

Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held via Zoom
on Monday 11th May 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs S Real, H West, R Watts, A Parr, C Denny, J Hay, J Gardiner, C Pady, P Arnott, E Jones and K Clifford.

Also in attendance: DCC M Shaw and S Haines (clerk)

Members of the public: 1

- 20/05/20 Elections for 2020/2021 – Due to covid-19 and government lock down ALL elections have been Postponed. Those already in post will remain until May 2021 or until the Parish Council can physically meet and decide to hold an election.**
- 20/05/21 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence.** Cllr Turner (unwell) Cllr Jarman (absent)
- 20/05/22 Police Report – not received at time of publishing.**
- 20/05/23 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Pady declared an interest on the Mill Field quotes from the ecologists. He will abstain from voting on this.
- 20/05/24 Public Question time** (maximum 15 minutes) A member of the public had a few points to raise, some of the verges in Colyford have been cut – by whom? He asked DCC M Shaw about the planned crossing in Colyford, the area by the filling station and Coly Road are very well used, especially by kids at school times. He stated that there had been talks of a 20mph zone being put in Colyton but suggested Colyford would benefit from this more due to the very fast road. He then mentioned that there needed to be a cycle sign at the cemetery end of the Wetlands as people are cycling up the Seaton Road which is dangerous due to high speed traffic. His final point was to challenge the legality of the ‘No Dogs’ rule in the Wetlands, the area was supposed to be accessible to all but this rule excludes a large amount of people. Cllr West reported that a resident cut the grass outside the Colyford Memorial Hall.
- 20/05/25 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 14th April 2020 and the Telephone Conference Call held Monday 20th April 2020** Cllr Watts proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.
- 20/05/26 Matters arising from the Minutes.** Cllr Jones seconded the member of public’s comments about the 20mph limit needing to be in Colyford. This and the crossing in Colyford will be placed onto the next Full meeting agenda for discussion. Cllr West talked about the report Cllr Pady produced showing the damage to the roads caused during the Coly Road closure, he stated that Stafford Land and Cownhayne Lane are not mentioned on the report. Cllr Pady reassured the Council that all roads that were impacted were reported to DCC Highways, he will contact DCC and ask them to send a copy of the report to the clerk for circulation.
- 20/05/27 Report from County Councillor .See appendix A** In addition to his report DCC M Shaw discussed the following. In regards to the 20mph limits, emphasis is needed on the fact that DCC are still in a trial period. A trial in Newton Abbott is taking place and until results are back from that then nothing will be rolled out. Cllr Jones asked for a time frame on this trial and Cllr Shaw replied that due to the pandemic the trial is on hold as there is less traffic around at the moment to make an accurate study. We need to make a decision if we want to have the 20mph limit in Colyton and/or Colyford so when the trial is finished we are ready to go. He stated that a cycle sign for the cemetery end of the Wetlands had not come up as a request before and so will chase that. A section of the Wetlands is still closed as awaiting a planning decision from EDDC. Funding for the Stop Line Way will be looked at again. On Covid-19 Cllr Shaw stressed that the lock down was working, care homes are extremely vulnerable, and a home in Seaton had been badly affected and has had 8 deaths due to Covid-19. It is a strong view that patients need to be kept in hospital rather than being sent back to the Care Homes, one home in Seaton which was particularly affected had a rate of 90% of residents who caught the virus, 15% died and 50% of staff also caught it. Testing & tracing – we have a low level in the South West, if the County Council Public Health Team were able to get on top of this pandemic then potentially we could have local policies.
Cllr West spoke regarding the Stop Line Way, it did have funding but it was taken away to assist the flooding on the Somerset Levels. The member of public challenged the use of the trial in Newton Abbot for the 20mph limit, explaining it is already working well in Sidmouth, Cllr Shaw explained that the

decision from cabinet was final and a trial would go ahead. During his report last month he referred to Colyton having the 20mph limit and not Colyford but he was referring to the Parish as a whole not just the town. If the 20mph limit is wanted then it could be in both.

DCC M Shaw left the meeting.

