

**COLYTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Feoffees Town Hall, Colyton**

**EX24 6JR**

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*Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the MORTIMER ROOM of the TOWN HALL at 7.00 pm on Monday 8th December 2014.*

**Present:** Cllrs A Parr, R Collier, C Collier, C Pady, J Hay, R Turner, P Gibbins, S Real, H West, M Mann,,K Clifford, 9 members of the public, 1 member of the press, Dist Cllr H Parr, County Cllr S Randall Johnson (for part of the meeting), PC Speariett (for part of the meeting).

**14/12/147 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence** – Cllrs Smith (prior commitment), R Pocock (away).

**14/12/148 Police Report**  
**Colyton - 2 Crimes**

**This compares to 4 crimes last month and 4 crimes in November 2013**

- **12<sup>th</sup> Criminal Damage:** A vehicle parked in Burnards Field Road had the rear panel scratched. (CR/121725/14)
- **14<sup>th</sup> Assault – ABH:** Domestic related assault. (CR/122843/14)

**Compared to November last year, crime has decreased from 11 in 2013 to 7 this year – a decrease of 36%.**

**Compared to last month crime has remained the same at 7 crimes.**

**The monthly average crimes for November has been 15.**

PC Speariett said “Seaton Rural has seen two consecutive months of historic low crimes with November seeing 7 reported crimes, down from a peak of 31 in 2005. Both Colyton and Beer also recorded record lows.

With Christmas approaching the Police will be conducting their annual drink drive campaign, it is disappointing to see that a local male has already been arrested and charged with drink driving. We are sending out a clear message that if you do drink and drive you will be targeted. If you want to report somebody who drinks and drives you can call 101 or crimestoppers anonymously. And finally, the Seaton Neighbourhood team would like to wish everybody a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year”

PC Speariett gave advice to a Colyford resident on cold callers & will drop in some stickers to the Town Hall. He advises people to call 101 to report cold calling with as much detail as possible or if residents feel threatened to call 999.

His personal view is that there is an uncertain future for the police over the coming year. Seaton officers have opened the front office one Friday a month for a ‘have your say’ session & posters will be put up to advertise this. Currently the nearest manned front desk is Exeter.

**14/12/149 Public Question time** (maximum 15 minutes)

Mr Buse followed up his email and produced a map showing the worst areas of road between Lilylake, Easy Bridge & Three Sycamores.

Cllr Parr explained this was a County Council issue but that the Parish Council have been reporting & discussing this over a lengthy period of time and like the residents are frustrated at the lack of action by DCC.

Mr Wood a Shute resident quoted a local cyclist who had told him that the road was the worse he had travelled on in 30 years of cycling. It was dangerous in places and an accident or fatality could well be the result in the not too distant future. He noted that roads the other

side of Shute had been repaired and questioned who made the decisions to do the work and what were the criteria used?

His concerns were echoed by Andrea Barnett who commented that it was not just locals using these lanes but visiting walkers & cyclist. As a horse rider she found the area extremely dangerous.

Mrs Nason from Colyford explained her opposition to the variation in planning request from the developers of the elm Lane site. The site was already declared at maximum density by EDDC. With the proposed changes to the layout and the 7<sup>th</sup> property becoming a 3 bedroom house this exceeds what is considered maximum density. The whole run of new houses have been moved closer to existing properties and the car parking spaces proposed are just not suitable for use which will result in cars being parked elsewhere in the area, She urged the CPC to not support the variation which in her opinion is a radical change.

Councillors reiterated the need for residents to use the online reporting system for potholes & dangerous road surfaces.

**14/12/150 The minutes of the meeting of the CPC Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved and signed as being a true record of that meeting.**

**14/12/151 Matters arising from the Minutes**

- a) The meeting with Colyford PO/Butchers was a useful one but it was obvious that nothing could be imposed by the Council on the parking and the greatest problem was the speed of the vehicles on the A3052. Possible solutions to this problem will be on the agenda for the Traffic Group meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.
- b) Response from CGS re a meeting of all parties re coach parking – 14<sup>th</sup> January at 1630. Bus operators to be invited & 5 -6 local Colyford residents.
- c) Woodland pack applied for – will know result at end of January

**14/12/152 Report from County Councillor** (given later in the meeting but reported here in agenda order).

Cllr Randall Johnson commented that she would be surprised if Colyton Library was not one of the pilot projects in the new community led scheme (later confirmed by the press). She felt Colyton 'is a beacon across the County, as is Cllr West'.

