

Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held in the Mortimer Room of the Town Hall on Monday 11th February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs A Parr, C Collier, B Collier, C Pady, E Jones, R Watts, J Hay, R Turner, K Clifford, S Real, A Jarman, Dist Cllr H Parr, Cty Cllr M Shaw (for part of the meeting), 4 members of the public, PC Adam Speers (for part of the meeting) & E Berry (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting,

19/02/195 **Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence** – Cllr B Norris (unwell)

19/02/196 **Police Report** – PC Adam Speers presented his report.

2 CRIMES

1 x Violence with Injury – domestic assault

1 x Criminal Damage – lorry lifting arm damaged

12 LOGS

1 x Crime Recorded - (above)

8 x Public Safety - Concerns for welfare of family neighbours

3 x Transport

** We still have Scams happening in the area (via phone calls etc) so we are still giving talks on scams and advising people against taking large amounts of money out of their bank accounts, or transferring between accounts on the recommendation of someone over the phone.

The latest 'craze' is for the fraudsters to say they are from The Met Police and they are investigating Lloyds bank and believe an insider at the bank is taking money and so they need the customer to withdraw money and pay it into another account (either in person or via internet banking). They then say they are passing you to another department (their friend sat next to them) to assist with / facilitate this. **The Police would never do this! Hang up.**

** We have our CRIME AND SAFETY ROADSHOW @ Marshlands, Town Hall, Seaton on Saturday 9th March 2019 where we will be joined by several other agencies again for members of the public to come and see us or them, and discuss any issues.

** We are also arranging another Op Mascot day (traffic stop checks) date to be finalised, but will be soon.

Could you also mention / ask at the Council meeting if they know of anyone that would like to become a 'Parish Council Road Warden'. At our Traffic Group Meeting in Seaton recently it was raised for volunteers needed. Basically it's someone that can be trained up to fix small potholes in the Colyton area. They get trained for stopping traffic (Chapter 8), putting cones out, and to be safe when fixing the holes. It is a very good, quick idea to sort out issues in the Colyton area instead of them being reported to the county council and the long winded wait for the problem to be fixed. Details can be obtained at Devon.gov.uk website. Might be a thought for anyone helping with the fetes or carnivals etc, as it would benefit them with smoother roads, and road closures etc.

He mentioned that there had been vandalism at St Andrews Church, the thought is that this was not a local group but possible a group from Axminster known to the Police.

He encouraged everyone to sign up to the new Devon & Cornwall Alert service.

A question was asked by Cllr Pady about a recent collision at the Colyford Hall which resulted in almost £1500 of damage being done. The vehicle was subsequently found and the driver traced but initial contact with the Police was difficult as was follow up contact. The feeling was that there is now quite a disconnect between the Police and residents.

The Clerk asked that with alternatives now in place could the Sidmouth Road & Butts traffic infringements at school drop off and pickup be enforced. PC Speers replied that this is now something the Civil Enforcement Officers do not the Police.

19/02/197 Public Question time (maximum 15 minutes)

Mr Morgan went through his recent proposal for a Petanque piste on one half of the tennis courts. He outlined the expected cost and revenue.

Viki Mills explained more about the drive to recruit additional speedwatch team members having dropped from 10 to only 4. It had been brought up at the Residents AGM and a few other volunteers had signed up including someone willing to record and transmit the data collected. She had spoken to the Police Speedwatch co-ordinator and hopes that the team could be up and running again in mid-March.

19/02/198 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2019 were signed and accepted as being a true record of that meeting.

19/02/199 Matters arising from the Minutes

i) Colyford Speedwatch – dealt with in PQT

19/02/110 Report from County Councillor – circulated to councillors. Cllr Shaw was disappointed the Police could not enforce the situation with parking at the School but will get in touch with his colleagues at the County Enforcement Team.

The Colyford crossing is at an impasse, he feels any decision may be a political one and is taking to Cllr Stuart Hughes the cabinet minister for Highways. Cllr Shaw went through some of the points on his report – ANNEX 1 attached.

Cllr Hay asked if something could be done about the flooding situation at the White hart, the work done there for the Stop Line Way appears to have exacerbated the problem and the promised bank of flowers is just a weedy eyesore. Cllr Shaw will look into it and talk to Steven Kelly as there is a problem if water does not subside over a 24hr period. Cllr Hay also mentioned the flooding in Cownhayne Lane outside the sewage works. Cllr Shaw will also look at this.

Cllr Hay was frustrated that the streetlamp in the Ridgeway he had reported as not working 7 weeks ago is still not repaired. Apparently it is a Western Power issue but he feels DCC needs to chase it up.

Cllr Real asked if Cllr Shaw had any more information on the unnecessary disabled parking bay in Mountfield – Cllr Shaw had nothing to report.

