

**Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 11th
April 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.**

Present: Cllrs K Mills, K Clifford, S Real, A Parr, J Gardiner, C Pady, A Stenning, C Denny, A Mills, P Arnott and J Hay.

Also in attendance: DCC Cllr M Hartnell and EDDC Cllr H Parr. Also S Haines (clerk)

Members of public: 2

22/04/01 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllr Jarman (prior commitments) Cllr Turner (unwell)

22/04/02 Declaration of Interests. Cllr Real declared an interest on Highway matters – road closure for the Carnival Club as he is on the committee.

22/04/03 Police Report. Not received.

22/04/04 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 14th March. These were approved for publication, this was proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

22/04/05 Matters arising from the Minutes. Cllr Real asked about the quotes being gathered for the Cemetery Paths, Cllr Pady confirmed that he is in contact with three firms. Cllr Hay asked about the meeting which is supposed to happen between the Reece Strawbridge Committee and the Playing Fields Committee regarding the rain water harvester overflowing. Clerk confirmed that an email has been sent out to all parties, Cllr Arnott will chase this to get a date confirmed.

22/04/06 Public Question time. A member of public stood and asked the following question: *I recently tried to post an item on behalf of the Steering Group and CVRA, on the Heart of Colyton Community FB page. This was about our submission, via our County Councillor, to reduce the speed limit through Colyford to 20mph, but twice, given no reason why, the post was denied. I then noticed an Admin of the group, a close colleague of a councillor, suddenly changed the rules for posting, (24 Mar 11.57) stating, and I quote:*

‘Colyton Parish Council is currently the only legitimate administrative body for the parish so we will continue to post details of their function and activities until as such time this may have changed.’

So to play the game, I removed all reference to the Governance review, the Steering Group and CVRA, leaving just the bare details, and suddenly it was accepted (24 Mar 16.38). I also tried to post the full article and the redacted version on the ‘Visit Colyton’ page, and both were denied.

Then when the Steering group was asked to respond to your distributed Governance Review reply to our two flyers, we were told by the Clerk, and I quote:

‘Anything which goes into the newsletter needs approving by the Parish Council’.

So it very much appears that the council wants to control anything that appears on Colyton Social Media that is connected to the Steering group or CVRA.

So I ask the question, has it been discussed, at either an open, or closed council meeting, to restrict or control information coming from the Steering Group or CVRA, concerning the Governance Review?

Cllr Stenning explained that the Heart of Colyton and Visit Colyton Facebook pages are nothing to do with the Parish Council. She explained that she sits as one of the admin team on the Heart of Colyton but when a post comes in which is from the CVRA or Steering Group she does not action it and leaves it to the other admins as she does not feel that it is right for her to approve or decline these posts due to her role as a Parish Councillor. She explained that the original post was declined as commenting was turned off and as such, members of the public would become frustrated as they would not be able to share their thoughts on this matter.

Cllr A Mills then stated that the speed limit through Colyford had been discussed during a Council meeting, he proposed that the map which was drawn up by Cllr Denny which indicated the current and proposed restrictions be approved and sent on to Cllr Hartnell for submission. This was all documented in the minutes which were posted onto the CPC website on 30th March. Cllr Parr then answered the question about restricting or controlling information coming from the Steering Group or the CVRA. No there has never been a conversation or agreement made to restrict or control any information.

Another member of public stood and asked about the Colyford Gateways at the Eastern end, he explained that there was an agreement back in 2000 whereby the gateways should be covered under the Parish Council insurance although they do belong to the Burgesses. He asked that if need be, could a claim be made to repair the gateways? The Southern gateway (Seaton side) has a nasty crack and possible issues at the foundations whilst the Northern side needs repointing. This will be discussed further on agenda.

He then asked if more information could be put on the agenda so members of public can come prepared to ask questions as once public question time is over and the meeting is in session, the public are not permitted to speak.

