

**Minutes for the Colyton Parish Council meeting held in the
Colyford Memorial Hall at 7pm on Monday 11th October 2021.**

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

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

Members of public: 4

21/10/56 Welcome by Chair. Cllr Parr welcomed all and thanked Colyford for hosting the meeting.

21/10/57 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Cllr Arnott (unwell) Cllr Jarman (work commitments)

21/10/58 Police Report

COLYTON – KN3C

Crime recorded total: 5 (2 recorded in September 2020).

1 x Violence without injury

2 x Violence without injury

1 x Burglary dwelling

1 x Vehicle offences

Incident recorded total: 17 (14 recorded in September 2020).

1 x Anti-social behaviour

10 x Public safety

4 x Crime recorded

2 x Transport

21/10/59 Declarations of Interest. None

21/10/60 Public Question time (maximum 15 minutes) A member of public informed the Parish Council that the Public Local Inquiry has now been cancelled, all objections to the Order having now been withdrawn. So the Stop Line Way can go ahead. This is excellent news.

21/10/61 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on 13th September 2021 and Monday 4th October 2021. Both sets on minutes were approved by all.

21/10/62 Matters arising from the Minutes. None

21/10/63 Report from County Councillor – see appendix A Cllr Hay stated to Cllr Hartnell that it is not the public's job to report defects on the highway, the highways teams should be doing so. He asked about progress of a reported blocked drain at Three Sycamores and on down to Lily Lake Farm. Cllr Hartnell explained that the monthly traffic group meetings don't seem to be an effective use of anybody's time, the same reports get bought up. He is running a trial for 12 months to see if it would be more effective if he goes on monthly drive arounds with the highways officer and reports back all of the concerns from the Parish. This gives him a better understanding of the area and also gives the highways officer a better understanding of the problem. He encouraged the Cllrs to continue reporting issues.

21/10/64 Report from District Councillors – See appendix B for Cllr H Parrs report. Cllr Hay asked if she could look into the street lights that have not been working in the Dolphin Street car park for months. He also raised his point that one public toilet is not enough for all the tourists that Colyton sees all summer. Cllr H Parr stated that it was a battle just to get one open, the public consultation on the loos has just come to an end, waiting on a result. Cllr Pady asked if EDDC could come on strong to include Colyton and Colyford in the AONB to give us more protection against planning applications. Cllr H Parr stated that EDDC do not have that power. Cllr Real advised of the state of the EDDC owner houses in Courtney Drive, he reported that they are in a state and he can't remember the last time that they were painted, it used to be every 5 years. Cllr H Parr said she would look into this. Cllr Turner than stated that there are two EDDC owned properties behind his house at Courtney Close, they have been completely re-decorated and even the gardens have been looked after but nobody has lived in them for at least two years, disgusting when we have a housing crisis. Cllr H Parr agreed that this is not acceptable and would look into this.

21/10/65 Highway Matters

a) TTRO2141240 Temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking on Swan Hill Road, Colyford. From Saturday 23rd October to Friday 5th November 2021. This is considered necessary to enable access to manholes on the 150mm sewer line for rehabilitation works from manhole 1503 to manholes 2501 and 2506, a 6m section needs to be replaced in the centre of the road.

Cllr Hay asked why this work is scheduled for over the weekend and over two weeks. Cllr Hartnell confirmed that SWW had asked for longer and this was turned down, they are hoping to get the job done in a week, this would be half term to would minimise disruption to School traffic.

b) TTRO2142316 Temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking on Rosemary Lane, Colyton. From Thursday 16th December to Tuesday 21st December 2021. This is considered necessary to enable Wales and West Utilities to lay a new gas service.

21/10/66 Report from Meetings Attended. Cllr Hay reported that he attended a meeting of the PMPF committee last week, in short funding is short and they are not eligible for any funding. Their AGM is next Wednesday 20th October.

Cllr Pady reported back from the meeting held with some allotment holders, 10 allotment holders were present and they discussed the water supply issue at the allotments. They took a vote and it was agreed that the rents should rise by a blanket amount, not depending on how much water each individual uses. There has also been a suggestion from an ex plot holder to terminate all current contracts with a view to review and renew after getting some legal advice. Overall it was a positive meeting with one plot holder offering to help dig the ditches and contact a contractor. Cllr Denny stated that we have not asked SWW to start work on this yet, approximate costs are looking at around £5300.00 but not all official quotations are in yet, it could go as high as £6000.00. South West Water have quoted £2500.00 to close the road, tap into the mains, lay the pipe under the road, install a meter and back fill. Cllr Denny proposed we accept that quote and get the works underway as this could take up to 12 weeks with the road closure application. This was seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all. Official costings will be shared once they are all in.

