

Minutes for the Colyton Parish Council Meeting
held Via Zoom on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7PM.

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

Also in attendance: Cllr H Parr EDDC Councillor

Members of the Public: 6

20/09/12 Welcome by Chair

20/09/13 Receipt and Approval of apologies for absence: S Haines (Clerk) on holiday

20/09/14 Police Report. Not received once more. Cllr West reported that the Parish Clerk had submitted a complaint regarding this continual lack of information from the Police.

20/09/15 Declarations of Interest. Cllr West declared an interest, as he is a member of the CVRA.

20/09/16 Public Question Time (maximum 15 minutes) A member of the Public asked if the River Coly was now clear of slurry contamination. The Chairman responded that the last recent flood after heavy rain has cleared the River. Cllr Arnott reported that the Environment Agency are currently checking the River Axe, and that a further Report from them is imminent. The same member of the Public stated that he and other residents of Colyford were concerned that once the new Tramway Station is opened on the Wetlands, that there would be an increased use of the access route into and out of the Wetlands at the Seaton Road/ Popes Lane junction. As a result further safety measures are required to protect pedestrians and cyclists using this access. There should be an HGV/Bus and Coach restriction, a speed bump or depression, possibly cobbles, a speed reduction in Seaton/Colyford Road down from 60 MPH to 30 MPH. There is also a need for a cycle lane in Seaton Road Colyford, as there is excess traffic, parking, and pedestrians and cyclists.

Another Member of the Public asked if it would be possible to move the forthcoming Xmas Fayre from the Peace Memorial Car Park to Market Place, as this is a much more attractive setting, and encouraged more business in local shops and businesses. The Parish Clerk to contact the Caterpillars, who are the Organisers, upon her return.

20/09/17 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10th August 2020 Proposed by Cllr Watts, and seconded by Cllr Denny

20/09/18 Matters arising from the Minutes There were none

20/09/19 Report from County Councillor See *Appendix A*

20/09/20 Report From District Councillors. Cllr Arnott has sent his report See *Appendix B* There are meetings in EDDC regarding improvements to Transparency and Best Practice for the future. In future if a Developer and his Team meet with EDDC Planning, then Minutes of the Meeting must be taken and be available if required. Regarding the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, it is ongoing, and there is now a proposal from Central Government to change to a Unitary Devon Council with a Mayor, and possibly disband District Councils.. There may be some assistance to ladies who missed out on Pension Payments in the 1950s. Leisure East Devon (LED) has financial problems as a result of a lack of financial support from Central Government. Cllr Arnott also reported that Covid 19 infections were on the rise in the area, and that there was a lack of testing facilities in the region. Cllr West asked where the Military had disappeared to in recent months, who were assisting with testing in places such as Honiton.

Cllr Helen Parr sent her report see *Appendix C* she reported that there were 2 Central Government White Papers, one on Planning Issues and changes, and the other on Unitary Councils. The government Planning White Paper recommends the building of 1600 homes in East Devon, compared to the 900 planned by EDDC, especially as a large area is AONB registered land. Cllr Watts stated that the recent David Attenborough programme was looking for a reduction in development, not growth.

Cllr Parr advised the Council to register their thoughts on the 2 White Papers.

20/09/21 Highway Matters Cllr Jones reported that, together with Cllr Hay, had attended a Traffic Group Meeting via Zoom, but that there were Zoom connection problems, and the Meeting finished prematurely.

Cllr Hay stated that the Lishams Drain problems must be addressed without delay. Cllr Pady had visited the site with a local expert resident who considered that this spring water could possibly be

diverted to the Council Allotments. Cllr Pady also reported that Stephen Kelly, DCC Highways was keen to visit the site with an Engineer.

Cllr Jones stated that the so called refurbished area opposite the White Hart was in a very overgrown state, but that Mr Kelly stated that DCC Highways do not plan to carry out any remedial work there at all.

Cllr Real pointed out that much of the promised yellow line work had not still been carried out by DCC, and the Parish Clerk will be asked to write to Stephen Kelly about this.

20/09/22 Report on Meetings Attended Traffic Group Meeting covered in Highways Matters above. Cllr Watts reported that at the AGM of the Colyton Memorial Social Club, it was stated that £10K had been received as Covid 19 compensation as reimbursement for the Covid 19 closure.