20/05/28 Report from District Councillors *See appendix B for EDDC H Parrs report.*

EDDC P Arnott reported that the recycling centres are due to be reopened. There is a hub operating in East Devon providing support for businesses and residents, including food parcels, the workers are doing so from home and are doing an amazing job. There is a scrutiny meeting due to take place after the 18th May, there has been some reluctance amongst some to try Zoom but they are slowly coming around to the idea. The Annual Meeting has been cancelled, there are hopes to hold a meeting in June to discuss new Chair, Vice Chair and Cabinet. The Environmental Agency are studying the River Coly after the slurry disaster, long term effects are still unknown at this point. East Devon are constantly getting applications for new slurry stores, there is going to have to be a re-think about ways in which to store slurry safely. New government guidelines came out regarding the Corvid-19 pandemic, B&Bs and hotels are to remain shut but there is clarity needed regarding camp sites and caravan sites, we do not want people coming down from infected areas and potentially spreading this disease. Finally Cllr Shaws description of what is happening in Care Homes is very worrying. If Seaton Hospital had still been open then could patients have been discharged from Exeter to there rather than going back into their Care Homes?

Cllr Denny asked if we knew the cause of the slurry leak, Cllr Arnott explained that we do not know and may not for some time as investigations carry on. Cllr Watts asked if the financial impact of the virus was known yet. Both at District and County level? Cllr Arnott explained that they are expecting to be £5m down on revenue so far this financial year. But there are two things to consider – 1 - the government should plug some of the gap and 2 – the Council is sitting on a healthy level of reserves so no excuses to start cutting services.

20/05/29 Highway Matters

- a) **Temporary Prohibition of through Traffic** Ref TTRO2035393 Monday 20th July for a maximum of five days. Roads affected – Vicarage Street from jcn with Church Street to jcn with Rosemary Lane. This is considered necessary to enable safety for an engineer to work in underground structure.

20/05/30 Report from Meetings Attended. None attended.

20/05/31 Correspondence

- a) Email RE Electric Vehicle charge points
- b) Rural Service Network bulletins.
- c) Email RE Updated Bus Timetable
- d) Email RE East Devon businesses updates
- e) Email RE East Devon Residents updates.
- f) Email RE Corona Virus Community Food Fund.
- g) Email from Devon Communities together May update.

20/05/32 Finance

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 27th April (Appendix A) to be noted
Accounts to be approved for payment

DD	Opus	Electricity	.76	.04	80p
DD	Talk Talk	Telephone & Broadband	46.51	9.30	£55.81
BACS	Toilet Caretaker	Invoice for April			£100
BACS	Southwest Countryside Contractors	Work on fp11 repairing bridge approved min ref 20/02/78 b)			£99.50
BACS	Halcyon Landscapes	Cemetery Contract			Not received.
BACS	Viridor	Waste Management	119.90	23.98	£143.88
BACS	Mrs S Haines	Zoom 1 month subscription Bargain Host extra web storage	11.99 50.00	2.40	£64.39
BACS	Bradfords	4 bags of postcrete for John	16.00	3.20	£19.20
BACS	Lars Laj UK	Invoice for Spares.	160.00	32.00	£192.00

The above account were all approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Pady and seconded by Cllr West. Agreed by all.

- a) Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for approval. Proposed by Cllr West, seconded by Cllr Real, agreed by all.
- b) Accounting Statement 2019/20 for approval. Proposed by Cllr West, seconded by Cllr Real, agreed by all.
- c) Confirmation of dates for the period for the exercise of Public Rights. Deferred until we hear back from internal auditor.
- d) New signatories for the Cambridge Building Society, to add S Haines onto the account. Cllr Real proposed, seconded by Cllr Watts agreed by all, this is the last account needed to be changed for clerk to access.
- e) Insurance deal with Zurich expires June 2020. Quotes gathered for consideration. Cllr Jones asked if an electrical certificate would need to be produced. Clerk will gather the information and defer to the Finance Meeting.
- f) Annual rent of Cleeves Field received. Noted
- g) Offer of £250 from South West Water to put towards the Emergency Bus service put on during the Coly Road closure. Cllr West stated that nobody wants to take accountability here, local businesses and residents were not informed of this closure taking place. Cllr Watts stated that it is the applicant's responsibility to inform locals. Cllr Pady said more pressure should be put on the developers, another letter should be sent out with DCC copied in. Cllr Parr agreed but also said we should accept this offer from South West Water. Cllr Watts made a proposal that we accept the offer from South West Water, send another letter to RS Homes and copy in Highways. This was seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.
- h) Salary increase to be noted. Clerk's salary increased in January 2020 due to probationary period ending. Noted.