She was disappointed at not being at the meeting to hear what had been said about the roads in the Umborne area and is very aware of the strength of feeling from local residents.

Councillors reiterated the point made that people are now not shopping in Colyton but going elsewhere – the road conditions have a direct impact on the local businesses.

She stated that she is sympathetic to people living in areas with bad roads but not all holes are considered potholes. She explained that the lengthsmen were taken off their usual duties last year in the very bad weather to assist colleagues elsewhere. This was met with some frustration as this is not just a recent problem but has been reported for the past 5 years at least!

She suggested that any correspondence be sent to Tom Vaughan

Cllr West proposed that any correspondence should also be sent to Neil Parish as our MP because surely the area is suffering due to lack of central monies. Cllr Mann seconded the proposal and all agreed.

**14/12/153 Report from District Councillors**

Cllr H Parr reported on three issues:

- i) The Heathpark site had been proposed as the new office location site, it will be discussed and a decision taken at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Honiton is central to the area and EDDC owns the site. There had been an offer made for the land from a supermarket company which, along with the sale of Knowle would have funded a move to Skypark but this offer was subsequently reduced. Exmouth town Hall (now in EDDC ownership) will be refurbished and offer a one stop shop for EDDC services to what is the largest centre of population in East Devon.
- ii) Much more cooperation is now expected from neighbouring council and EDDC, Teinbridge and Exeter city have proposed a memorandum of understanding whereby they will co-operate on future large projects. A joint IT company – Strata- has already been formed. It is hoped that this initiative will offer better services to the local residents and save money.
- iii) Cllr H Parr confirmed the government's decision to withdraw the need for open space funding (\$106 funding) on developments under 10 units (6 in rural area). This will have a direct impact on affordable housing and huge ramifications to the Local plan. Officers are looking at how this lack of funding can be mitigated in the future.

Cllr West thanked Cllr Parr for her support in trying to purchase the land for sale in Colyton. He had been trying to access the planning website to look at a current development and found the site to be off line & not working properly – had this now been sorted?

Cllr Parr stated that there had been a transfer to a new website.

A member of the public stated it was not just the planning site but others as well.

**14/12/154 Highway Matters**

- a) Copy of email from Mr Buse re Roads north of Colyton (sent to DCC & MP) was read out – his comments will be made to the DCC.  
Cllr Pady proposed a very strong letter be written to DCC from CPC as this situation needs tackling immediately. Cllr Real seconded the proposal and all agreed. Cllr Parr will draft a letter.
- b) Confirmation from DCC that drop kerbs will be installed before the end of year.
- c) Date for traffic group meeting – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December
- d) Update on Colyton yellow lines – nothing to report. Will be 'lumped' in with Honiton but as yet this hasn't happened.
- e) Email from local resident re state of road from Easy Bridge to Three Sycamores- read out.

**14/12/155 Report from Meetings Attended**

Cllr C Collier reported on a Parishes & Town meeting that her & the clerk had attended at EDDC. In the main it was a very interesting meeting with good Speakers, especially John Hart (leader of DCC). There were also interesting presentations from Seaton Voice, East Budleigh village shop & The Cranbrook community.

Cllr Hay had attended the appeal meeting on the development at Cat Aclew along with representatives from the Environment agency, the Inspector & the applicant. He was surprised at how much an issue there was over the water run off onto the site from Kingsdon.

Cllr Clifford had attended a very interesting meeting in Beer on affordable housing presented by the Community Land Trust which had done a lot to help Beer build several new affordable houses for local residents.

Cllr A Parr, K Clifford & the Clerk had attended the Promote Colyton meeting at the Garden Shop. There was a lot of interest in the group and the plans for a re-enactment of the Monmouth Rebellion were well received. Financial assistance is requested and that request will be on the Finance agenda.

Cllr Parr had received a response from the Church re the suggestion of banning dogs from the churchyard due to persistent fouling. The Church does not want to go down this route.

Cllr Mann had attended a meeting of the Friends of the Library and welcomed the news that Colyton will be amongst 12 libraries chosen to pilot the new community led scheme.

He reported that the Reece Strawbridge centre had obtained grants for £8000 for future improvements to the acoustics in the large hall and that the theatre group were moving in once that work had been done.

