

COLYTON PARISH COUNCIL
Feoffees Town Hall, Colyton
EX24 6JR

Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held in the Mortimer Room of the Town Hall on Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Parr, C Collier, B Collier, C Pady, J Hay, A Jarman, H Evans, K Clifford, P Dean, S Real, P Gibbins Dist Cllr H Parr, County Cllr S Randall Johnson (for part of the meeting), 14 members of the public and E Berry (clerk).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this, the first meeting of 2017.

17/1/157 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence - Cllrs G Stephens (unwell), R Turner (unwell)

17/1/158 Police Report - the police apologised for not being at the meeting and reported one crime in December and two so far in January (theft of a phone and a burglary with a car stolen from the house. Inquiries are ongoing.

17/1/159 Public Question time (maximum 15 minutes)

A Colyford resident asked why Colyford residents should have to endure the pollution from the diesel fumes of the school coaches twice a day? If expansion of the school was allowed this would only increase. She wondered how many of the extra places would do to local or disadvantaged children. She was dismayed at the lack of consultation and felt that the problem of the school buses should be addressed before any further expansion was allowed.

Another Colyford resident highlighted the negative impact on the surrounding properties that expansion of the school would have. The school is bordered by narrow country lanes, unable to accept the increase in traffic. There are already parking concerns with the current number of pupils and staff.

Concern over light pollution was raised – any increase would be unacceptable.

A Stafford Lane resident reiterated the congestion and parking concerns. He has written to EDDC to object to this proposal. There are times, especially after sports events like the 5 a side football that the surrounding lanes are like race tracks. He was disappointed that there was no consultation, just a generic letter and felt this development would be an eyesore especially as it was an addition to the only original part of the building that remains, He urged the Parish Council to give it very careful consideration.

A resident who has attended the meeting at the school to discuss their expansion commented that at that meeting there was an indication that parking would be available to the mini-buses but there is nothing in this current application that mentions this and he felt it should be a condition on the school to get this sorted first.

He also expressed his concerns about the way the CPC is ‘carrying on’. The agenda before the last planning meeting had no applications to discuss and no decisions from EDDC on it and yet the one handed out at the meeting had numerous items added. This is against all the rules.

The Chair explained that the meeting, because of Christmas, had been brought forward a week and was held only a week after the full council meeting. At the time the agenda was published there were no items under those headings to discuss, however subsequent to the meeting date 3 time sensitive applications were received along with three EDDC planning decisions, one item of planning correspondence and an enforcement officers comment (the latter for information only, not requiring CPC discussion or debate) were received.

Another Stafford Lane resident commented on the fact that increasing the number of sixth formers will increase the numbers of private cars on the site. She also commented on the numerous ‘trip buses’ arriving at the school late at night or early in the morning who then idle with their engines running for 30 minutes or so. She commented that after resurfacing the white lines had not been re painted.

A Colyford resident enquired if CPC had received a reply back from Cllr Hughes or Cllr Sara Randall Johnson re the situation on Seaton Road where the cycle way exits – *the clerk will chase this up.*

A member of the speedwatch team explained the bid for a share of the Highways Community Enhancement fund and presented their proposal for the CPC to take forward as a bid. The proposal would include a village gateway similar to Axmouth where traffic has to give way, road markings and signage. She also asked if Highways could be asked to reassess the speed limit outside of the 30mph zone, currently 60mph. The Goose Fayre committee have been approached for a donation and whilst sympathetic to the situation they would not consider a grant until March.

Cllr H Parr hoped that everyone who had commented on the Colyton Grammar School proposed application had written to EDDC (the regulatory authority) and voiced their concerns.

A question was asked if the applicant had produced a transport impact assessment as part of the application, something they felt was vital.

Cllr Pady confirmed that the Parish Council had expressed concern over the traffic impact prior to any application going in and had arranged a visit by a DCC transport manager which will be commented on later.

There was dismay from the speedwatch team that despite very persuasive data nothing is being done to improve the situation and that the criteria for action appears to be accident stats! Does there have to be an accident before anything is done?

17/1/160 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2016

The minutes were approved and signed as being a true record of that meeting

17/1/161 Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Financial information on purchasing Mobile Battery power vehicle activated sign – VAS. This was read out and discussed as a possible Parishes Together initiative but at some point in the future as we are already committed to a PT project at the moment. The clerk was asked to inform Rousden of our interest but that our funds are committed at the moment.