22/04/07 Report from County Councillor. Cllr Hartnell sent his report see appendix A. Cllr Hartnell added that he had asked the clerk to place the application for the A3052 to be put under a 20mph limit on the agenda as this proposal would need backing by the Council. The Council supported the proposal. This backing along with the Colyford Speedwatch Team gives this proposal a very solid foundation to go forward. There is a £100,000.00 budget at DCC for this issue, therefore only about 11-12 schemes will be approved out of the 50-60 proposals. But Colyford does have a strong case. He also explained that Colyton needs a traffic review but this will have to wait until the Governance Review is over.

Cllr Real asked who at DCC approve the road closures. He commented that South West Water closed Coly Road last month for 9 days to do about 7 hours' worth of work. The hole dug in the highway was small and close to the edge so could have easily been traffic lighted and not completely closed. He stated that SWW have had about three closures in the last couple of months which have been far longer than it looks to be necessary. Cllr Hartnell confirmed that he would pass this on.

Cllr Pady then asked about the future of Seaton Hospital after the recent closure of Teignmouth Hospital. Cllr Hartnell confirmed that he fully supports the hospital remaining open, there is positive news that the Waffle House in Axminster has just started a community programme in the hospital so future is bright but the fact remains that RD&E own the hospital and 50% of the space is not being used. Community Hospitals are very important.

22/04/08 Report from District Councillors Cllr Arnott send his report – see appendix B. Cllr Hay asked when the light in the Dolphin Street carpark would be turned on, Cllr Arnott explained that Western Power have been contacted, they know of the issue, just need to wait for them to sort it. Cllr Hay confirmed the contact office for Western Power in this area is Crewkerne office. Cllr Hay also asked if the male and female toilets would be opened as he claims one loo is not enough especially in the height of the tourist season, Cllr Arnott explained that according to the data on the usage, one loo is enough but he suggested the Feoffees open the Town Hall for access to the toilets. Cllr Stenning asked when the zoom meeting would be held between a few Councillors and Andrew Hancock at EDDC to discuss the future, Cllr Arnott confirmed it would be soon but right now everybody is busy dealing with End of Year issues. Cllr Pady asked for the financial figures for the carpark over the last year, Cllr Arnott said to contact Andrew Ennis who is the officer at EDDC who can give that information.

Cllr H Parr sent her report – see appendix C. Cllr Real asked if she had an update on the missing bin at Coly Vale bus stop, Cllr H Parr will forward the email.

22/04/09 Highway Matters

- a) The Colyton Carnival Committee have put in a Temporary Road Closure Request to DCC for the Colyton Carnival Procession. This would be Saturday 10th September, this will be the usual route.
- b) Ref TTRO2244912 Temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking. Queens Street, Queens Square and Kings Street. From Wednesday 11th May to Friday 13th May. Installation of Openreach equipment.
- c) Ref TTRO2244709 temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking. Swan Hill Road, Colyford. Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June. Providing a new water service. The clerk was asked to contact DCC to ask if a totally road closure is necessary for these works after Cllr Real pointed out that a recent Closure of the Coly Road lasted 9 days and in that time approximately 7 hours of work took place and the hole in the highway was small and to the side. The road could have remained open with traffic lights but instead the Buses has to suspend their service to Colyton unnecessarily.

22/04/10 Report from Meetings Attended. None.

22/04/11 Appointments to External Bodies & Charitable Trusts.

Posts needing nominations are as follows:

Axe Valley Ring & Ride x 1

Community Woodland Trusts x 2

Devon Association of Local Councils x 2

Footpath Wardens

Colyton Memorial Social Club x 2

Parish Tree Warden

Playing Field Committee x 2

St Andrews Church Fabric Committee

22/04/12 Damage to Colyford gateway (eastern end) Cllr K Mills proposed that Jerry Down be asked to do some exploratory holes which go down into the foundations to see what damage is done on the South gateway and that the Northern gateway probably needs repointing. This was seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all. Cllr Pady to supply contact details. Clerk to check insurance policy to see if we can claim.

22/04/13 Bin at Reece Strawbridge and Pear Tree Corner. It was agreed to purchase a bin for Pear Tree Corner.

