Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Mann, A Stenning, A Parr, J Hay, J Gardiner, J Watson and R Turner.
Also in attendance: S Haines (clerk)
Members of public: 1

25/12/29 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllrs Real, Chesterton, Stephenson and Arnott. EDDC Cllr H Parr.
25/12/30 Declaration of Interests. None
25/12/31 Police Report. 9 crimes reported in October. 7 violence & sexual offences, 2 criminal damage & arson.
25/12/32 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 10th November 2025. Cllr Mann proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
25/12/33 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.
25/12/34 Public Question time.
A member of public who is part of Friends of Colyton Library (FoCL) stood and spoke about the public survey which is currently running regarding the future of Devon's libraries. The library is an unlimited service, and we cannot influence the votes but we can try to encourage everybody to fill out the survey and tell DCC why the library is important to them and what more they would like to see the library doing and providing. One proposal is that the library could become a community hub, particularly the smaller ones of which we are one of (band D) they will look at nearby libraries in similar banding and attempt to make sure that by differing opening hours, one is always open nearby. There are two hubs in East Devon and our nearest one is Honiton. Services that already run in Colyton library alongside computer access and borrowing books include craft groups, baby and toddler groups, blood pressure checks including renting the machine for a week or so to monitor your blood pressure, baby weighing, knit and natter, book groups, drop in sessions and warm space imitative. We are acting more and more as an information centre. One of the questions on the questionnaire is what more does Colyton want/need from its library? The opening hours will be changing, we currently have 9 hours a week which is dropping to 6 but FoCL supplement that by 2.5 hours. The issue is that the volunteers cannot access the library network due to GDPR so certain tasks can only be completed when a librarian is in. At the moment it is proposed to have no afternoon opening at all which means children coming out of school will not have access to the library. They are proposing to have two morning sessions a week but FoCL would much prefer one morning and one afternoon for more flexibility.
The banding seems sensible, the way they have divided the libraries into groups but what we don't support is Community managed libraries which is the fourth question on the questionnaire. This would mean there is no library staff at all, the County would supply books but that would be all. While the volunteer sessions have been successful there are a lot of things volunteers simply cannot do and a list is often left for the next time a librarian is in to complete. This would inconvenience the public and is not practical.
FoCL are looking into what more they can do, run more volunteer sessions to keep that afternoon session going during the week. Getting people to think about what else the library could be used for and urging as many people as possible to fill in the questionnaire. Spread the word get your views across.
25/12/35 Report from County Councillor. No report received.
25/12/36 Report from District Councillors. Cllr H Parr sent her report - see appendix A.
25/12/37 Highway Matters
a) Complaints received about the state of the road on Grove Hill. Clerk has reported and sent pictures. Cllr Hay stated that defects are reported and we never hear back, clerk to ask Cllr Arnott if he can get updates on Grove Hill and Clay Lane.
Cllr Mann commented that the recent works on South Street to mend the damaged drain has failed already, clerk to report.
25/12/38 Report from Meetings Attended. None.
25/12/39 I.T Policy. Cllr Mann proposed this be adopted, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.
25/12/40 Nomination for a Parish Council representative for the Feoffees.

Cllr Stenning nominated Lee Clifford and Paul Millman. Cllr Hay nominated Richard Collier. Cllr Parr stated that we would need confirmation that they are all willing to stand and the vote will be next month.
25/12/41 EDDC Local Plan - 2nd stage of Regulation 19 consultation on the East Devon Local Plan is now live. This closes 12 noon on Monday 26th January. To be on the next agenda.
25/12/42 East Devon Nutrient Recycling Plant proposal. A very comprehensive objection has been received but until an official application is received, the Parish Council don't have anything to object to. Cllr Hay is concerned about the level of traffic, 50 loads a day to be received. Also huge concerns around the risk of pollution if a tank is compromised. The plant is uphill from a water source. Cllr Watson also raised concerns about potentially setting a precedent and suddenly more plants may apply to be nearby, this would result in more traffic and pollution.
25/12/43 Correspondence
a) 12 week consultation (launched 1st December) have your say on the future of Devon's 50 libraries.
b) East Devon Heritage Strategy (2024-2042) Consultation will run from the 28th November until 9:00am on Monday 26th January 2026
25/12/44 Finance

