

**Minutes of the Colyton Parish Council meeting
held via Zoom on Monday 13th July 2020 at 7pm.**

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

Also in Attendance: EDDC Cllr H Parr and S. Haines (clerk)

Members of the Public: 3

The Chairman request that those people recording the meeting declare so and conform to Standing orders

20/07/62 Welcome by Chair.

20/07/63 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence – Cllr Turner (unwell) Cllr Jarman (absent) DCC Cllr M Shaw (prior commitments)

20/07/64 Police Report – not received.

20/07/65 Declarations of Interest. Cllrs Pady and West declared an interest on planning application 20/1128/LBC Horriford Farm. Cllr West is a close friend and Cllr Pady used to own the farm.

20/07/66 Public Question time (maximum 15 minutes) A member of public had a few points to raise – requested public questions section at the end of each agenda so any items raised during the meeting can be questioned at that meeting rather than having to wait a month to be able to ask questions. Requested a large speed hump with potential zebra crossing at Wetlands exit opposite Popes Lane to slow traffic down on high speed road as forms part of the Stop Line Way. Pointed out American way of storing slurry in lagoons – form a polypropylene crust on top and pump slurry out from underneath, also inject it straight into ground rather than spreading, this reduces the amount of bugs released into the air, Devon should be pioneering this way of use. Pointed out increase of silt down at the Yacht Club, most likely come from the slurry spill. Suggested the thought of a horizontal climbing wall, could be attached to the side of the buildings down at the Peace Memorial Playing Field, very quick and easy to do. Announced the return of the Speedwatch group in Colyford, will keep social distance, also the installation of a speed camera was spoken about last month, two would be needed, one at each end of Colyford to make an impact. Asked for confirmation of water source for allotments. Cllr Hay explained it comes from a pond which is fed from a natural spring, and occasionally pumped from a well – nothing to do with the River Coly. Final point was to inform the Council that they are in direct contact themselves with the Environmental Agency regarding the use of bonfires and lobbying to enforce a £5k fine.

20/07/67 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 8th June 2020. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Pady agreed by all to be approved.

20/07/68 Matters arising from the Minutes. Cllr West has received a quote to print and bind copies of the Standing Orders, this was mentioned in a previous meeting. The quote will be taken to the Finance meeting for discussion.

20/07/69 Report from County Councillor - see Appendix A

20/07/70 Report from District Councillors. EDDC Cllr H Parr talked through her report – *See appendix B.* Cllr Arnott reported that there is a huge amount of work going on at East Devon, meetings are being rescheduled in an attempt to catch up, and there is a cabinet meeting on 21st and a planning meeting this week. The chief executive will give a talk on regional governance as at the moment it is unclear who is running what. A paper will come out this week to reorganise local government, the upper tier is primarily formed by the main government party but the district is not which makes things complicated. Market towns may become key when it comes to ruling an area. Local government advice is still leaning again meeting in public. There is a big strategic meeting due to be held on 23rd. GESP (Greater Exeter Strategic Plan) is out for consultation, there has been a big shock at how substantial the developments are, Axminster would be increased. Cllr West asked if work on the GESP had been held behind closed doors up until now. Cllr Arnott explained that it had been officer lead, he raised his concerns in a letter last year. Usually if you are trying to develop a plan your first steps would be transport links, education and climate impact. Here the first move was to look for sites. There was a series of meetings last year and there is a very large chasm between the governments pushing for cleaner living, cycle to work schemes etc. but how would they connect to Axminster? It was a mistake to develop this under the radar as now the public are having a big shock.

20/07/71 Highway Matters.

- a) **Email response from Stephen Kelly RE Colyton and Colyford traffic issues.** Cllr West stated that the response is disgusting, they are not planning on helping with any issues raised. Cllr Parr agreed and stated that we need to push for more help. Cllr Jones suggested this be a n item on the next full agenda, this was agreed by everybody.
- b) **Temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking – Ref TTRO2036036 – on Monday 28th September the road from Morganhayes cross to Gurnsey Corner, Colyton will be closed for a maximum of 5 days. This is considered necessary to replace one existing pole.** Noted
- c) **Temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking – REF TTRO2036059 – From Friday 3rd July – Thursday 23rd July Silver Street will be closed. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable roof repair works to The Colcombe Castle.** Noted