22/04/14 Tennis Courts for coaches. Cllr Parr proposed the charge for courts for tennis courts be reduced to £3 per court per hour to encourage use, this was seconded by Cllr Arnott and agreed.

22/04/15 Land for potential development. Cllr Denny suggested a piece of land above the Cemetery, Cllr Parr confirmed that the land in question is not owned by the Parish Council. The land that the Parish Council own is below the cemetery, this is reserved for a cemetery extension and is not suitable for development as it is outside the BUAB and a long way from town. Cllr Arnott then suggested the only place which is owned by the PC that he could think of which may be suitable for a very small development is the Rosemary Lane store. Cllr Real said he had suggested the land at Moorfields many a time but it is not owned by the PC.

22/04/16 Preferred location for the new electric car charge points in Dolphin Street Carpark. Cllr Arnott confirmed that these have been delivered and we are waiting on Western Power to do the installation. Cllr Real suggested the wall behind the toilets which runs parallel to Dolphin Street, you could fit four bays in there and it would not be in the way. This location was seconded by Cllr Pady and agreed.

22/04/17 Correspondence

a) The Rural Bulletin

b) EDDC Covid update

c) Rural Funding Digest April Edition

d) EDDC Planning news – Call for Sites. Cllr Arnott confirmed that this is to do with the Local Plan process.

22/04/18 Finance

Minutes of the Finance meeting held 28th March 2022 (Appendix AA) to be approved for publication. The minutes were approved. Proposed by Cllr Real and seconded by Cllr Pady. Agreed by all.

Accounts to be approved for payment.

DD Talktalk phone and broadband 36.16 VAT 7.23. Total 43.39 pounds.

DD EDF electricity 7.50 VAT 1.50. Total 9.00 pounds.

DD Biffa waste management 147.00 VAT 29.40. Total 176.40 pounds.

BACS Mr Fitzpatrick toilet caretaker. Total 120.00 pounds.

BACS DALC Membership 641.00 VAT 80.51. Total 721.51 pounds.

BACS Halcyon Cemetery grounds 501.66 VAT 100.33 Annual cut for Parish 2240.00 VAT 448.00.

Total 3289.99 pounds

BACS Cllr Denny – reimbursement promap – download map for EDDC planning enquiry. Total 21.72 pounds.

BACS P & R P Smith works completed at picnic shelter. Total 320.00 pounds

BACS Colyford Memorial Hall. March meeting. Total 31.00 pounds.

BACS Axminster Garden Machinery. Service of mower and strimmer 175.39 VAT 35.07. Total 210.46 pounds.

BACS South West Water water supply – New Sidmouth Road 15.23 VAT 3.05. Total 18.28 pounds.
BACS EDDC Business rates. Total 4503.48 pounds. BACS Feoffees Office rent. Total 1500.00 pounds.

The above accounts were approved for payment, this was proposed by Cllr K Mills, seconded by Cllr A Mills and agreed by all.

- a) Dates of the period for the exercise of public rights. Clerk suggests 20th June – 29th July 2022. Cllr Pady proposed this be accepted, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
- b) Approval of Section 1 of the AGAR – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21. Cllr A Mills proposed this be approved, seconded by Cllr K Mills and agreed by all.
- c) Approval of Section 2 of the AGAR – Accounting Statements 2020/21. Cllr A Mills proposed this be approved, seconded by Cllr K Mills and agreed by all.
- d) Talktalk contract ends at the end of April, renewal would be an 18 month contract at 26 pounds for broadband and 14 pounds for unlimited calls. Monthly total of 40.00 pounds. This was agreed by all.
- e) Quote from R&H Signs for the sign for the site at Heathayne next to the new trees 68 pounds + VAT. Cllr Pady proposed this be accepted, seconded by Cllr Real agreed by all bar Cllr Arnott who abstained.
- f) Quote from R&H Signs for 5 signs to point out the open accessible toilet on Dolphin Street 66 pounds + VAT. Cllr A Mills proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed by all.
- g) Quote from R&H Signs for a sign to replace the parking sign on Dolphin Street. It was agreed to go out for quote.
- h) First half of precept has been received. Noted.
- i) Clerk and Handy man March Pay. Clerk to pay back the back pay received.
- j) Clerk holiday request – emailed to Councillors. This was approved.
- k) Notice from EDDC, the price of emptying bins has increased to collection once a week – 100 pounds per bin, collection twice a week – 200 pounds per bin and collection three times a week – 300 pounds per bin. Noted.
- l) Memorial application circulated to Councillors, confirmation of what to be charged required. Application for 2 X additional inscriptions to be added to the same headstone. Single or double charge? It was agreed to just charge a single charge. This was proposed by Cllr Real and seconded by Cllr Denny. Agreed by all.

