VAT 102.90. Total 831.90 pounds
DD EDF Dolphin Street toilets electricity 46.22 VAT 2.31. Total 48.3 pounds.
BACS Bradfords mask filters 10.82 VAT 2.16. Total 12.98 pounds.
BACS Source for business allotment water. Total 25.72 pounds.
BACS Goodman Nash investigation into rates bill at playing fields 2105.14 VAT 421.03. Total 2526.17 pounds.

The above accounts were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Hay, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

a) Balanced accounts for 1st – 31st March 2026 to be approved. Cllr Stephenson proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.

b) Notice for the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights. Clerk suggests Wednesday 3rd June – Tuesday 14th July. Cllr Real proposed these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

c) Licence for the Playing fields and permission for Roy Turner to be premise supervisor. Cllr Real confirmed that Mr Turner is still in negotiation over this and could take up to 6 weeks for an update. This will remain on the agenda.

26/04/16 Planning

Minutes of the meeting of the planning committee held Monday 23rd March (appendix Z) to be approved for publication. Cllr Real proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed.

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

26/0166/FUL Beeches Old Sidmouth Road – Mr & Mrs Allars - Demolition of single storey extension on East elevation. Proposed single storey extension on both East & South elevation, and two storey extension on South elevation, demolition and reconstruction of outbuilding. *Comments due by 12th April.*

Cllr Parr proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Arnott and agreed by all.

26/0173/FUL 19 Coly Vale – Dan & Jess Evans - Change of use of land for additional garden curtilage and erection of garden office. *Comments due by 18th April.*

Cllr Real proposed that a comment of 'no comment' be submitted due to lack of clarification as to whom owns the land they wish to expand the curtilage on to.

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

26/0073/FUL & 26/0074/LBC Great House - Repairs and partial rebuilding of boundary and garden walls. Approved with conditions.

25/2243/FUL Megs Roost Higher Watchcombe Farm - Provision of parking space by surfacing existing area. Approved with conditions.

26/0426/AGR Colcombe Abbey Farm - Erection of roofing over existing silage clamps and open feeding yards. Prior approval not required.

26/0243/FUL Logshayne Farm - Roofing over livestock feeding area. Approval with conditions

26/0191/FUL Road Pitt Farm - The construction of an agricultural building to cover an open fouled yard to reduce fouled surface runoff. Approval with conditions.

c) c) Planning correspondence.

26/04/17 Amenities

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities committee held Monday 23rd February (appendix X) to be approved for publication. Cllr Real proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed.

a) Pavilion toilet. Next agenda as Cllr Mann is not present to speak through.

b) Lines on the PMPF carpark. Next agenda as Cllr Mann is not present to speak through.

c) Allotments update. Thanks to Cllr Mann for fixing the community shed, any bills to be sent to the allotment association. Reports that some plot holders are still using sprays, please could a gentle reminder be sent out with the rental letters.

d) Request from the Axe Valley Runners to put up a stand at Bridge Gardens on Station Road to provide refreshments to runners during a 100km run on Saturday 3rd May 9am-3pm. Cllr Watson proposed this be allowed, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.

26/04/18 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.

Cllr Hay reported that the bus shelter has not been fixed, Millfield hedge still needs to be layed and Millfield itself needs strimming and spraying.

Cllr Turner asked if the garden of remembrance could be cleared up of old Christmas displays and any dead displays which now look tatty.

Cllr Real asked if a small fence could be erected around the bins and water containers at the cemetery to stop them blowing around.

A letter has been received from a member of public complaining that the grounds contractors have mown the patch of primroses up at the cemetery, clerk to email and ask if care could be taken around small wild flowers.

26/04/19 Matters to be taken into Committee. None

26/04/20 Dates of future meetings

Committee meetings – Monday 27th April

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 27th April

Full CPC meeting – Monday 11th May

Meeting closed: 20:15

Appendix A

Cllr P Arnott
County report – April 2026

County/Local Government Reorganisation

- It is now expected that Devon will hear which option has been decided by the Secretary of State, Steve Reed, by the end of July. In my view, the only two viable options are 911 or 451 but Mr Reed has already signalled that the schemes such as the enlarged Exeter are favoured (having just approved the enlarged Norwich and Ipswich.)
- Across the country, district CEs have realised that on Labour's current plan there would be 25 extra CEs. But there would also need to be 25 extra directors of children's services. And adults' services. Children's Directors do not fall out of the trees, and poor appointments or badly managed disaggregation risk the wellbeing of children
- Moreover, with either 451 or the Labour Devon idea, the only way to save this would be for the new unitaries to contract the Devon-wide service from current DCC for the first five years. Is anyone talking about this? I worry that we are wasting time waiting for a July "decision" which was decided a year ago
- Where this would end up is 1. The new 250-300k unitaries will fail in social services from the first year, and it will be impossible to conceal. 2. Government will then transfer those responsibilities up to Strategic Mayors, whose powers they are improvising on the hoof monthly. 3. It will bed down in the end in England with Mayors answerable every four years to the electorate but with toothless internal scrutiny having far reaching powers from Transport to Police, NHS to Children, New Towns to Environmental. 4. There will be two other tiers ... Unitaries of about 100k bigger than currently, defanged, planning permission and licensing and probably advisory only re development. Performative only. And the lovely parishes and towns muddling through as per usual
- My conviction is that it is in the public interest of the people of East and wider Devon that LGR, never in the manifesto, be cancelled. But we have to play the hand we currently hold.

Appendix B

Cllr P Arnott
District report – April 2026.

District2025/26 has been a civic year of change at East Devon District Council:

- This month the excellent Waste & Recycling service, a nationally recognised contract, with Suez comes to an end. In order to help plan for developing an East Devon based service across other council areas, we have taken the service into arms-length internal

control with a new Local Authority Trading Company. It is hoped that residents will not see any difference, but in the climate of Local Government Reorganisation, there is the potential for economies of scale across a number of current council footprints

- Similarly, the long-running contract with LED to provide sports and leisure services has only another year to run, and after many discussions and meetings and with the help of external experts the service has been put out to tender. The replies are currently in the process of being assessed.
- Although it was not officially selected as one of the 7 new towns in the recently announced tranche by government, Marlcombe has now established a forward looking civic-led governance structure endorsed at both district and county cabinets last week. Discussions have been had abut drawing down funding from MHCLG to help develop the concept further. Two comments here: without another new town, the pressure on towns and villages across Devon to take hundreds more homes because of the government's housing targets would be irresistible. And Marlcombe has already made a study of the failings of the developer-led model of Cranbrook, and via a civic-led model looks to deliver in the public interest

Appendix c

Cllr H Parr
District report – April 2026.

1. **New Local Plan**- to be submitted early summer. Includes a **2nd new town, Marlcombe. At least 10,000 homes and 25,000 residents,** to be built between the A3052 and the A30 spreading from Farringdon along to Westpoint but is **not one of the new towns selected for the next phase of the national New Towns programme.** East Devon District Council and Devon County Council have stated they will challenge the government's decision, which will have **infrastructure funding implications**.

   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 the "frustrating" Government decision and infrastructure funding concerns.

   Further info re the new town- https://news.eastdevon.gov.uk/east-devon-commits-to-delivering-infrastructure-first-new-community-despite-frustrating-government-decision/

2. **Community Grant Fund**- restored after no grants given for 2 years. The next round of applications will be invited later this year. Charities and community organisations can apply.

See https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/the-community-grant-fund/