#### 14/12/156 Correspondence

- a) Publications e-mailed to councillors – Intouch/RsN etc
- b) EDDC – Parish & Town Council election May 2015 – implications for Parish precept - £1862.
- c) Email Northern, Eastern & Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group – re urgent & necessary measures – details of services/requirement to be prioritised & evaluation details of others.
- d) Neighbourhood Planning newsletter – emailed to councillors
- e) Poster & guide book to East Devon Way
- f) Christmas card from Sidmouth council
- g) DALC update on new government consultation document re parish polls.
- h) Cllr B Collier had received an invitation to attend a 20 min slot to meet Tony Hogg the Devon and Cornwall's Police and Crime Commissioner. It was agreed that he should go and request that the visible policing of our area not be reduced further, it's the 'boots on the ground' that keeps down the crime.

#### 14/12/157 Finance Minutes of the meeting held Monday 24th November – Appendix Q to be noted

Accounts to be approved for payment – proposed payment by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr West.

DD	Talk Talk	Broadband	£16.93	£3.38	£20.31
DD	EDF	Electricity	£7.60	£0.40	£8.00
*Bank Transfer	PGD	Gardening			£40
3520	Alex Graves-Morris	Dolphin St wall			£1585
3521	Cash	Toilet Cleaner			£100

a) PGD Services request a bank transfer for payment. (This is possible at no extra cost to CPC as he has an account at the same branch as CPC). Agreed.

b) Talktalk increased prices by £5 month – currently not on a contract & did not receive emails informing of rise.

Options are:

i) 18 month contract broadband only at £10.16/month

ii) Month by month broadband for three months at £10.16 then £20.31

iii) Broadband, line rental & free calls - £24.20 per month rising to £27.20 after 12 months.

To be on the Finance agenda for the next meeting.

**14/12/158 Planning**

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November- Appendix R to be noted

**a Planning Applications**

**14/2707/VAR 3 Elm Cottages, Elm Farm Lane – C+S Developments & Zerton Ltd).** 2 filed letters of objection.

Cllr Hay declared a personal interest, he knows the developer.

Alterations & extension to cottages & construction of 4 x dwellings & formation site access points & provision of footway (variations to development approved under application 11/0983/FUL – originally refused then approved after appeal).

**NOT SUPPORTED – proposed by Cllr Real, seconded by Cllr Mann and agreed by all.**

The Parish Council notes that in the EDDC Executive Summary for application 11/0983/FUL stated that the development ‘was at the maximum density level appropriate for the site’ this variation exceeds the maximum density.

This variation is out of keeping with the density of the surrounding streetscene.

In the appeal decision ref APP/U1105/A/12/2174903 the Inspector, Mr John Woolcock made the following comment to support his decision:

Para 11 – the inspector acknowledges the higher density of the scheme this variation increases that density.

Para 12 - he states ‘the separation distance from the dwelling at 1 Dares Orchard would not result in a cramped relationship with nearby building with this variation this no longer applies as the four new terrace buildings have been moved closer to 1&2 Dares Orchard and unit 7 will be made much larger and imposing with a loss of amenities & privacy to the existing householders in Dares Orchard. Also in para 12 the Inspector stated that the area around the building would be used for parking and amenity space this has now been changed for the worse.

Para 13 - the Inspector stated that he shared the Highways authorities view that the proposed parking spaces set at 90 degrees to the road would not be unsafe, these have now been reduced to two only and the spaces adjacent to Swan Hill Rd have now been increased to 5 from 3 this therefore will create a significant safety hazard when vehicles are entering Fair View Lane from Swan Hill Rd.

The Parish Council also considers that the parking provision in the variation make it almost impossible for the occupiers of the dwellings to gain access in & out of those spaces thereby forcing more on-road parking in the neighbouring area as no provision has been made for visitor parking or two or three car household – quite feasible if unit 7 is developed as a three bedroom property.

Para 15 – The Inspector acknowledges the possible inconvenience to the future occupiers of the proposed dwellings he completely ignore the future inconvenience to the existing local residents.

Para 18 - The Inspector notes the necessity to exceptionally restrict future permitted development rights because of the size & siting of the proposed dwellings and to maintain an appropriate setting for the buildings in their local context. This variation to this plan challenges this restriction.

It was noted that the only current letter of support on the website is from one of the partners in the estate agents promoting the site.