20/05/33 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 27th April – (Appendix B) to be noted

a Planning Applications

b Planning Decisions – to be noted

c Planning Correspondence

20/05/34 Amenities

- a) Minutes from meeting held Monday 4th May (Appendix C) to be noted. Cllr West asked if these minutes and be approved for publication now rather than wait until the next Amenities meeting? This was a proposal and it was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by all.
- b) Date for Annual Parish Inspection to be reviewed. This will stay on the agenda to be reviewed and actioned as soon as possible.
- c) Update on Mill Field progress. Cllr Denny had received and distributed four quotes for an ecological survey, depending on their findings will determine our next steps. Moor To Sea is based in Colyton, she did the survey up at the cemetery, she recommended that the Council should get a DBRC check and she would not charge for it, however the cost is minimal and it would be easier to ask her to do it. Cllr Denny proposed we accept the quote from Moor to Sea and ask her to get the DBRC check, this was seconded by Cllr Real. Cllr Hay chaired the vote as Cllr Pady declared an interest as he knows one of the companies who submitted a quote. This was agreed by all except Cllr Pady who abstained from voting.

The Clerk confirmed that Mill Field has indeed been registered in the Parish Councils name it was registered on 18th May 2015. Cllr West offered his apologies to Cllr Parr and Cllr Pady for doubting this.

Cllr Denny also has a geo-environmental quote, this is very expensive and should be avoided if we can. Cllr Watts stated that responsibility should lie with EDDC. Cllr Denny stated that Red Rock Geo start with a desktop study, the environmental agency may not be interested in this as it is not deemed to be near a river source. Planning may not contact environmental agency until an application is put in. Cllr Parr stated that he could not remember the site being a dump in his lifetime, he confirmed that soil from the cemetery used to be tipped there but this last happened around 14 years ago. Cllr Pady stated that he has an 1883 ordnance survey map and on there it is shown as a quarry, so potentially a clay pit. Cllr Denny explained to change the level of the land i.e to cover it in sub-soil you would need to put in a full planning application to show the level before and after, then you would need a site survey, costs will very quickly mount up. Cllr Arnott asked if we would need a full planning

application to extend the car park for the allotments. Cllr Denny was not sure and said to check with East Devon. Cllr Watts asked if land is left fallow for say 5 years, would you need to complete an ecology survey before picking it back up again. Cllr Pady stated you would not but this is the right thing to do. Cllr Jones proposed that we defer all further decisions until we get a result back from the ecology survey, this was seconded by Cllr Denny and agreed by all.

Cllr West reported that Tom Palmer has emptied the cemetery soil as previously agreed and all went well.

20/05/35 Coly Road street lighting. Cllr Real is strongly against any light being taken away from that road, it is very dangerous as it is and with less light would be a lethal part of the road. Yes it would probably help bats and help build a case against future planning but somebody could be seriously injured or worse. Cllr Watts agreed that no lights should be taken away but could the lights be more environmentally / bat friendly? Cllr Real stated that they are all LED lights. Cllr West questioned the need for them to remain on for the whole night. Cllr Hay explained that as it is a main road then they will remain on all night, smaller streets will be turned off. Cllr Jones stated that he had attended the Colyford Eden appeal evening and an ecological officer commented that bats would find access irrespective of light levels, the road is too dangerous to have lighting removed. Cllr Pady explained that down lighting is very important for bats, the lights should be directed down, not up, and we should ask DCC to provide shields. Cllr Real stated that the lights are already the latest LED down shield lights. Cllr Denny asked what the traffic levels were along that road during the night. Cllr Real explained that traffic is heavy and at weekends you get high footfall with people walking back from Seaton. Cllr Watts stated that bat friendly lighting is red, the lights on Coly Road are white. Cllr Real proposed that we not support this as the road is just too dangerous, this was seconded by Cllr Jones, agreed by all except Cllrs Watts and West who both abstained to vote.