22/04/19 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28th March 2022 – (Appendix AB) to be approved for publication. These were approved, this was proposed by Cllr Real and seconded by Cllr K Mills and agreed by all.

- a) **Planning Applications**
- b) **Planning decisions from East Devon**

22/0233/LBC Compass Cottage South Street Colyton – Mr & Mrs Pask- Hughes - Replace 1 door on front elevation and 1 window at ground floor and French doors on rear elevation. Approved with conditions.

22/0164/LBC St Marys Church Street Colyton – Mr Stenning - Proposed replacement of corrugated roof and installation of additional clear corrugated roof panels, repair of external walling, insertion of internal doorway, removal of internal wall and remainder of chimney breasts. Approved with conditions.

22/04/20 Amenities

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28th March 2022 – (Appendix AC) to be approved for publication. These were approved, this was proposed by Cllr Parr, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.

a) Site visit being organised for Nunsford Lane in May. Ros Davies (Footpaths) and Dan Meek (Agricultural Tenancy) will be in attendance. There are a number of Councillors who wish to attend, clerk will circulate details once finalised.

b) Reports of rats on the allotments. Cllr Pady has purchased some rat poison to be put in the bait boxes which are already up at the allotments.

c) Tennis court maintenance. Cllr Turner informed the Council prior to the meeting that there is a member of the PMPF committee who is a qualified tennis coach, he wouldn't mind taking a look if the Council agrees to this, This was agreed, Cllr Real also suggested asking the coaches who are currently renting the courts for their opinion and where to source a new net from if necessary.

22/04/21 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published – to be noted

Cllr Pady wishes to move the Oak tree which was gifted to the Council from EDDC to mark the Jubilee, he stated that it will block the view in years to come, Cllrs Arnott, Denny and Real did not support this. It will be placed on the next agenda for an official decision.

Cllr Pady has circulated a plan of Millfield to be submitted to EDDC for planning application, this will be on the next agenda.

Cllr Clifford spoke about the damage to the lamp post on Queens Square, DCC came out very quickly to make it safe, it now will need to be repaired.

Cllr Denny announced that the allotments are now officially connected to the mains water supply and it is turned on.

22/04/22 Matters to be taken into Committee. None

22/04/23 Dates of future meetings

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 13th April.

Committee meetings – Monday 25th April

Full CPC meeting – Monday 9th May.

Meeting closed: 21:05

Appendix A

Seaton & Colyton Division Report – April

Flood Risk Management Action Plan DCC Cabinet approved a budget allocation of £10k (for 2022/23) for an initial assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses in Seaton and to consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities. This action is necessary following the flooding of over 20 properties last October. As the lead local flooding authority DCC produced a Flooding Investigation Report.

20mph Speed Limit Submissions The deadline for 20mph applications closed on 31st March. Within the Seaton & Colyton Division I have supported schemes in Colyton, Colyford (A3052 & Seaton Road), & Beer. As DCC are looking to implement schemes during the 2022/23 financial year it is anticipated the successful applications will be progressed quickly.

Road Safety in Seaton I met with members of the Seaton Down Hill community speed watch team to discuss their work and ongoing safety concerns. I am planning to use some of my locality budget to jointly fund a new vehicle activated sign for Seaton that can be not only used at Seaton Down Hill but also moved around the town to target hot spots.