17/1/162 Report from County Councillor

Given later in the meeting but reported here in agenda order. Cllr Randall Johnson wished everyone a Happy New Year. The County was about to discuss its service budget, it's going to be another challenging year with the emphasis on Children and Adult services. The County had yet to decide on what formula it would be using to increase the council tax, either the Government's 3% increase for the next two years and then nothing the third year of three years at a 2% increase. She said that any Council Tax increase will be well spent and the draft budget highlights the need for more money to be spent on adult and children's social care.

A new Broadband contract had been signed with a different supplier who had promised to deliver what Openreach failed to do in the past.

She noted the comments on the CGS proposed application and was prepared to take the traffic concerns to County level.

She encouraged volunteers for the free Chapter 8 training.

Cllr Hay asked when the next transport meeting was and commented on the poor state of the town's drains, which not having been cleared properly allowed a house in Colyton to be flooded on the 19th/21st November.

Cllr Randall Johnson will liaise with Mike Brown and the Clerk and a date will be set soon she said Highways had a restricted budget, not enough money had been given to them and work has to be prioritised and managed. She was unaware of the Highways Community Enhancement Fund but was willing to find out details.

Cllr Pady asked about the signage at the entrance to the wetlands, he commented that the bridge over Stafford Brook, in his opinion, could have been built for less money and the surplus used for signage to protect life and limb. Cllr Randall Johnson said that signage goes in at the end of the project, this was met with derision. The safety of the highway user is the responsibility of the Highways department who are at fault here as well as EDDC who should have insisted that signage was a part of the conditions of the application being approved.

17/1/163 Report from District Councillors

Cllr Helen Parr reported that there is a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday where the budget for the following year will be considered.

There appears to have been some confusion in Colyton over the collection of bins after the Christmas bank holiday, she confirmed that all collection information can be found on the website and that there is also a very useful app which could be downloaded and also used for reporting problems.

17/1/164 Highway Matters

- a) TTRO Road closure from Lilylake Cross to Three Sycamores Cross for Surface Patching on 9th to 12 January 2017 - noted
- b) Highways Community Enhancement Fund (*details emailed to Councillors*). * Draft proposal from the Community Speedwatch group and concerned residents re signage and safety on Seaton Rd - *emailed to councillors*.

Cllr Gibbins felt this was a very good proposal and should be supported. Cllr Pady commented that it shouldn't be necessary, the County Council is at fault and EDDC are equally culpable as signage and traffic calming measures should have been part of the conditions of the application being approved. All the users of this cycle path have been let down by the planners and DCC. All agreed with him, but something needs to be done and Cllr Gibbins proposed that this scheme be put forward as a bid to the fund, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

17/1/165 Report from Meetings Attended

Cllrs Evans and Parr has attended a meeting at Knowle where the funding position of DCC was under discussion. Basically there is no money. The Government's commitment to the Living wage has meant an additional £7m to the wage bill which has to be found somewhere. They will be looking to the district councils and the local communities to pick up various projects as finances within the County will be stretched to their limit. The impact of Brexit was tabled for discussion but in reality nobody had an idea of what might happen. The farming community was concerned but nobody could offer any reassurances.

17/1/166 Correspondence

- a) Publications e-mailed to councillors – Intouch/RSN etc
- b) Consultation on new Public Space Protection Orders EDDC- comment by 31st January nothing in this affect Colyton except that within the banned periods there is increase use of the footpaths surrounding Colyton.
- c) Details from Promote Colyton Group on the community event on 10th June 2017 – read out and noted.
- d) Copy of letter sent to County Solicitor from Promote Colyton group re Traffic Orders for Colyton – read out and noted,

17/1/167 Finance

Minutes of the Finance meeting held 19th December 2016 (Appendix S) to be noted

Cllr Gibbins proposes the accounts be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Evans and agreed by all.