A local resident queried the lack of promised signage for the Seaton Wetlands. Cllr Shaw will pursue this.

19/02/111 Report from District Councillors

Cllr Parr reported on a successful move to Honiton. She went through some statistics reported to cabinet on a monthly basis, apparently recycling is at 60% and the number of planning appeals allowed is below the national average. Of cause for concern is the number of days it is taking to process new housing claims and the number of working days lost to sickness (although these results are skewed by 2 staff members on long term sick leave). An Economic Intelligence Report is being commissioned from Teignbridge Council, Mid Devon, Exeter City and EDDC. It will focus on the challenges of the local economy, the skills required and the supply chains, looking at what drives the economy at a local level.

Cllr Real questioned the following up of enforcement after planning conditions have been ignored or not adhered to. Two current incidents are relevant to Colyton (Whispering Pines & the Coly Road build) and another is on the agenda for discussion later. It makes a mockery of the system, where developers are allowed to flout the rules with no actions taken. Local residents see it as a failing of the Parish Council where in fact it is the District Council letting every one down and lame excuses or reasons are given for no action being taken. Cllr Parr explained the process that has to be gone through, it is an agreed process set out by Government and was explained to CPC in the email from Ed Freeman. Cllr Turner reiterated the situation at Whispering Pines where an illness of the developer and his subsequent death had meant that none of the conditions were fulfilled and yet building continues.

Cllr Hay asked about electric charging points for cars as he was very impressed by a car park in North Devon having charging points. Cllr Parr said the new offices had two charging points with provision for more by these could only be put on land that the Council owned.

19/02/112 Highway Matters

- i) TTRO 5th March – 6th March – road past Farwood House, Northleigh – Patching
- ii) TTRO 4th March – 11th March – The Butts, Colyton – erect new steel electricity pole with concrete base.
- iii) Pedestrian Access from Sidmouth Rd to Queens Sq via Queens Court School footpath – Cllr Norris
- iv) Email from Mike Jones re Colyford Crossing (circulated to Cllrs)
- v) TTRO1928950 – resurfacing of Kingsdon Hill 7-8th February – cancelled due to weather, will be rescheduled.

19/02/113 Report from Meetings Attended

Cllr Parr had attended a very informal meeting with two new governors of Colyton Grammar School (Mr Ian Styles and Cllr Andrew Moulding). The idea was to try to repair the relationship between the school governing body and the council. In his opinion it was a very refreshing approach and hopefully something more will come out of the meeting.

19/02/114 Correspondence

- a) Publications e-mailed to councillors – Intouch/RSN etc
- b) Timetable for local elections – sent to Councillors.
- c) Poppy Appeal Organiser for area including Colyton giving up. RBL looking for a local Volunteer.
- d) Exchange of letters and email between local resident, DCC and BT Openreach re discharge of water on Station Rd from BT inspection chamber
- e) Email from Pizza van man wanting to move into Colyton centre outside the Dolphin Street car park. Some discussion ensued over whether this would impinge on the fish & chip shop but the general consensus was that this was something the pizza man needs to discuss with EDDC if he want to use the car park but there would be no objection from CPC.
- f) Devon Communities survey - Evaluation of the work of the Rural Housing Enabling Team. Emailed to Cllrs for comments to be taken to the Planning Committee meeting.
- g) Email Tim Wheeler re Colyford Goose Fayre
- h) DADBRF Landmark Trees – locations identified? Cllr Clifford will look at a possible location on Road Green.
- i) Email re Geological Disposal of Nuclear Waste meeting 28th Feb – Cllr Watts registered an interest in attending.
- j) Devon Community Resilience Forum Newsletter – emailed to councillors
- k) Email – AONB Partnership Ambassador Meeting – Kennaway House 20th Feb -emailed to Cllrs.
- l) Snow warden update - emailed to Cllrs
- m) NALC open letter – emailed to Cllrs.

19/02/115 Finance

Minutes of the Finance meeting held 28th January 2019 (Appendix T) to be noted
Cllr Jones proposed the Accounts to be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

Cheque #	Name	Work		VAT	Total
DD	Opus Energy	Electricity for workshop	12.09	0.60	£12.69
DD	Talk Talk	Broadband & Telephone	24.96	4.99	£29.95

4194	Cash	Toilet Caretaker Invoice for January.			£100
4195	Halcyon Landscapes	Invoice for January	468.33	93.67	£562.00
4196	RB Lawrence Ltd	Cemetery Paths	2218	443.60	£2661.60
4197	Viridor	Waste Management	148.03	29.61	£177.64

- a) Parish Clerk request Friday March 1st as annual leave and Friday 3rd May until Monday 13th May – 4 days annual leave - Approved

19/02/116 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28th January 2019 (Appendix U) to be noted

a Planning Applications

19/0175/VAR Clarence House, The Butts – Mr P Lee - variation of planning consent 2 on 17/1849/FUL – erection of dwelling with detached garage to facilitate design change as built 1.5m southwest of the approved position

Cllr Hay declared an interest as the family has ownership of the garages adjacent to the site. Cllr Watts proposed this application is **NOT SUPPORTED**, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all. By moving this build 1.5 m down the site towards the narrowest point the house is even closer to the leat which has been known to flood. The leat protection area is compromised with little room allowed for any pedestrian access of walkway. The submitted plan appears incorrect, the house has now been built forward of the garages on The Butts which is not what this resubmitted plan shows.