A35 Safety Improvements I regularly catch up with our MP to discuss issues in the division. I've asked Neil Parish to contact National Highways to arrange a meeting with parishes along the A35. The A35 working group last met in February 2020. I explained the frustration of local parish councils regarding progress on this matter and the lack of a regional manager for National Highways not helping the situation. Neil has contacts at National Highways so I am hopeful a meeting can be arranged to bring this important issue to the fore.

One.network I know as Town & Parish Councillors you get a lot of highways enquires. A useful online tool to see all planned roadworks and road closures is the one.network website. It gives you details of the works, the company responsible and the dates. You can also preview upcoming works.

Devon, Plymouth & Torbay Devolution Deal Partnership Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are one of ten areas in England selected by the Government to negotiate far-reaching devolution deals to help level up areas blighted by low productivity and deepseated deprivation. A deal offers the opportunity for additional powers and funding to tackle local priorities such as more affordable housing, better public transport and providing skills our economy needs. A 'County Deal' does not require a mayor, operates in concert with the existing local government structure and requires a Combined Authority only to oversee the additional devolved powers. In terms of where we are in this process, the partner authorities are working together to negotiate with government. In essence the 'fuel' to drive the transformation is the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) that replaces EU funding with a non-mayoral Combined Authority getting overall control of UKSPF planning and delivery. Initial proposals have been submitted to government as a starting point for negotiations. The ambition is to have a deal in place in late 2022/early 2023 with implementation from April 2023.

Community Outreach Vans DCC Community Outreach vans will continue to support the COVID-19 vaccination programme but they won't provide free lateral flow tests from 1st April. Following the government's Living with Covid plan there is an end to universal access to free lateral flow and PCR tests for most people.

Spring COVID-19 booster jabs Spring COVID-19 booster jabs have started to be offered to people in Devon at greatest risk of COVID-19 infection, many of whom had their first booster six months ago. The groups eligible for the spring booster are:

- people aged 75 years and older
- residents in a care home for older adults
- people aged 12 years old and over who have a weakened immune system

The best time to have the spring booster is around six months after the previous booster, although the minimum interval is three months. You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on the NHS site finder website or book an appointment via the National Booking System.

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust From 1 April, the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E) and Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT) have formally merged to become the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The new Trust has two acute and 20 community hospitals, and cares for a population of almost one million. It has nearly 17,000 staff, who work together to deliver core services to our local communities and specialist services across the whole of the peninsula. Find out more about the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust at the website here: www.royaldevon.nhs.uk

Cllr Marcus Hartnell

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Appendix B

District Report: April 2022

Councillor Paul Arnott

Chemical Review Audit (Herbicides)

Our Streetscene Operations Manager reported to Cabinet in March that scrutiny around the use of pesticides and herbicides has increased massively in recent years and that there was more scientific evidence to prove that they were harmful to both human health and the environment.

It was agreed by Cabinet to ban EDDC's use of glyphosate based herbicides by September 2022 along with banning the use of woody weed killers. These will be replaced with an integrated weed management approach which included the use of the RHS vinegar based weed control and manual control methods.

In the 2023/24 capital programme a bid will be made for 2 Hotfoam machines (circa £67k investment), required to supplement other integrated weed control methods. We agreed to communicate this positive example to residents, town and parish councils to encourage their uptake of non-harmful chemical usage.

Cranbrook

This is widely acknowledged to have been a flawed town planning exercise under the Conservative administrations where, instead of a central, corporate entity overseeing the construction of this key new town, it was left to a consortium of developers.

My administration has Cranbrook a key priority, and at March Cabinet we agreed to use ring-fenced funds of £6.5 million from the Enterprise Zone programme to acquire key parcels of land to deliver town centre infrastructure and to continue to roll out the district heating network

Council tax rebate of £150 to every East Devon resident living in an A, B, C or D band property.

As part of the government's scheme to assist reduce the impact of energy price increases, residents who pay council tax via direct debit, will soon be receiving their letters if they meet the following conditions, as of 1 April 2022:

- Their property is banded A-D or band E with a disablement reduction
- They are liable to pay council tax at the address
- The property is their sole or main residence

If you don't pay council tax by direct debit you will be written to separately and will then be able to apply for the rebate.