21/10/67 New Councillors to be voted on to committees. Both Cllr K Mills and A Mills would like to be on all three committees. This was approved unanimously.

21/10/68 Trees on the river bank of the PMPF. 6 Councillors met with Jason Mair down at the PMPF, he took them down to the bank. Cllr Pady reported that it was a very productive meeting, it was a real eye opener to see the scale of the project and how much work is involved. He reported that many branches and trees (mainly willow) have fallen into the river and will create a dam. He reported that Jason has a good plan for what is needed, it is two phases, and the first is concentrating on trees and branches directly in or falling towards the river. Cllr Clifford agreed that the plan is very solid and needs doing. Cllr Real proposed this work be carried out as we can't complain to others if our land is not kept in order. He proposed we accept Jasons quote of £4950.00, this was seconded by Cllr Pady and agreed by all.

21/10/69 Allotment contracts. Cllr Parr stated that advice was needed on the contracts, Cllr Denny agreed stating that the current agreement is between the PC and the Mounthill Allotment Association which doesn't exist anymore! Contracts should be between the PC and the individual plot holder.

21/10/70 Water on the Allotments. This has been discussed under item 21/10/66.

21/10/71 Dates for meetings in November (full meeting) and December. The clerk advised that the Town Hall is booked by the theatre group when we would normally hold the Full meeting. It was decided to hold the Full meeting on 15th November, the committees meetings on the 29th and then just hold one large meeting in December on the 13th. The clerk advised that she is on holiday for the 29th meeting so the Vice Chairs will take the minutes.

21/10/72 Correspondence

- a) Rural bulletin
- b) EDDC covid 19 update
- c) Neighbourhood watch October newsletter
- d) Email from OPCC – road safety – calls for ideas
- e) Rural Funding Digest – October Edition.

21/10/73 Finance

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 27th September 2021 Appendix L to be noted
Accounts to be approved for payment

DD EDF Electricity 7.50 VAT 1.50. Total 9.00 pounds.

DD Talktalk Telephone and broadband 32.92 VAT 6.58. Total 39.50 pounds.

BACS Bradfords Dark Oak Woodstain 37.82 VAT 7.56. Total 45.38 pounds.

BACS Mr Fitzpatrick Toilet Caretaker invoice for September. Total 120.00 pounds.

BACS Halcyon Landscapes Grass verge cutting 198.00 VAT 39.60. Total 237.60 pounds.

BACS Halcyon Landscapes Cemetery maintenance 501.66 VAT 100.33. Total 601.99 pounds.

BACS Biffa Waste management 119.90 VAT 23.98. Total 143.88 pounds.

The above accounts were approved for payment. This was proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

- a) Price received from R&H Signs to produce two 9" X 9" aluminium composite signs with backs for attaching to railings advertising NO DOGS for PMPF 58 pounds. Cllr Denny to go back to R&H Signs to ask about formal wording for fines.
- b) Price received from R&H Signs to produce two 200mm X 300mm aluminium signs for staking into the ground advertising NO DOGS for the War Memorial 42 pounds. It was decided to look for a different size, perhaps from EDDC.
- c) First quote in to do the two cemetery paths – waiting for the other two. Three quotes received. Cllr Pady proposed this be discussed in-committee, this was seconded by Cllr Real and agreed by all.

21/10/74 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 27th September – (Appendix M) to be noted

a Planning Applications

21/2574/VAR Knowle Farm Colyton – J. Thomas - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 14/1144/FUL (Demolition of barns and erection of ancillary building housing swimming pool and car parking, erection of replacement dwelling and retention of pond.) to allow for alternative design of approved replacement dwelling. *Comments due by 24th October.* Cllr Pady commented that this site had been altered drastically from agricultural to urban, the ANOB should have something to say about this, it does not fit the character of the countryside. It is a huge overdevelopment of the site and we should not support it. Cllr Parr commented that it is twice its original footprint and is not sympathetic to surroundings. The PC did not support the original application. Cllr Stenning proposed that this application not be supported, this was seconded by Cllr Parr and agreed by all.