Cllr Real pointed out an issue of parking for Coly Vale residents while work is continuing along the Coly Road. The houses that face out onto the front of the road have no alternative parking and residents are being forced to park a long way from their homes. A letter received last Monday stated that the works could last a further seven weeks. The company behind the works have been extremely informative and helpful in keeping the road open but don't seem to have considered the parking issue, could we invite them to use part of the bottom half of the PMPF parking for non-heavy plant machinery and some storage to free up some space along the Coly Road? Cllr Parr stated that as Caterpillars are open it would need to be a small section of the bottom half of the car park only, this was agreed. Cllr Real proposed a letter be written to the company, seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all, Cllr Watts abstained from voting. Cllr Real to draft letter and send on to clerk.

Cllr Pady bought up the issues of potholes at Lishams Drain getting worse, apparently Stephen Kelly is aware but could this job be bought forward? Cllr Parr said that could be bought up at the next meeting when it will be an item on the agenda.

20/07/72 Report from Meetings Attended. None

20/07/73 Correspondence

- a) Email - EDDC Corona Virus updates for residents and businesses. Noted
- b) Email – The Rural Bulletin. Noted
- c) Email – From EDDC Cllr H Parr directed to Cllr R Watts. Cllr Watts proposed that this be discussed in-committee, this was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.
- d) Email – From South West Water in response to letter sent regarding the sewage network, reassurance has been given that the network can cope with all the new housing developments. Cllr Hay stated that SWW are treating the Council with contempt, this is not a satisfactory response and he does not believe the sewage system is at all fit for purpose. During heavy rain the pipe over ground along the river footpath leaks and the manhole covers along Coly Road rise, these is a something drastically wrong with the system and SWW need to come back to us and explain how they can say the system is still capable to deal with the rising population in Colyton. Cllr Pady pointed out that the joints supporting the pipe are under great pressure and the pipe is now sagging, the pillars are also crumbling there is a c=very real risk of the pipe collapsing. Cllr Parr stated that SWW did a site survey last year and found that everything was ok. Cllr Watts suggested that the Environmental agency be informed, they will investigate and then if needed, force SWW into action. Cllr Parr agreed and asked Cllr Hay if he could draft a letter to be sent out before the next meeting so it can be approved. Cllr Jones suggested it be emailed out before the meeting. Cllr Hay agreed.
- e) Email – Greater Exeter Strategic Plan update. Noted
- f) Email – Devon County Council – How we will manage an outbreak of Covid-19 in Devon. Noted
- g) Email – Neighbourhood Watch July Newsletter. Noted

20/07/74 Finance

Minutes of the meeting held Monday June 22nd (Appendix F) to be noted

Accounts to be approved for payment

DD Opus Electricity 0.77p VAT 0.04p Total 0.81 pounds.

DD Talk talk Telephone and Braodband 35.00 VAT 7.00 Total 42.00 pounds.

BACS Halcyon Landscapes Ground Maintenance June 2020 501.66 VAT 100.33 Total 601.99 pounds.

BACS Halcyon Landscapes Verges – May cut 198.00 VAT 39.60 Total 237.60 pounds.

BACS Viridor Waste Management 146.75 VAT 29.35 Total 176.10 pounds.

BACS Mr J Tharp Contract P3 scheme, strim surface vegetation Total 310.00 pounds.

BACS South West Water 13.04 VAT 2.60 Total 15.64 pounds.

BACS Hammett Associates Annual Internal Audit 500.00 VAT 100.00 Total 600.00 pounds.

BACS R and H signs two playpark information signs at Road Green and Colyford Total 172.00 pounds.

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

- a) Pizza Van charges. Cllr Real proposed that we do not charge for the use of the site, he stated that they would only find somewhere else to go and the location is perfect as there is plenty of space, plenty of places to park and the area is not usually used at that time of evening anyway. It brings something positive to that end of town too, also it has been hard times for businesses recently and we should be supporting where we can. Cllr Watts seconded this proposal and it was agreed. Cllr Jones did state that this should be under review however.
- b) £149 banked from the Tennis Courts. This was last collected in September 2019. Clerk explained that the annual expected income for the tennis courts according to the budget is £300 so the fact that we have this amount already while the courts have been closed is a positive.
- c) Picnic site sign – quote of £35 for large picnic site sign and £8 for the small arrow sign to be attached to post at Seaway Head. Cllr Watts proposed this quote be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Pady and agreed by all.
- d) Quote from Larslarj to replace damaged wooden slats reported by external playground inspection, £19 for timber plus delivery which will be approx. £25. Cllr Watts proposed we accept this quote, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.
- e) VAT return for the first quarter submitted successfully. Noted
- f) Clerk sent letters to Mr Slade of RS Homes regarding compensation for the Emergency bus on 3rd June 2020, it was signed for on 5th June and had no reply, clerk sent a follow up letter on 28th June, it was signed for on 1st July, no reply so far. Cllr Jones proposed we review this at the Finance meeting, seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by all.

