Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held in the Colyton Town Hall on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs S Stenning, S Real, A Parr, J Hay, M Mann, K Clifford and R Turner.
Also in attendance: EDDC Cllr H Parr and S Haines (clerk)
Members of public: 1

24/01/01 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllrs Arnott, Gardiner & DCC Cllr Hartnell.
24/01/02 Police Report. None received.
24/01/03 Declarations of Interest. None.
24/01/04 Public Question time. Mr Denny, who has been doing research on behalf of the Council regarding heating the Rest House at the cemetery for the purpose of encouraging bats to roost made a report. He confirmed that he has spoken to one of the biggest suppliers of PV panels in the county and they told him that a power supply would be required, either mains or a battery. He has been on advice forums and has received contradicting information and various suggestions, none of which are guaranteed and all of which would be costly and require ongoing maintenance. This will be placed on the next agenda for the Council to decide whether or not to proceed with this project.
24/01/05 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2023. Cllr Mann proposed the minutes be approved, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.
24/01/06 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.
24/01/07 Report from County Councillor – see appendix A. Cllr Real asked that Cllr Hartnell be reminded about the white van which is always parked on the junction at Govers Meadow.
24/01/08 Report from District Councillors – Cllr H Parr reported that the report from the external auditor has been received and has been discussed by Auditing Governance who met and noted the support given to actions contained in the management responses of the report. They have asked for monitoring of any progress made. There were concerns that some actions from the last report had not been actioned and there were some really very serious findings surrounding Housing from the Housing Ombudsman regarding how EDDC process complaints. There was a piece on Spotlight about this and I was interviewed. I am extremely concerned because the leader was also interviewed and rather disputed that there was any bullying at EDDC. The external auditors would not claim that there was without any evidence. So clearly a lot more work is needed.
Also the cabinet on 3rd Jan discussed Public Toilets and have agreed to review the Heads of Terms surrounding the transfer of the toilets as a lot of Town and Parish Councils who agreed to take on the toilets were extremely concerned by the Heads of Terms. EDDC are going to adopt a really rigid timetable and if people have not signed on the line by the 31st March 2025, the toilets will be disposed of. EDDC have agreed more funding to have a surveyor look at the transfers.
Strategic Planning have agreed another agency planner because the Local Plan Policy team is short and this needs to be completed by a certain deadline.
Seaton Tramway have purchased Jurassic. There have been negotiations involving National Lottery Heritage Fund and Devon County Council. The attempts to lease it have been very complicated and therefore a freehold lease has now been decided upon. The East Devon portion of the capitol receipts will be ring-fenced for use in Seaton. More will come up later as the money involved is currently confidential.
24/01/09 Highway Matters

a) Banks of Clay Lane are collapsing. Cllr Hay confirmed that unfortunately the bank has collapsed onto the newly repaired highway. Clerk to report to DCC Highways.

24/01/10 Report from Meetings Attended. No meetings attended.
24/01/11 Clerks working hours and office opening hours. New hours are approved – clerk will now work Monday – Friday 12 – 3. The office will be open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 – 2:30pm.
24/01/12 Co-option of two Councillors. Cllr Stenning proposed that George Chesterton be Co-opted, this was seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all. Clerk to organise paperwork.
24/01/13 Correspondence

a) Rural Bulletin

b) EDDC update

24/01/14 Finance

Accounts to be approved for payment

DD Biffa waste management 156.08 VAT 31.22. **Total 187.30 pounds.**
DD Talktalk phone and broadband 41.83 VAT 8.37. **Total 50.20 pounds.**
DD British Gas Lite workshop energy 37.51 VAT 1.88. **Total 39.39 pounds.**
BACS Halcyon Landscapes Cemetery maintenance 526.75 VAT 105.35. **Total 632.10 pounds.**
BACS Ashfords LLP Legal works up until 28th Dec 2023. 400.00 VAT 80.00. **Total 480.00 pounds.**
BACS AM Web design website maintenance from October to December 2023. Total 149 minutes. **Total 37.25 pounds.**
BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. **Total 120.00 pounds.**
BACS K Underdown & Son. Hedge trimming 4.5 hours. 225.00 VAT 45.00. **Total 270.00 pounds.**
***DD** J Mair cemetery trees 380.00 picnic site hedge 950.00. **Total 1330.00 pounds.**

*added after agenda published but pricing approved at a previous meeting.