If your direct debit for your council tax was set up before 31 March 2022, EDDC will pay the £150 direct to your bank account. EDDC will aim to do this within 15 working days of successfully receiving your April council tax instalment. EDDC's direct debit instalment dates are on 1st, 17th and 25th days of the month; your date will be shown on your bill.

If there is a reason why you would not want EDDC to use the bank details it holds, contact the authority by Monday, 11 April, online at <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-tax/contact-us> or call 01395 517 446 and select option 4 for Council Tax Rebate – EDDC is expecting high call volumes so you may have to wait to speak with an officer.

New Action on Poverty Fund

Projects and activities that help reduce poverty in East Devon can now apply for a grant fund that has been opened by East Devon District Council (EDDC).

The new Action on Poverty Fund can accept applications of between £500 and £5,000 from properly constituted and not-for-private-profit organisations or groups such as:

- Voluntary and community sector groups and organisations
- Parish Councils
- Charities
- Other groups such as Community Interest Companies

Examples of projects that could be funded include:

- Projects that tackle hidden poverty for those who are struggling but aren't currently seeking help.
- Providing recognised and qualified advice on budgeting, money and debt issues to residents.
- Helping people access support from the council and others to see if they are entitled to welfare benefits and other financial help and support.
- Supporting low income residents to access the internet and develop digital skills.
- Increasing the number of people volunteering for local voluntary and community groups within East Devon.
- Projects that seek to understand and address the causes of food poverty.
- Sustainable support to residents in fuel or water poverty, helping them to reduce their energy and water costs.
- Supporting young people in reaching their employment potential.
- Improving health outcomes for people due to financial hardship and debt, including access to good diet, cookery classes, healthy lifestyles and ill health prevention.
- Helping to manage mental health issues arising from any impact of poverty, including low income, debt and fuel poverty.

To find out more and to apply: www.eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/east-devon-action-on-poverty-fund

Appendix C

District Councillor Helen Parr Report April 22-

- **A council tax rebate of £150** will be given to every East Devon resident living in an A, B, C or D band property.

EDDC is administering this scheme of government grants following the recent announcement from the Chancellor.

- **The council is ending the use of Glyphosate based herbicides** for weed control in favour of Vinegar based RHS endorsed sprays and manual control methods.

£67k will be added to the Capital program to purchase 2 Hotfoam machines. The council will also be withdrawing from spraying in some areas including highways around town centres, which the council currently does although it is not within the remit.

- A new **Action on Poverty Fund** has been opened by East Devon District Council (EDDC) to help reduce poverty in East Devon

The fund can accept applications for grants of between £500 and £5,000 for projects and activities to help reduce poverty in East Devon.

Properly constituted and not-for-private-profit organisations or groups can apply, such as:

- Voluntary and community sector groups and organisations
- Parish Councils
- Charities
- Other groups such as Community Interest Companies
 - **River Axe Special Area of Conservation-** Natural England have advised East Devon District Council that because of the sensitivity of the River Axe, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation, new planning permissions for new homes, and other developments providing overnight accommodation, should not be granted in the catchment of the river unless they can be shown to be “nutrient neutral“.

The fundamental problem is that there are excessive levels of phosphates entering the river. Most phosphates entering the river come from agricultural activity, including run-off from farmed land. A sizeable amount of the remainder is, however, a result of human activity that is associated with the houses we live in and business premises and buildings we use – or more precisely it is the waste water that is generated.

On farm projects to improve the quality of water discharge have been supported and funded by Natural England and Environment Agency for many years. A mitigation scheme for new dwellings will however need to provide mitigation in perpetuity and so is proving much harder to achieve.

EDDC is now one of over 70 local authorities affected by this issue.

Both Colyford and Colyton are outside of the River Axe Special Area of Conservation.

Axminster however is within the catchment area. This possible embargo on residential building could have a serious effect on housing numbers in the Local Plan and put at risk the 5 year land supply.