Minutes of the finance committee meeting held Monday 24th November (appendix P) to be approved for publication. Cllr Hay proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

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 16.03 VAT 0.80. **Total 16.83 pounds**
BACS M.M. Services Dolphin Street toilets cleaning and materials. **Total 477.00 pounds.**
BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. **Total 120.00 pounds.**
BACS Axminster garden machinery. Air filter, turbo line, fuel fit 42.70 VAT 8.54. **Total 15.24 pounds.**
BACS Christmas lights donation. **Total 500.00 pounds.**
BACS Moleavon new padlock 4.16 VAT 0.83. **Total 4.99 pounds.**
DD Waste manged waste disposal 151.00 VAT 30.20. **Total 181.20 pounds.**
BACS Halcyon cemetery maintenance 579.41 VAT 115.88. **Total 695.29 pounds.**
DD EDF Dolphin street toilet electricity 44.50 VAT 2.22. **Total 46.72 pounds.**
BACS MNR Mowers ltd equipment 40.00 VAT 8.00. **Total 48.00 pounds.**
BACS Mrs S Haines clerk. **Total 1076.00 pounds.**
BACS Mr D Bennett salary 1245.24 mileage 0.45 X 131 58.95. **Total 1484.19 pounds.**
BACS HMRC PAYE 141.41 NI Employee 53.80 NI Employer 290.18. **Total 485.38 pounds.**
DD Nest pension employer 51.84 employee 69.12. **Total 120.96 pounds.**

The above accounts were approved for payment this was proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
a) Balanced accounts for the month of November to be approved. Cllr Stenning proposed this be approved, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.
b) Budget for 2026 – 27 version 1. Precept request deadline is Wednesday 14th January. This was discussed but does not need approving until the next meeting.
c) Internal audit due. Cllr Gardiner will complete.

25/12/45 Planning

Minutes of the planning committee meeting held Monday 24th November (appendix Q) to be approved for publication. Cllr Parr proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Watson agreed by all.

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

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

25/1927/LBC Logshayne Farm – Increase height of chimney to 1.8m on front elevation. Approved with conditions.

25/1608/CPE Axe View Kingsdon Colyton - Lawful Development Certificate (CLUED) submitted under section 171B(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) for the existing use of land for the stationing of a mobile home for residential purposes ancillary to the enjoyment of the main dwelling house Refused.

c) **c) Planning correspondence.**

25/12/46 Amenities

Meeting of the amenities committee meeting held Monday 24th November (appendix R) to be approved for publication. Cllr Parr proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Gardiner agreed by all.

a) Request received to place a memorial bench at the picnic site. This request was approved, Cllr Mann to be sent the bench dimensions to calculate the cost of a base and installation.

b) Work on the bottom steps of the allotments has been completed. Thanks to Cllr Mann.

25/12/47 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published to be noted.

25/12/48 Matters to be taken into Committee

25/12/49 Dates of future meetings

Committee meetings – No committees in December

Full CPC meeting – Monday 12th January.

Meeting closed: 19:55.

Appendix A

December 25 Report of District Cllr Helen Parr

Local Government Reorganisation [LGR].

At an Extraordinary Council meeting the 4-5-1 proposal for Unitary Devon, which has been jointly put together by 7 of the District Councils, was supported by a majority of EDDC Cllrs.

The full proposal was submitted to Government on Fri 28 November.

Other proposals have been submitted by County Council, Exeter city, N. Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Councils.

Link to **summary document**-
https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s29249/Appendix%20B%20-%20Executive%20Summary.pdf

Link to **EDDC Cabinet Agenda with background info**-
https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s29248/Paper%20A.East%20Devon%20Cabinet%20November%202025.pdf

Link to **Agenda for Full Council, with full proposal document**- https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s29268/Reimagining%20Devon%20believe%20in%20better%20Full%20proposal%20_.pdf

It is for the Minister of State to decide which form of Unitary Government is implemented across Devon, decision expected June/ July.

New authorities go live April 2028.