Cheque	Payee			VAT	Total
DD	OPUS ENERGY	Electricity	£4.84	£0.24	£5.08
DD	Tiscali	Telephone & Broadband	£23.16	£5.79	£28.95
3813	CASH	Toilet Caretaker			£100
3814	Mole Avon Trading	Wood filler	£3.75	.75	£4.50
3815	Viridor	Waste Management	£111.02	£22.20	£133.22

- a) Precept & Budget discussions – Version 3 to be discussed. Deadline 23rd January. With an amendment to the toilet caretaker costs because of increased opening hours and some money put in as a contingency for future projects – Version 4 – Cllr Pady proposed the budget be accepted and the precept submitted, seconded by Cllr Evans and agreed by all.
- b) Halcyon Landscapes have signed and returned the three year Ground Maintenance Contract - noted
- c) Opus Energy fixed contract ends on 16/2/17 – quotes for further fixed contracts to be advised.

Options were discussed and Cllr Real proposed the N Power variable rate be accepted as given the low usage this was the best deal, seconded by Cllr Gibbins and agreed by all.

- d) Letter from Streetscene (EDDC) currently they charge in arrears for services such as dog bin emptying but as from April 2017 will be charging in advance. We will get an invoice in February for services until March 2017 and then another in April to cover until March 2018. There was some discussion over what action could be taken when the bins were not emptied as had happened on numerous occasions.
- e) Clerk requests 2 hours TiL on Friday 13th January – approved.

17/1/168 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 19th December 2017 – (Appendix T) to be noted

a Planning Applications

16/2900/TCA 3 Old Manor Gardens - Mr Pocock

T1 & T2 to crown lift the 2 lower branches of both trees pruning back to the main branch collar making 75mm diameter pruning cuts.

Comment after a site visit – SUPPORT

16/2672/FUL Colyton Grammar School – Mr Cook

Proposed extension to the north and east main original building to provide 7 additional general teaching classrooms: additional 8 staff car parking spaces.

NB Design & access statement says 10 car parking spaces.

No paper copy available.

1 objection on website

NOT SUPPORTED – proposed by Cllr Real seconded by Cllr Gibbins and agreed by all.

We'd like to comment on the quality of the scanned documents, in parts they were hardly discernible and any request for hard copies was soundly rejected. The copies requested directly from the architect were marginally better but the CPC feels that improvements must be made to the quality of scans if this is the only way the parish council and general public can access and comment on the application.

The Parish Council were concerned about the lack of a traffic impact assessment and feel that the applicant should be asked to provide one before the application is considered. There is already quite a lot of disruption to local residents with the current school number arriving and departing. An increase in teaching staff and sixth formers (who drive to school) will only exacerbate the current congested parking situation further and cause disruption to residents in the surrounding area. These are narrow country lanes which cannot cope with the current traffic situation let alone an increase in it. Increasing pupil numbers whilst totally ignoring the impact this will make to the surrounding community is unacceptable.

The design is also of some concern, the proposed development is on top of the original school buildings and are not in the least sympathetic to the original design. The flat roof shows little consideration for the aesthetic value of the school and surrounding landscape. The windows on the front elevation face directly onto the houses in Stafford Lane and in our opinion would constitute a loss of amenity value to the surrounding properties. There would be an increase in noise pollution if these windows were open when the classrooms were in use and the whole design shows little concern for either the neighbouring properties or the landscape and location in which the school is situated.

17/0007/FUL & 17/0008/LBC The White Cottage, Dolphin Street – Mr & Mrs Bennett

Removal of fence and creation of access, parking and turning area.

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

The proposed application is aiming to create access onto what is already the narrowest part of Dolphin Street on a blind corner which has no pavement but is used by walkers, school children and summer visitors from the tramway who already have to contend with heavy lorries, double decker buses, tractors and school buses in addition to the usual flow of traffic through this popular town.

The Parish Council urges the Planners and Highways to come and take a look at what is proposed. This would allow traffic to try and join one of the main routes through Colyton at its narrowest point (only wide enough for one vehicle) with no concern for the danger involved in doing so.

* MEMORIAL APPLICATIONS– within guidelines.

- i) Richard John Broom - **Approved**
- ii) Alan Arthur Warren - **Approved**

b Planning Decisions

16/2761/FUL Orchardhayes, Whitwell Lane – Mr Cope.

New garden shed/store.