Condition 4 of the application had also been ignored - *The vertical window on the south east elevation of the dwelling hereby permitted shall be fitted with an obscurely glazed pane which shall be retained in perpetuity. (Reason to protected the adjacent occupiers private amenity, in accordance with policy D1 (Design and Local Distinctiveness) of the adopted East Devon Local Plan 2013-2031).* The window has not been fitted with obscured glazing.

b) Planning permission

18/2777/FUL Foxworthy, Kingsdon, Colyton – construction of 2 storey extension front and rear including raising ridge height & provision of west facing first floor balcony & veranda to the south – **APPROVED with conditions**

18/2840/FUL Colyton Grammar School – Construction of a mezzanine in the existing Drama Hall (including 6 roof lights) – **APPROVED with standard conditions.**

19/0029/FUL Lucerne, Popes Lane, Colyford – New timber studio adjacent to existing garage – resubmission of 15/0391/FUL – **APPROVED with standard conditions**

c Planning Correspondence

- i) **Review of East Devon Area of Special Control of Advertisements** – Colyton options sent to Councillors for **discussion** – Cllr Parr proposed the planning control is kept as it currently is, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.
- ii) **Draft Local List consultation – for comment – to be taken to Planning Committee.**

19/02/117 Amenities

- a) Playpark inspections – update – delayed by storm Erik – should be later this week.
- b) Local resident request Boule/Petanque facility at PMPF.
The Chair stated that he didn't want to lose the tennis courts which had been upgraded and improved with a donation from a local family a few years ago. He is keen to support

another sport but not at the expense of the tennis courts. Another site needs to be found. There was some discussion and with all in agreement Mr Morgan was asked to contact Phil Richards of the Pavilion Committee and look at the possibility of another site on the playing fields. Cllr H Parr was asked to chase up the S106 money as notification of what we have was promised at the end of last month.

- c) New volunteer footpath wardens – the advertisement had worked well and there are a couple of people in reserve and two new ‘roving reporters’ who will support the current team of 4.
- d) Bridge Gardens update – letter sent to Cllrs, Everyone agreed that the work had made a huge difference and the Promote Colyton group should be thanked for organising and paying for the work done.
- e) Cllr Turner mentioned the dog fouling at PMPF and asked what help EDDC could offer in terms of notices and enforcement,

19/02/118 Neighbourhood Plan for Colyton Parish – update – no further meeting held. The news that the CeramTech application is being resubmitted as an amendment will delay the production of the plan as there are policies within that relates to the development of the site.

19/02/119 Reece Strawbridge Centre – nothing to report.

19/02/120 Colyton Parish Emergency Plan – update

Meeting next Friday of the 4 working group members. Database of volunteers under construction.

There is a exhibition in March of the 1968 Flood Event – 27th March 2pm – 8pm – hosted by Colyton History Society and we will ‘piggy back’ that event.

19/02/121 Update of sell of access from the Butts.

Legal advice had been received and because of the commercial sensitivity of this Cllr Collier proposed that this matter be dealt with in Committee under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (amended by the LGA 1972), the public and press to be excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted i.e. commercial and financially sensitive information, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

19/02/122 CPC policy on death of the Sovereign, a Senior National Figure or Local Holder of High Office. The general feeling was this was a waste of time.

19/02/123 Items brought to the CPC’s attention after the agenda had been published – to be noted

- a) Request for sign on allotment gates re unauthorised entry and dogs – Finance Committee
- b) Cheque from Hatch Green for damage done to verge at Fairview Lane – Finance Committee. Cllr Jones asked that a letter of thanks be send to the householder who repaired the damage.

19/02/124 Matters to be taken into Committee – Update of sale of the Butts.