20/05/36 Reece Strawbridge Centre. Cllr Hay reported the last meeting was on the 12th March, there were concerns about heating and sewage. No work has taken place due to the lock down. A video meeting would be needed to assess the problems. Cllr Arnott reported that the building is still open for Caterpillars who are very bravely carrying on the best they can. There has been a terrible loss of income as Caterpillars have had their income greatly reduced. Mark Mann has been amazing and has been looking at the sewage problems and ensuring the building is safe. A committee meeting is needed ASAP. Cllr Parr asked about the insurance and placing the PC name on the policy, Cllr Arnott reassured that this was in hand but there has been no meeting since this issue was last brought up by the Council.

20/05/37 Matters to be taken into Committee. None

20/05/37 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published – to be noted. Cllr Watts asked if the playparks should be opened yet. The Clerk confirmed that no mention of opening playparks has been made yet. Cllr Real asked if the toilets would be opened as we have paid the caretaker. Cllr Parr stated that the toilets would remain closed until we are told to open them and the Parish Council had decided to pay the caretaker up until the end of April as a gesture of goodwill.

20/05/38 Dates of future meetings

Finance & Planning – Tuesday 26th May

CPC meeting – Monday 8th June.

Meeting Ended 20:25

Appendix A

County Councillor's Report, May 2019 Covid-19 crisis

While formal meetings have been suspended, I have been trying to obtain information on the situation in Devon, to influence policy where possible, and to answer constituents' questions about the evolving situation.

Please continue to observe the lockdown It is essential that everyone continues to observe the lockdown conditions.

Please do not be complacent. Although the epidemic is at a modest level in East Devon, dozens of people have died here and more have suffered serious illness. It is only social distancing which has saved us from a much wider spread of the infection.

A girl aged 11 from our area was on a ventilator. I gather that she has recovered but cases like this should be a warning to all that this disease is unpredictable and no one should assume they are safe. The new Government public health advertisement since Easter says that Covid-19 is 'threatening to people of all age groups'. More of the patients in ICUs nationally are in the 60-69 age group and even 50-59 age group than 70-79. Although vulnerability increases with age, it is not only over-70s who may be badly affected.

The importance of contact tracing It is essential that we use the next month to prepare the safest possible exit from the lockdown. This must involve extended tracing of contacts of all infected people. Together with two other members of the Health Scrutiny Committee, I have been attempting to persuade Council leaders to press the Government to allow Devon and Cornwall to take the initiative on re-introducing community testing and contact tracing. Given our relatively low level of infection it would be more manageable to contain the virus here than in other areas. Unfortunately it seems that nothing will happen until a national system is ready. While I am encouraged that work on this is finally underway, I am worried (as are many experts) that not enough people will be employed, or soon enough, to do this on the scale needed.

Information to councillors As a Health Scrutiny member, I am not always receiving as much information as I would like, especially about the situation in care homes. Health Scrutiny has not met since 12th March, and requests for a video-conference meeting, even informal, have been turned down. I appreciate that NHS and DCC officials are under great pressure, but in view of the public concern about some issues in the lockdown I will continue to press for greater transparency.

Highways Some Highways work continues to be carried on during the lockdown. I have taken up several issues and have had reports of one or two longstanding issues resolved.

Traffic Group The traffic group meeting due on 7th May has been cancelled but I will ask Steve Kelly to produce an update on all outstanding issues, which I will circulate.

Seaton Seafront Enhancement Scheme I have supported the Town Council in their efforts to get Highways approval for the work on the first phase of the scheme to be carried out at Fisherman's Gap as soon as conditions permit.

Northleigh defibrillator I have made a contribution from my locality budget to support the installation of a defibrillator at Northleigh Village Hall.

Appendix B

Helen Parr Report May 2020

There have been no meetings of the District Council.

Where decisions have been necessary the majority have been made by officers using existing Delegated powers. A very few Urgent Decisions have been made using Urgency Powers, and councillors have been made aware of these decisions.

A Virtual Zoom DMC is scheduled to take place on Mon 18 May, at 10 am. A mock/ practice meeting will take place tomorrow morning.

The Green Waste paid for collection service resumed today, 11 May 2020. People can check their collection date for the correct week either via the 'When is my bin collected' page on the East Devon website, or via the East Devon app and Alexa, and also check the website www.eastdevon.gov.uk/collections for updates on collections.