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

a) Budget Version 2. Cllr Mann proposed that version 2 be approved, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.
b) Email received from Hedgehogs R us, would the council consider purchasing some small signs to warn motorists of hedgehogs in the area? Signs retail at 26.99 pounds are made from Aluminium composite and do not require planning permission. Cllr Mann proposed these not be purchased, hedgehogs are rarely seen squashed on the roads in Colyton, this was seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.
c) Third quarterly audit due – Cllrs Stenning or Arnott to complete. Cllr Stenning volunteered.

24/01/15 Planning

a) Planning Applications

23/2694/VAR Four Valleys Colyton – Ms E Dare - Removal of condition 2 (occupancy condition) on permission 96/P1631 following the securing of a Lawful Development Certificate (23/1590/CPE) for occupation of the dwelling without complying with the condition. *Comments due by 12th January.*
Cllr Mann proposed that the Council comment 'no comment' on this application, this was seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all bar Cllr Hay who abstained.

23/2686/FUL & 23/2687/LBC 3 Sunnyside South Street Colyton – C H Johnson - Take down and rebuild section of garden wall. Comments due by 12th January.
Cllr Hay proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.

23/2450/LBC 3 Sunnyside South Street Colyton - C H Johnson - Remove existing 'dovecote' from stack and replace with flaunching; add new pot and cowl; suspend chimney liner from cowl to attach to wood burner on ground floor; replacement register plate to hearth. *Comments due by 4th January*
Ratification required of the decision made by Cllrs Stenning, Mann, Parr and Turner as per the delegation granted during the full December meeting 23/12/98. The decision was to support this application.
Cllr Mann proposed this be ratified, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

23/2564/FUL Land North West Of Downhayne Brake Downhayne Brake Road Colyton – Dymond - Erection of a manure store. *Comments due by 6th January.*
Ratification required of the decision made by Cllrs Stenning, Mann, Parr and Turner as per the delegation granted during the full December meeting 23/12/98. The decision was to support this application.
Cllr Mann proposed this be ratified, seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

b) Planning Decisions

23/1374/AGR Heathayne Wood Colyton – Woodlands Investment Management Ltd - Repair works to old tracks, including resurfacing and provision of pull-in and turning areas. Approved with conditions.

24/01/16 Amenities

a) Report of further damage to headstone in the cemetery. There have been two reports of damaged headstones in the cemetery, one is a chip in a headstone and one is an old grave which has come off its feet. In both circumstances the Parish Council cannot accept responsibility for damage to personal items in the cemetery, including tablets and headstones. Both emails have been forwarded to the grounds maintenance team but there is no proof that they caused any damage.

24/01/17 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published.

Access to drive down the allotment track during wet weather – to be added to the next agenda.

24/01/18 Matters to be taken into Committee. None.

24/01/19 Dates of future meetings

Committees – Monday 22nd January

Full Meeting – Monday 12th February.

Meeting closed: 19:45.

Appendix A

County Councillor report for January 2024 – Cllr Marcus Hartnell

Happy New Year.

This month's report focuses on the finances of Devon County Council ahead of target setting for the various service areas of the Council ahead of budget setting for 2024/24 in what is going to be an interesting year for everyone in Local and National Government.

Budget 2024/2025

Setting the DCC Budget for 2024/25 is like any year, a huge task for a large-scale organisation. Over 79% of the nett revenue budget of £743.4million proposed for 2024/25 is spent on children's and adult service areas i.e. £588.5m with £154.8m for the others.

Demand in these two areas in particular continues to surge, where DCC must legally provide them, often at very high costs over and above what is termed discretionary services, such as routine roads maintenance (other than safety issues) of a 12,000 mile road network, bus service subsidies, climate change initiatives and much more.

	2023/24 Adjusted Base Budget £000	Inflation and National Living Wage £000	Other Growth and Pressures £000	Savings, Alternative Funding and Additional Income £000	2024/25 Target Budget £000	Net Change 2023/24 to 2024/25 £000	%
Integrated Adult Social Care	340,245	29,887	20,025	(29,411)	360,746	20,501	6.0%
Children and Young People's Futures	206,278	9,795	20,862	(9,150)	227,785	21,507	10.4%
Public Health, Communities & Prosperity	21,678	533	289	(1,577)	20,923	(755)	-3.5%
Corporate Services	49,755	2,160	1,361	(4,831)	48,445	(1,310)	-2.6%
Climate Change, Environment & Transport	81,619	6,144	2,348	(4,629)	85,482	3,863	4.7%
Totals	**699,575**	**48,519**	**44,886**	**(49,598)**	**743,382**	**43,807**	**6.3%**

The 2023/24 Base Budget has been adjusted for permanent virements (budget transfers from other budget lines)

The funding for this comes from a wide range of Core funding income from the Government and Other Grants totalling around £236.4m, but most of the income is derived from Council tax and a share of Business rates.