20/09/23 Correspondence

- a) Email – The Rural Bulletin
- b) Email – Farrington Neighbourhood Plan reg 16 consultation.
- c) Email – Invitation for applicants for the DALC board of Directors.
- d) Email – Reply from Colyton Grammar School RE bus concerns.
- e) Email – EDDC Corona Virus Update.
- f) Email – DALC AGM. Would anybody like to attend
- g) Email – EDDC Statement of Licencing Policy 2021 – 2026 for consultation.

Cllr West reported that a resident of Elmwood Gardens was unable to gain entry to Elmwood Gardens for at least 15 minutes, as a direct result of the parking queue of School Buses at 3.20 PM. Her only alternative was to return to Seaton for 30 minutes until after the buses had left. In her words, this is unacceptable to deny access to her property, and must be resolved. Cllr West was asked to compose a letter to Colyton Grammar School on behalf of the Council.

20/09/24 Finance

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 24th August (Appendix J) to be noted
Accounts to be approved for payment

DD Opus Electricity. Not Received.

DD Talktalk Telephone and Broadband 35.00 VAT 7.00 Total 42.00 pounds.

BACS Infotone Printer Ink 38.90 VAT 7.78. Total 46.68 pounds.

BACS Lars larj Spare plank for PMPF equipment 19.00 VAT 8.80 delivery 25.00. Total 52.80 pounds.

BACS Viridor Waste management 66.20 VAT 13.24. Total 79.44 pounds.

BACS MNR Mowers Starter assembly for strimmer 20.15 VAT 4.03. Total 24.18 pounds.

BACS Infotone Printer Ink 28.68. Total 28.68 pounds.

BACS Halcyon Grounds maintenance August 501.66 VAT 100.33. Total 601.99 pounds.

BACS Minerva Signs Sign for the cemetery 32.00. Total 32.00 pounds.

BACS Symonds and Sampson Letting of land at Stafford Cross 656.00 VAT 131.20. Total 787.20 pounds.

The above accounts were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Pady seconded by Cllr Jones

- a) Please note Viridor and Infotone bills are cheaper than expected, this is due to a missed collection by Viridor and a returned ink cartridge to infotone giving us credit.
- b) Lopping of trees along PMPF pavement £220 approved Proposed by Cllr Real, seconded by Cllr Pady
- c) Second half of precept received of £28,760.00.
- d) Stafford Common the requested information from Symonds and Sampson was not forthcoming, but the lease was awarded by the Chairman only. Cllr Watts asked if the Parish Clerk had sight of, witnessed, and signed the Lease Agreement. This can be confirmed or otherwise on the

- Clerk's return.
- e) Kittles Trust Cllr Jones proposed that this be dealt with in Committee seconded by Cllr West, unanimously approved.
 - f) Clerks Leave delayed to next Finance Meeting when Parish Clerk is present. Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Parr, who also proposed that this be discussed in Committee at the end of this Meeting.
 - g) Donation to Axe Valley Ring and Ride agreed to donate £300 Proposed by Cllr Real, seconded Cllr Jones.
 - h) Cllr Pady informed the Council that he had committed £73.93 for rat boxes and bait, for the rat problem in the Allotments.

20/09/25 Planning

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 24th August – (Appendix K) to be noted

a Planning Applications

20/1442/FUL Land At Colyford Common Colyford Road – L Taylor - Construction of new tramway halt, pedestrian access bridge, ramp, timber walkways and associated works to provide pedestrian link to Seaton Wetlands. Cllr West pointed out that this site is in Colyford, and is therefore part of Colyton Parish, not Seaton, as stated in the Planning Application. Cllr Arnott declared an interest as he is Leader of EDDC.

Cllr Pady explained that the pathway from the new Tram Station to the Wetlands has been moved as a result of possible ground movement on the original Application pathway.

Cllr Pady also asked if the landowners, the Colyford Burgesses have been informed. Cllr West undertook to inform the Burgesses.

There were concerns regarding egress from the Wetlands onto Seaton Road Colyford which is very dangerous, and requires some Speed and Safety measures to protect movement in and out onto Seaton Road.

Cllr Pady also stated that DCC and EDDC between them pushed the original Stop Line Way Multi-user path through the planning stage without any regard for safety in this area.