20/07/75 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 22nd June – (Appendix G) to be noted

a Planning Applications

20/1128/LBC Horriford Farm Holyford Lane Colyford – Mr Elsey - Conversion of redundant shippen and stable to single unit holiday let accommodation and demolition of agricultural shed. Cllrs West and Pady have both declared an interest in this application so will not vote. Cllr Pady however has knowledge of the Farm and so spoke for information only – The application is very well put together, it is an historic building with historic features which he hopes will be kept. Cllr Denny pointed out that although the proposed works are to buildings that are not listed, the main farm buildings are, and consequently the proposal falls within the curtilage of a listed building. The application form states the proposal is for Planning and LBC consent. Cllr Denny also pointed out that the past works that applicant has done appear to be of a good quality. Cllr Watts asked if there would be a traffic aspect to consider with this application. Cllr Real confirmed that the road leads to a dead end so traffic is not an issue. Cllr Denny proposed the application be supported, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.

20/0934/FUL Alaska Lodge Stafford Barton Swan Hill Road Colyford – Mr Langdon - Proposed conversion and alteration of barn to form 1 residential dwelling, formation parking area and associated works. Cllr Denny stated that this application is not dissimilar from the previous application of the same reference which was discussed at the planning committee meeting on 26th May 2020. Therefore the comments made then would still stand, that was to not support. Cllr West proposed that the previous comments be resubmitted and the application not be supported, this was seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all.

b Planning Decisions – to be noted

20/1041/FUL 9 Burnards Field Road Colyton – Mr Challis - Convert front garden into a level driveway and associated works. Approved with conditions.

20/0738/FUL Land to The East of Lamorran Hillhead Colyton - Ms Connell - Installation of small storage shed in association with the use of existing land for agricultural purpose (allotment) Approved with conditions.

20/0711/FUL Hillhead Orchard Hillhead Colyton – Mr & Mrs Speller - Replacement new four bedroom dwelling on site of existing bungalow. Approved with conditions.

20/1415/PRETDD 21 Old Manor Gardens notification of tree works to be carried out, these works are an exception to the Conservation Area Legislation as the trees are deemed to be dead and dangerous therefore works are to be carried out in the interest of public safety. Works include crown lift of trees by target pruning to gain a clearance of 2.4m over a footway and 4.2m over the road only. Cllr West asked why only five days' notice is given for these applications. He stated that this particular tree seems to have been in the same state for years so why the sudden rush now? Cllr Arnott asked if Cllr West could email him his concerns and he would find the right person at East Devon to direct them to. Cllr Watts also pointed out that if East Devon believe this tree to be a threat to public health and safety then the Parish Council should be informed of the risk and also what steps if any will be taken to safe guard the public until the necessary works are carried out and the area is deemed to be safe once more. Cllr West agreed and said he would include that point in his letter to Cllr Arnott.

c Planning Correspondence

Communication regarding the possibility of 20 houses being built at Lewis Haye (formerly Sellers Grave) on the corner of Love Lane and Old Sidmouth Road, above Hillhead. When merged with Seaway Head would create 40 house estate on Green Wedge Land. Cllr Real stated that we cannot comment on this until an actual planning application is submitted.

Three Cemetery applications have come in, all for additional inscriptions, all are standard applications and Exclusive rights have been purchased. Cllr Denny proposed these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Pady and agreed by all.