21/2393/LBC Swan Cottage Swan Hill Road Colyford – Mr Kempton - West elevation: replace 1 window and 1 door with bi-fold doors; remove 1 window, and cill lowered to floor level and window panel installed; extend existing roof to create covered external porch; rough render replaced with smooth render. South elevation: replace rainwater goods. East elevation: replace 1 window at ground floor and install vent in wall. North elevation: replace 1 door and widen; extend existing tiled roof; 1 window replaced; rough render replaced with smooth render install vent in wall and replace all ridges on thatch. *Comments due by 28th October.* Cllr Denny commented that these are all minor works an FUL application is not accompanying but this could be on the advice of EDDC. Cllr Real proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

21/2568/TCA 2 Richmond Terrace King Street – Mr Langston - Ficus Carcia (Fig) Reduction of height of tree from 5 metres to 3.5 metres. See attached diagram. The tree is starting to touch telephone cables and is swamping a beautiful crab apple tree behind it. Maximum diameter cuts of 100mm. *Comments due by 28th October.* Tree warden has reported that this is good tree management and the fig will regenerate and will have a positive impact on the tree. On this basis Cllr Real proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

b Planning Decisions – to be noted

21/0933/FUL Land And Buildings South West Of Heathayne Cross Colyton – Mr Rance - Change of use of the land to a mixed agricultural/equestrian use, along with the erection of a stable block and formation of a new vehicular access. Refused.

c Planning Correspondence

Issues at Saxon Meadow. Cllr Denny reported that the PC had been approached by the resident of 8 Saxon Meadow asking for help as the drop curb in front of his house would mean his garage will flood in heavy rain. He reported that the resident had been visited by DCC Highways and they have confirmed that they will not adopt the road until this issue is resolved, this puts the responsibility directly onto the developer. Cllr Turner stated that he is concerned about this development. He stated that part of the planning agreement was that 4 properties should be affordable and sold to local residents. He stated that as far as he knows, only 1 has been sold locally. The clerk will chase this.

Memorial Application – Additional inscription to existing headstone. Approved.

21/10/75 Amenities

- a) Minutes of the meeting held Monday 27th September (appendix N) to be noted
- b) Grass at the community Woodland has been cut. Cllr Pady confirmed that Frank Batten completed the cut, the grass will now be raked and burnt by volunteers.
- c) Hedge at Reece Strawbridge has been booked in to be cut. Cllr Pady confirmed that Andy Hurford has got this job on his list and will do it as soon as he can.

21/10/76 Matters to be taken into Committee. Three quotes were discussed in committee for the works on the Cemetery Paths. It was decided to use Lawrence Contractors at a cost of £5791.00 +VAT.

21/10/77 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published. The clerk asked for confirmation of a date for a zoom call with members of the CCCLT. It was agreed Monday 18th October at 7pm.

21/10/78 Dates of future meetings

Finance/Planning Committee – Monday 25th October 2021
November CPC meeting – Unsure.

Appendix A

October 2021 Report from Cllr Marcus Hartnell Devon County Council

Covid Update Devon is above the national average for vaccinations with around 90% of over 20s and over 95% of over 50s having been vaccinated. Covid cases in Devon stand at 218 per 100,000 population, below the national average in England of 259 per 100,000. Since the start of the pandemic there had been 6.8% of population with confirmed cases compared to a national average in England of 11.8%. The spike of cases in July/August was impacted by tourism and high-profile events such as Boardmasters. Numbers in hospitals with Covid, including Plymouth and Torbay, were 23 RD&E, 10 North Devon and 60 Torbay. There had been 772 reported deaths during the pandemic, with the national average being 0.2% of the population and Devon just under 0.1%.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) I attended the CSP meeting on 15 September. Key priorities and strategy are around Sexual Violence & Domestic Violence & abuse, Problem drink & drug abuse, Violent Crime, Exploitation, and Youth risk & vulnerability. Local Police reported that following a busy summer period they were returning to normal levels of demand and can focus on local priorities.

Seaton to Colyford Multi-use trail (Stop Line Way) I attended a meeting with DCC officers for an update on the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of land between Seaton and Colyford. The two affected landowners have objected to the CPO so it will be determined at a public enquiry to be held at the end of October.

Highways Update The highways team continue to struggle recruiting staff. They are currently operating with 33 vacancies from a total workforce of 240. Many of these vacancies are Civil enforcement Officers as I have reported before.

The Winter season will soon be upon us and DCC has good stocks of salt ready to spread onto the network. Six more pre-owned gritters have been purchased to bolster the fleet with newer and more reliable and environmentally friendly gritters.

Highway maintenance delivery has been impacted by the media driven fuel crisis. Supply of fuel to depots in the East & South of the county have been sporadic and Milestone have been instructed to prioritise safety related operations over planned works until such time that the position improves. Overall, DCC services are not experiencing the same significant challenges as other parts of the country, however the Local Resilience Forum are monitoring the situation closely.