**14/2774/FUL Gatcombe Farm, Seaton – Mr Reed**

Construction of extension to existing livestock building.  
 Cllr Gibbons declared a personal interest as he know the applicant.  
**SUPPORTED – proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Real.**

### **b Planning Decisions**

**Proposed alterations and extension to staff house - Colyton Grammar School Whitwell Lane Colyford Colyton EX24 6HN**

14/2552/FUL | Received date: Thu 23 Oct 2014 | Status: **Approval with conditions**

**Single storey rear extension - Shearwater Popes Lane Colyford Colyton EX24 6QR**

14/2624/FUL | Received date: Tue 04 Nov 2014 | Status: **Approval - standard time limit**

### **c Planning Correspondence**

- a) Email detailing changes in government guidance on planning and the use of planning obligations – S106 money. S106 contribution now no longer being collected in developments under 10 units. This includes current applications – all now to be amended. Already discussed elsewhere in the meeting.

### **d Neighbourhood plan**

The Clerk had received some information from Beer Parish who are just beginning their NP. They had received various grants and recommended Tim Spurway as the contact in EDDC for NP's. The clerk will contact him.

#### **14/12/159 Amenities**

Colyford playpark – update

Little progress to report, Cllr Gibbons from the subcommittee will mark out a 10 sq.m area in the car park of the hall and Cllr Pady will get a definitive answer from the Hall committee. Cllr Pady is still awaiting a reply from EDDC legal team on the area down the track to the wetlands.

It appears that the Thomas Basset Site is a non-starter.

#### **14/12/160 Parishes together funding**

The Clerk explained that it was possible to fund two projects and detailed the following suggestions:

- a) Dog Warden Scheme with Seaton & Beer. Colyton, along with Beer purchase the dog warden for an agreed time from Seaton. They do all the organising & PAYE.
- b) Ditch clearing at Lilylake/Easybridge with Shute/Whitford.

Cllr Mann proposed that we match the funding from Beer for the Dog warden and allocate the rest of the funding towards the ditch cleaning with Shute/Wilmington, this was seconded by Cllr West, there was no amendment and all agreed.

#### **14/12/161 Peace Memorial Playing Fields**

- a) Update on MUGA equipment/Activities Wall

Several quotes received but we need to confirm the size required. The clerk will arrange a site meeting.

- b) Toilet refurb – winter project? Cllr Mann will purchase the paint as previously agreed.

c) Pathways to Pavilion – replace cracked slabs. Cllr Mann proposed that John be asked to do this, seconded by Cllr Real & agreed by all.

John will be asked to place a no dogs sign at the entrance to the Reece Strawbridge building from the pavement past Caterpillars.

#### **14/12/162 Colyton Memorial Social Club**

Should it be registered as a war memorial?

The clerk explained the background to this. In researching details for the war memorial grant application it was apparent that the fund raising carried out by the community was used for commissioning the stone memorial and the Social Club building in that it was to act as a memorial for those lost from Colyton.

Registration would open up a funding stream for the building as a memorial (not any enterprise within it)

Cllr Parr felt that until a lease had been agreed by the Social Club committee CPC didn't want to be seen as taking responsibility for the building as a whole and any decision should be left until after any meeting with the Committee and placed on hold until an agreement is reached.

There is a Social Club meeting next Thursday evening and CPC are expecting them to ask to meet with the parish Council.

#### **14/12/162 Items brought to the Chairs attention after the agenda was published**

Flooding & Sky Park – Cllr Clifford

Cllr Clifford read a press cutting re Uplyme & Sidmouth and others piloting the shared services of a lengthman paid for from their PT funding and EDCC & DCC grants.

Letters from local resident – email sent by Cllr Smith

The Clerk explained her confusion at this email from Cllr Smith and felt that Cllr Smith is mistaken that nothing had been done about the letters Mr Lewis had sent in. An enquiry to the clerk would have confirmed this.

All correspondence is acknowledged, both these had been acknowledged by the clerk, placed on the agenda and discussed at meetings Cllr Smith was at. The agreed actions had been taken and Mr Lewis informed of this and any response sent onto him.

It was unfortunate that it wasn't the response he wanted but given the current financial climate the clerk did not think that the response is going to change.

She would also check that there wasn't an IT issue with emails to him.

Cllr Parr had been approached by a Colyford resident about an oak sapling planted at Three Cross Elms, beside the seat. In future years, if allowed to grow to its full potential it will block the view. It was agreed to move it to the other side of the seat.

Cllr C Collier informed the council that Kimmo Evans – AONB warden had died – Cllr B Collier will find out details of where we can send condolences.

#### **14/12/163 Matters to be taken into Committee - none**

#### **14/12/164 Dates of future meetings**

Registration subcommittee – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Finance, Planning, Amenities Meetings Monday 22<sup>th</sup> December

Full Council meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015;