20/07/76 Amenities

- a) Annual Parish Inspection date to be reviewed. Cllr West proposed that no inspection should happen this year but do an inspection early 2021. Cllr Clifford stated that the Allotment Holders are asking for an inspection and Cllr Pady stated that it is very important as it picks up on items that would be otherwise missed. It was voted to be deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Willow tree branches dangling in the River Coly by PMPF. Cllr Pady suggested we ask John idf he could do the works? Cllr Parr stated that it is a big branch and will need a chainsaw and tractor. Cllr Clifford stated that is could not be done now as birds are nesting in that area. This will be deferred to the next meeting for discussion.
- c) Dog Fouling – Cllr Hay. Cllr Hay pointed out that up at Ridgeway there is a serious problem with people either not picking up after their dog or bagging the mess and leaving it either in people's gardens or on the side of the road. Cllr Pady suggested more signage to appeal to people to be responsible dog owners, he stated that EDDC used to have a dog warden to enforce this but that is no longer the case, signs are available from EDDC at no cost. Clerk to contact EDDC for signs and Cllr Hay to place them where he thinks is necessary. Cllr Denny also pointed out that two signs up the picnic site would soon be coming down as the new sign goes up so they could be recycled.
- d) Application for polytunnel up at the Allotments. It was agreed that as long as the tunnel is in proportion to the size of the plot and does not block neighbouring plots of sunlight and is no bigger than tunnels on other plots then this will be approved.
- e) Memorial seat location. Cllr Denny found two suitable locations up at the picnic site for a bench to be put. One contains an old wooden bench that needs replacing anyway and already is on a concrete plinth, the other is a nice spot but would need a concrete plinth installed. It was decided that Cllr Pady would contact the family to inform them of both options and costs involved to see what they would like.
- f) Picnic site maintenance. Cllr Denny explained that the picnic site shelter has been damaged by a falling branch, tiles are missing from the roof and guttering is looking a bit flimsy, also some wooden slats are missing from the sign at the entrance. Clerk to contact John to have a look and see what he can do.
- g) River bank erosion on FP7. Cllr Parr stated that this is the Environment Agencies responsibility and not a Parish Council problem. Cllr Pady to alert them of the issue. There have been reports of rats on the allotments, Cllr Pady to contact the pest control officer at East Devon.
Cllr Clifford raised the point of a volunteer gardener being needed for the Govers Meadow gardens, this will be advertised in the Coly Times when it is up and running again.