19/02/125 Dates of future meetings

Finance & Planning – Monday 25th February 2019

Colyton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 11th March 2019

Annual Parish Meeting – April 3rd or 17th – TBC at the committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Appendix 1

County Councillor's Report, February 2018

Planned & Reactive Maintenance: Potholes and Drainage Task Group

This group's recommendations were reported to Scrutiny on 29th January, and will now go to Cabinet. They include

- Regular reporting on gully cleaning to Scrutiny.
- Regular reporting on planned maintenance programmes to HATOC (East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee).
- The trials of more flexible ways of dealing with potholes, which have started in East Devon, to be evaluated (we heard that the trial is already saving money!).
- Improvements to public information portal ('report-a-problem').
- Clearer priorities for winter work
- More joined up approach between teams, contractors and communities - Highways to develop a user-friendly online facility by this summer (work on this advancing and we expect to see the Beta version around March/April)

Traffic Speeds Task Group

This task group is ongoing and has received evidence from experts and most recently from parish councillors, including Cllr Ray Watts of Colyton PC. We are digesting the conclusions of the national Atkins report which are seen as broadly supportive of an extension of 20 mph limits in urban residential areas and village centres. There are, however, many complications. Other measures are necessary alongside changes in limits in order to achieve speed reductions.

Seaton, Beer and Branscombe Traffic Group

I chaired this meeting on 21st January, which considered many issues across the three parishes with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Stephen Kelly, PC Adam Speers and local councillors. The other meetings this year will be on 20 May and 16 September in Marshlands, Harbour Road, Seaton. I also chair the Coly Valley Traffic Group which will meet on 9 April, 23 July and 19 November in Colyton Town Hall. Meetings of both traffic groups are open to interested parties.

Waiting restrictions

Colyton PC's proposal for restrictions in Sidmouth Road and within the town gateway, and Beer PC's for changes in New Cut, have been put forward.

Devon's housing needs

I spoke at Devon County Council's Cabinet on 9th January in support of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Devon Branch, report on Devon's Housing Needs, which provides a great deal of evidence to support the proposition that Government has pushed councils to adopt excessive targets for new housing, as well as the wrong sort of housing. Looking carefully at the number of new households which are forming and at trends for migration into Devon, the CPRE

argues that Devon needs a more modest rate of housebuilding, more focused on social and affordable housing.

I had asked the Cabinet to look at the implications of the reports, which have cross-party support, for the Council's policies and its partnerships like the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. The recommendation adopted by Cabinet was unhelpful, arguing that because the district councils are the planning authorities for housing, DCC doesn't need to respond.

I believe that this is wrong; the whole logic of partnership between the County and the districts means that we should be actively engaged - DCC has responsibility for overall economic and social development in Devon and for infrastructure (e.g. Highways) which supports housing, so we should be involved in the discussion. The matter will come to full Council on 21st February.

No Deal Brexit planning

At the same Council meeting I asked the Leader, Cllr John Hart, detailed questions about 'No Deal' Brexit planning. His written replies were uninformative, and when I pressed him, he simply said, 'We haven't got a clue yet'. This suggested that, whatever Government is doing, it is not fully involving local authorities. I have since been offered a briefing on the situation in Devon by the Chief Executive and will report further after I meet him on February 11th.

Wilmington air quality raised at Scrutiny

In a Scrutiny meeting discussion on Air Quality and Congestion on 29th January, I raised air quality in Wilmington, which exceeded the national recommended level in the last measurements made by EDDC in 2017. Of 11 existing Air Quality Management Areas, only 3 still breached levels in 2017, so Wilmington was among the four worst sites in Devon in that year. EDDC's Environmental Health was not willing to put the village forward to become an AQMA on the basis of one year's readings, but if these are repeated, this course needs to be pursued. In any case, the evidence on the damaging effects of poor air quality is accumulating, and even results near the recommended maximum are of real concern.

'We need to talk about Devon'

This will be the title of the new regular column which I have been invited to contribute to the (now) online-only Devonshire magazine, from the March issue.

Budget planning and Council Tax

The County Council goes into budget meetings this month with proposed spending increases for services of 2 per cent for Adult Social Care, 9.4 per cent for Children's Services, 0.7 per cent for Highways (although this will rise when additional government funding is taken into account) and 0.7 per cent for all other services, which represents a significant cut in real terms.

The expectation is that in order to meet these targets the Cabinet will propose the maximum legal increase in Council Tax (without holding a referendum) of 2.99 per cent plus 1 per cent, i.e. 3.99 per cent, which is well above the current rate of consumer inflation of 2.2 per cent.

However in advance of the budget process, I have collated the following figures for Devon in the last 5 years, which emphasise the squeeze on living standards for workers (obviously retirement incomes may be better protected):

Median full-time earnings +7.7 per cent

General inflation +12.4 per cent (CPI) or +13.7 per cent (RPI)

Council tax rises (DCC) +19.2 per cent

It is clear that the picture is of earnings declining in real terms and council tax increasing substantially more than general inflation, adding to the burden on working families. This is the result of the government's failure to produce a proper national plan for adult care and its ending of central grants to councils, which force us to increase council tax if essential services are to survive.