This is set against set against a background inflationary cost of living pressures and huge challenges to Local Government in general. Social care provision is particularly impacted by increases to the national living wage, which at first glance a 30p per hour increase announced by the Government does not seem vast. However, it will add an extra £25.7m to the DCC wage bill, which will need to come from further savings and efficiencies.

There is an above inflation proposed 10.4 per cent increase in the revenue budget for children's services with a 6 per cent rise in adult services and 4.7 per cent extra for climate change, environment, and transport.

Reductions in other departmental spending means an overall rise of 6.3 per cent in the council's budget for next year within the total spend of over £743 million where Officers of the Council have worked closely with the DCC Cabinet to secure best value across Devon's operations and ensure continuing financial sustainability.

To set a balanced budget, savings, alternative funding, and additional income of £49.6 million have been identified. Overall, there is additional funding of £43.8 million or 6.3% for services next year. It is not planned to support the proposed budget targets by using general reserve balances. This reflects a strategy of DCC living within its means and to set service budgets that are affordable.

Changes to Taunton Bus Service

There is a small but important enhancement to the 20 bus service that operates from Seaton to Taunton with Dartline. The enhancement will extend the morning and afternoon peak journeys to Richard Huish College. This will greatly benefit students who currently must walk between the Town centre and the College.

From the 3rd January 2024, the 07:01 journey from Honiton to Taunton will continue to Richard Huish College, and the 17:15 departure from Taunton will now depart from the college at 17:05. This will operate on college days only.

To allow extra time for the route extension to college, the 15:00 journey from Seaton will now depart at 14:50 Monday to Saturday and run 10 minutes earlier throughout the journey to Taunton. This will happen on every day of operation (regardless of the college being open or closed) to give daily continuity for passengers.

Multi-use Trail update – Seaton

There was a soft opening of the new section of the multi-use trail over the Christmas period. There is a section that is narrowed around the electricity pole which is due to be rectified in the New Year. It is likely that we'll have to temporary close the path in early Jan for the planting to be complete. Once this is done a formal opening date will be announced.

Additional highways funding

The autumn statement awarded an addition £13m+ in highways funding for DCC, with £6.6m available as an in-year award. This means that identified schemes within the county can be brought forward a delivered sooner than expected. For Seaton & Colyton this means Valley View will be patched and surface dressed this financial year along with additional schemes in Widworthy.

As a reminder, please use the "Report a problem" page on the DCC website to report potholes, fallen trees, blocked drains and much more. This is the quickest and easiest way to inform DCC of defects or problems, with the ability upload photos and pinpoint problems for our teams to locate and fix.

Report a problem - Roads and transport (devon.gov.uk)

Minor Highways Improvements could be funded by Town & Parishes

Communities who ask to use their own money to make minor improvements to roads in their area will soon be able to do so after DCC cabinet today gave a trial scheme the go-ahead.

Self-delivery schemes could be for a 20mph zone or traffic calming for instance.

In December the cabinet approved recommendations for a Community Self-Delivery of Highway Improvements trial, a proposal that had cross-party support. A step-by-step guide or 'checklist' will be published enabling communities to understand the steps that are required before any work is carried out. Our highways service receives requests from communities for permission to pay for and make small improvements to a highway in their area. These requests are where communities have funding in place, but our highways service lacks the capacity to deliver it on their behalf as quickly the community would like.The results of the trial will then help us determine if the proposal should be turned into a permanent scheme.

The guide itself has been co-authored by the Highways and Traffic Management Service with the support of the Engineering Design Group and lays out the typical steps that need consideration before work is carried out.

Steps include appointing a competent designer, environmental considerations, road safety and maintenance audits, consultation with affected parties and any changes to Traffic Regulation Orders.

Proposed changes to Seafront Bus Stops

DCC are currently consulting on plans to change the configuration of bus stops on Seaton seafront. You can view and comment on the plans by 15th January here All proposed traffic schemes - Roads and transport (devon.gov.uk)

ENDS

Appendix B.