- 20/07/77 Councillor Advocate Scheme invite (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)** Cllr Watts has volunteered for this as Communications champion, this was agreed, Cllr Jones requested that if any elected member represents the council on an outside body cannot attend then please could they notify the clerk who will attempt to find an alternative.
- 20/07/78 Mill Field** Cllr Pady proposed an Amenities committee meeting be held on the 27th July after the Finance and Planning meetings to discuss this further. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.
- 20/07/79 Dolphin Street Toilets** Cllr Arnott explained that the reason the public toilet had not opened on 6th July as was the original plan is because somebody drove their car into the back of the block, this meant the toilets had to be checked to ensure they were safe for use. There has been a long term internal damage however the outside does need plastering. The opening date for the disabled toilet is now 20th July – there is no date at present for the other two – the disabled loo will be cleaned four times a day by a member of staff who will have to come over from Seaton. It is not so much about the money as it is the personnel now, there is not enough staff to pick up all the extra work required. Cllr Parr stated that only having the one toilet open is not acceptable. Cllr Arnott explained the volume of traffic and the use is low, the demand is not high enough, he suggested the Parish Council open the toilets at the PMPF or that the Feoffees open the town hall for the toilets to be used. Cllr Parr replied that the problem is not a Parish Council or Feoffees responsibility, it is East Devon's. Cllr Real stated that when the disabled toilet is opened then signs should go up explaining that it is for everybody to use, Cllr Arnott agreed that would happen. Cllr Arnott stated that we need to remember that we are in the middle of a national emergency, EDDC have a shortfall in funds of £2.5m, other Parishes are helping to pay for the cleaning, and Seaton are one of them. Cllr Real confirmed that Sidmouth Council are paying EDDC to clean their public toilets.
- 20/07/80 Reece Strawbridge Centre** Cllr Hay explained that the sewage system is now sorted. A meeting was held last Thursday but there are still some major issues to be discussed including getting the heating fixed. Cllr Arnott stated that Cllr Hay is always very negative with the Reece Strawbridge committee, it needs to be remembered that they are all volunteers who do a really good job, all matters are in hand and people like Mark Mann do a very good job. Cllr Arnott also questioned why this is constantly on the agenda for discussion, they have sorted the insurance as requested, monthly reports are not requested from the social club or the library for example. Cllr Parr stated that we still have not seen the insurance. Cllr Arnott stated that he would produce the insurance certificate for the next meeting and then would write to the PC to request that this item be removed from every agenda.
- 20/07/81 Neighbourhood Plan update.** Cllr Real stated that there was nothing to report.
- 20/07/82 Communications – Cllr Watts.** Cllr Watts stated that the second issue of the PC newsletter was now out and has received some very positive reviews, he thanked all Councillors who had participated and urged those who had not to feel free to add to the next issue. Thanks was extended to the whole working group. The clerk reported concerns from the webmaster. The newsletter currently requires a Mail Chimp sign up but the webmaster does not understand why a copy cannot just be published on the PC site for people to look as if they wish to without signing up for anything. Also the newsletter is not publishable as it is due to the criteria that all Parish Council websites need to have an accessibility statement published by September, some of the writing on the newsletter is on a coloured background and so therefore does not pass the requirements of an accessible website. Cllr Watts confirmed that there had been teething problems as with any new venture and that the working group would liaise with the webmaster before the next issue is due out to resolve any issues.
- 20/07/83 Emergency Meeting Held RE opening the Playparks.** An emergency zoom meeting was held on 1st July 2020 to discuss opening the playparks. Minutes were sent out. Cllr Pady proposed they be approved, seconded by Cllr West and agreed by all. The minutes will be published on the PC website.
- 20/07/84 Meetings after July.** Cllr Parr stated his wishes for the meetings to be as public as possible and for some people, meeting using zoom is not possible therefore he would like to get back to meeting in public as soon as we can. However at least 6 of the Councillors are classed as at risk to Covid-19 so at the moment meeting in public is simply not possible and so at least for August the zoom meetings will continue. Cllr Real agreed with this. Cllr Watts stated that maybe at some point a blended solution would emerge whereby some Cllrs could meet in person with the shielding Cllrs joining from home via zoom.
- 20/07/85 Matters to be taken into Committee** Cllr Watts proposed we go into committee to discuss the email received from EDDC Cllr H Parr, this was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all. The members of public left the call.
- 20/07/86 Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published** – to be noted. Charles Hill volunteered to speak on the PCs behalf at an upcoming meeting, Cllr Real proposed that is not appropriate to have a non-Cllr speak on the PC behalf, this was seconded by Cllr Watts. Cllrs Arnott and Pady declared

an interest here as they are members of the Colyford Land Trust. It was agreed that Cllr Parr would draft a letter and give it to the clerk.

20/07/87 Dates of future meetings

Finance, Planning & Amenities Committee – Monday 27th July

CPC Full meeting – Monday 10th August

Meeting closed 21:15.

Appendix A

County Councillor's Report, July 2020

Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee I took part in this committee on 16 June, the first meeting since the pandemic began. The overall picture is that things have moved too slowly at most stages, mainly because the local situation has been dependent on the flawed national response. Here are my key takeaways (and some of my inputs):

- Devon's overall death toll is lower than the national average – but we still have had more deaths in Devon than they've had in Australia and New Zealand combined.
- The care home death toll (half of all deaths) is less would be expected given the community infections. This suggests that the County Council's operation to support care homes may have helped. But in March, Devon NHS still followed the infamous national directive to discharge hospital patients into care homes without testing. It is likely that this helped cause some outbreaks. Only when I pressed was there any acknowledgement of such possible failings in the early part of the pandemic.
- Devon leaders have been pressing the Government, together with other local government leaders, for more local management of the crisis (as I and others were arguing in April) and this has influenced Government policy for the next phase of the pandemic. However although Devon is a 'beacon council' for the new tracing system which was supposed to be running by June 1st, we are still waiting for it to be fully functional. So although we now have very few cases of Covid-19 in Devon and we could effectively track, trace and isolate every new case, it's not clear that we're actually doing that.
- The big takeaway of the pandemic for the CCG is the advantages of e-consultations with both GPs and hospital consultants. While I recognise that they can indeed help all concerned, I questioned (in the light of complaints made by constituents) whether they might not also exclude some people, and said research was needed on how they affected access to services. I worry that the shift to e-consultation might have contributed to the drop in demand for urgent non-Covid services, which may cause people to miss out on crucial treatments.
- I pressed on the need to separate care homes from clinical provision, and for regular testing of people coming into care homes, as well as staff and residents, to enable family visits to resume. I was assured that work on these issues is in progress ... but yet again it depends largely on national guidelines.
- I also pressed on 'elective' treatments, especially surgery, much of which already had long waiting lists before the pandemic. I asked for a plan to resolve the backlog, and was told that this was being addressed (but nothing concrete).
- It is recognised that the provision of services (and the Devon NHS Local Plan) will need to be revised in the light of the pandemic experience and post-pandemic challenges. There was a lot of emphasis in the papers on doing things locally ... we didn't get to discuss this, but this will be a big issue over the coming months. I intend to press for new roles for our community hospitals.