I have taken the decision to cease holding Traffic Group meetings in favour of a different approach. Most defects and highways related issues can be reported and tracked online at www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/

I would encourage all local Councillors, Clerks and members of the public to use this site for day-to-day highway problems alongside escalating more serious issues to me at monthly Parish meetings or by email. On a bi-monthly basis I will carry out a division highways inspection with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) to monitor and discuss areas of concern across the division. I can then report back to each Parish/Town Council. I have already been out across the division with the NHO in September and will report back to each Parish/Town individually. Local group meetings can be held to discuss specific traffic related issues should the need arise. Requests for changes to Local Waiting Restrictions must be submitted by Friday 29th October. Please raise any requests/proposals with me. There are already some requests from Beer PC that the NHO has put forward. This process is for minor and uncontroversial amendments to highways restrictions.

Four Dragon Patchers are currently in use across Devon, with one in each operational area. The machines have been double shifting since May to make the most of the longer days and better weather. I attended a Dragon Patcher demonstration at County Hall. It can fill potholes up to 100mm deep, seal cracks and crazed areas, and overlay areas with multiple defects. D

Devon Funding News If you haven't signed up already, I recommend you visit Devon Funding News at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/> to get regular updates on funding opportunities from small community projects to much more ambitious ones in our communities. DCC is heavily invested in measures to help tackle the impacts of climate change and the strategy can be viewed at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/strategy/climatechange-strategy> with links to key information.

A couple of funding opportunities that have popped up this month that would help both town and parish councils in delivering their plans are at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/together-for-our-planet/> and <https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/international-tree-foundation-ukcommunity-tree-planting/>

Greener Public Sector Pensions As a member of the Investment and Pension Fund Committee I was pleased to support a shift to a new greener set of passive investments. Passive funds provide a low-cost way of investing in equities which help reduce fees paid to third-party investment managers. Companies within the new indices share DCC ambitions to achieve net zero carbon as quickly as possible. It will significantly reduce the Fund's exposure to fossil fuel companies such as Shell and BP and will also support companies that are transitioning their businesses in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Contact You can contact me by email marcus.hartnell@devon.gov.uk or by Mobile 07515 285 725

Appendix B

October 2021 District Council Report- Cllr Helen Parr

Colyton Parish Neighbourhood Plan At their meeting 6 Oct 21 **The Cabinet** endorsed the Examiners Recommendations and agreed a referendum version of the Plan should be published incorporating the Examiners amendments. A decision notice to that effect will be published and a Referendum on the plan will be held .

The NP Steering Group was congratulated for their hard work.

Seaton Jurassic Update- Devon Wildlife Trust left the building 17 September. The Cabinet received a report on the future of the building- whether it should it be redesigned, sold or used as another type of visitor attraction. Stakeholders will be consulted. Repairs to the building are needed and a report is being prepared on the extent of this work.

Housing Task Force- An Officer Group is to be set up, with a budget of £250,000 per annum for two years, to focus on delivery of more Social and Affordable Housing.

See <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=1701&Ver=4>

Staff Morale

Being a good employer, as demonstrated by the Council's Platinum Level Investors in People Award, is an important selling point for recruitment of staff.

The Scrutiny Committee 7 Oct 21 received an Action Plan- **Proposed Actions to Improve Staff Morale**. Actions were grouped into Themes-

Staffing Levels, Human Resources/ HR and IT matters- Actions to be overseen by the new Personel Cttee, Chief Executive Officer/ Corporate HR Manager

Training for Members, and Demands & Behaviour of Members was the largest section in the Action Plan, concerned with Code of Conduct training for members; applying the Code of Conduct; respecting Officers; not micro managing reports; Leading Members to stop creating a blame/fear culture and a culture where bullying is exhibited, encouraged and rewarded-

Actions to be overseen by the Cabinet, Chair of Council, Cllr Loudoun [Cabinet Member for Council & Corporate Coordination], the Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer.

The new Council Plan, to be signed off by Council end October, was almost the only Action which has a timeline, and has been achieved.

See <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s13875/071021%20Copy%20of%20Action%20Plan%20v2.pdf>

Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee 5 Oct 21 received a report on the **Role and Function of Settlements**, evidence for the new Local Plan. Colyton is a Tier 3 Settlement in the hierarchy of settlements, locally important for Employment and a Local Centre- based on the number of facilities and services in the town.

They also discussed a report on Built Up Area Boundaries [BUABs], **Principles of Settlement Boundaries**, and requested a further report setting out options for a criteria based policy on development adjacent to settlements, so that small developments on the edges of villages could be considered.

See <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=1669&Ver=4>

A Seminar on these topics will be held- Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Planning Groups to be invited.