APPROVED

16/2876/FUL Freakhayne. Mr & Mrs Jowett

Replacement garage & shed

APPROVED

c Planning Correspondence

- i) East Devon Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document – comment deadline 16/1/17 – Comment on section 8 para 8,1, requirement of the Parish Council to issue a CIL annual report. Given the current situation of S106 reports which have been difficult to obtain with any degree of accuracy, unless things improve dramatically there will be no way this Parish Council would have the information necessary to make that report.
In an ideal world the Council would get these details on a regular basis in a format that could easily be formulated into a report for general consumption but that is not the current case.
Whilst we are aware that an extra staff member has been recruited we do not see any improvement in the information received by the Parish Council and unless assurances can be given that this will improve we could not fulfil this requirement.
- ii) EDDC – draft copy of Infrastructure Delivery Plan Review (IDP) deadline of 20th Jan.
No comment made.
- iii) Invitation to free Neighbourhood Planning Event on 25th January in Bath
Cllr Parr proposed that Cllr Evans and members of the SG be offered the chance to attend this meeting, with mileage paid at the current rate (45p/mile), seconded by Cllr Pady and agreed by all.

17/1/169 Amenities

- a) Request for shed on allotment – 10S – 6x4ft – within guidelines - approved
- b) Night flying helicopter landing site – update. The request to move the site further along towards the Reece Strawbridge Centre is being considered. The football goals caused some concern but they are moved off the field when not in use and could be marked with fluorescent tape. The Government funding is £2000 so £3800 would need to be raised by the Community.
- c) P3 Warden – good response from advert. Meeting with DCC ROW officer on 23rd January.
- d) Update on Playparks – Colyford – meeting of SMG to release S106 funding on Wednesday 11th January
Roadgreen – work commences Monday 16th.
- e) Flood alleviation project – Cllr Pady had met with the coastal/flooding officer who was sympathetic with the project which aims to divert 30% of the water from Colyton Hill to protect the houses on that edge of Colyton The bid will go forward for approval.
- f) Parishes Together Projects - update
 - i) Project with Shute – Grant £625.17, £334 spent, £291.17 to be returned to EDDC unspent.
 - ii) Joint project with Farway, Northleigh & Southleigh – Cllr Clifford reported all is in hand, with areas being identified and contractor quotes sought to clear the ditches.
- g) Cllr C Collier, in her role as Carnival Committee Secretary reported that the Christmas Light display of 2017 will be the last that the Carnival Committee funds. There is an option to buy the lights.

17/1/170 Neighbourhood Plan for Colyton Parish – update

There is a meeting of the Steering Group this Wednesday evening.

John Mills has commitments so is no longer on the Steering Group but there is a strong contingent who can hopefully keep things moving. Cllr Evans has drafted a proposed schedule following guidelines and terms of references for the Steering Group.

17/171 Reece Strawbridge Centre – nothing to report.**17/1/72 Library update.**

a) Copy of the License between FOCL and Library Unlimited received.

Cllr Parr reiterated the three steps needed to complete this transfer. First there has to be a transfer of the Library to CPC by the County Council. The terms of the transfer allow for a 10 year lease without this being considered a disposal.

Cllr C Collier proposed the terms are accepted, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all, Secondly there has to be a lease between the Parish Council and the FOCL, this will be 10 years and rent of £1 per year. This will have to be registered with Land Registry. Total cost £1000. The Parish Council will be responsible for insuring the building but this can be claimed back from the FOCL.

Cllr C Collier proposed that the lease be adopted, seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all.

Finally there has to be a license between the FOCL and Library's Unlimited which spells out the hours it is to be used as a library and the rent paid - £2000/year.

Cllr Gibbins proposed that this is acceptable to the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all. Cllr Parr will instruct the solicitor to act on our behalf.

17/1/173 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published – to be noted

i) Copy of email from Andrew Wilkinson re comments by Mr Upfield (DCC) on bus access to Colyton Grammar School. Letter read out - put on the agenda for next month.

ii) Nominations required for Buckingham Palace Garden Party – deadline 1st February. On committee agenda

iii) Allotment 15S – has chosen to erect a greenhouse no bigger than 8 x10 (within guidelines) noted.

17/1/174 Matters to be taken into Committee - none**17/1/175 Dates of future meetings**

Finance & Planning – Monday 23rd January 2017

Colyton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 13th February 2017

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.