Stop Line Way cycle route Negotiations are still continuing with the landowner for purchase of the land needed to link up the route in the Wetlands, with funding in the County's 2020-21 budget for this. There is also £500,000 in the 2021-22 budget to complete the Seaton-Colyford section. However the County's Transportation team has stated to me that despite the recent national funding for cycle schemes, Devon is prioritising urban areas, and that as far as the Stop Line Way is concerned, *'The position remains the same that we have no intention to commit further resource to the remainder of the route, based on current funding and other County Council cycling and multi-use trail priorities.'* They have also referred me to an earlier reply: *"In terms of the rest of the route, I can see there are some challenges in securing a continuation of the route across the Common (avoiding re-joining Seaton Road and passing through Colyford on Swan Hill Road) as there are likely to be Environment Agency and land acquisition constraints making this section problematic. Similarly, there are constraints with continuing the route along the Axe valley with floodplain and tenant farmers on land between Cownhayne and Whitford, therefore I would suggest the alternative of using quiet lanes still enable onward links through to Kilmington where it joins the off-road section through to Axminster. With limited annual funding and limited Government grant funding for such schemes, I'm afraid there is a limit to how much progress we can realistically make."* I have said that I'm not satisfied with this

and will continue to press. But it looks as though we may need more ambitious national financing for cycling programmes to make progress.

Seaton Seafront Enhancement Scheme As reported last month, I facilitated the overcoming of the Highways obstacles to commencement of Phase 1 of the scheme. However due to the Covid situation, Seaton Town Council is now unable to commence before the existing planning permission runs out on August 7th, and will decide at its meeting on July 1st whether to submit a new application for the project. I have also been discussing how with EDDC colleagues how to progress the scheme, which will greatly improve the seafront and make it more attractive both for residents and visitors.

Appendix B

EDDC Cllr Helen Parr **District Council Report July 2020**

Seaton Discovery Centre- extension of garden/outdoor area and path linking to Wetlands.

Ward members were given an update on this project which is part of the vision for the Seaton Discovery Centre/ Wetlands, rebranding of Seaton as Natural Seaton, emphasis on the Great Outdoors, Jurassic Coast.

The garden/ outdoor area at the Discovery Centre will be extended alongside the Car Park and Skate board park/ Playing Field with a path leading to Sheeps Marsh and the Wetlands. The area will be landscaped with Interpretation Boards, children's activities eg. Balancing logs, bark rubbing etc. and provide a link from the Discovery Centre area to the marshes leading people to explore the Wetlands.

The gardens will be accessible alongside the carpark for public to picnic, but access into the Discovery Centre will be controlled with a gate.

Negotiations are underway to acquire the land needed for access to Sheep's Marsh.

A Planning Application was submitted, 3 July, public can comment in the usual way.

Devon Wildlife Trust is putting together a funding bid to the Rural Development Projects England Fund, deadline end August. There is also some funding in the Budget.

Dolphin St.Toilets

The disabled toilet is to be reopened 20 July. This is to be welcomed but in the meantime the lack of any public toilets is causing unacceptable public health problems to businesses, residents and visitors.

I have requested information from the Finance Portfolio Holder as to the financial contributions made by other towns towards opening more toilets- so far no information. Other towns have not contributed towards the opening of a first tranche of toilets, they are being asked to help finance the opening of more facilities elsewhere in the towns.

As Colyton still does not have a single facility open I think it is unreasonable to request a financial contribution. It is very disappointing that the district council is not doing its bit in supporting businesses/tourism in Colyton.

Helen Parr

District Councillor