Cllr Pady proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Clifford.

20/1776/FUL 5 Grove Hill Colyton - Paul and Victoria Millman and Sims - Construction of two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Cllr Denny proposed a site visit. First floor is larger than ground floor, more investigation required. No decision made at this stage.

20/1810/TCA 21 Old Manor Gardens Colyford - Mrs F Watton - T1, Horse chestnut: reduce and thin due to leaf miner T2, Horse chestnut: reduce and thin due to leaf miner T3, Ash: remove T4, Beech: formative prune T5, Cherry: remove. Cllr Watts proposed that we support the Application as described in the Cllr West Site Visit Report, seconded by Cllr Real. There is 1 amendment that we agree that the Ash Tree also be removed. A further Site Visit now arranged by Cllr Denny.

20/1758/FUL & 20/1759/LBC Colyton Guide Association Hq Rosemary Lane Colyton - Mr Sweet - Change of use from meeting hall to single residential dwelling. Proposed for approval by Cllr Denny, and seconded by Cllr Real. Agreed by all.

20/1792/FUL Japonica Kingsdon Colyton – Ms Williams - Replacement Dwelling. It will be a new house after demolition of the existing property, but larger than before. There is rising ground behind the property which will make it hidden from view from most areas.

It was proposed by Cllr Denny that a site visit be made, seconded by Cllr Watts, who would accompany Cllr Denny.

20/1847/FUL Ashdown Farm Seaton - Mr & Mrs Diepenbroek - Single-storey side extensions, balcony to frontage, general fenestration changes and associated works. It was agreed to recommend approval subject to a site visit by Cllr Denny. The current property is already quite large, and is not overlooked from other properties
Proposed approval by Cllr Denny, seconded by Cllr Pady.

20/1859/LBC 1 Lilac Place Vicarage Street Colyton – Mr & Mrs Camm - Works to outbuilding: remove block work pier; repair and repoint existing stone and brickwork; remove existing door and window and install 2 windows and 1 French door on north east elevation; plaster and insulate interior walls and ceilings; insulate door and tile and insulate floor. Internal works to house: install fire surround and mantle to fireplace in sitting room; remove top 2 door panels and remove internal plywood covering to front door and replace top 2 panels with glass; replace flooring in kitchen/utility area with reclaimed flagstones.

20/1887/FUL 1 Lilac Place Vicarage Street Colyton - Conversion of garden outbuilding to studio. Cllr Denny proposed that approval is recommended, seconded by Cllr Clifford

b) Planning Decisions- to be noted

20/1422/TCA Colyton House Vicarage Street Colyton – Mrs Parr - T1, Copper Beech:
Fell Reason: This tree is growing beside a stone wall and a larger Black Walnut. There is not enough space in the location for both trees to continue to mature without negatively impacting on each other and the wall. Replant within the garden with a crab apple, flowering thorn or similar fruit bearing tree. APPROVED.

20/0985/FUL Land At Farwood Barton Colyton – Mr Hurford - Construction of slurry lagoon. REFUSED.

20/0837/FUL Land Adjacent To Lower Cottshayne Colyton – Ms Ponsford - Installation of an 18 panel/6KW ground mount solar PV system. APPROVED with conditions.

c) Planning Correspondence

Memorial Application Approved, proposed by Cllr Watts, seconded by Cllr Jones
Butlers Pizza Van Sales request. The Council agreed that the PMPF Car Park area is very busy on a Friday, and there is already a Pizza van there every Tuesday. The town centre already has a Pizza Shop, and on Fridays, another business is selling pizzas. Cllr Real proposed that the Council refuses this request, seconded by Cllr Gardiner.

20/09/26 Amenities

- a) Allotment Water Supply deferred until 28th September Amenities Meeting Proposed by Cllr Denny, seconded by Cllr Real
- b) Millfield lower hedge to be laid Cllr Pady to compose a specification to facilitate quotations.
- c) Memorial seat for the late Mr Board The Chairman stated that he had met Mr Board Jnr, who has requested that a new Memorial vandal proof bench be positioned at Green Bridge Gardens on a concrete plinth if one is not available currently
- d) All Allotment notices have been sent out. There has not been a response from one allotment holder. It was agreed that no further action will be taken until the next full Council Meeting.
- e) There are still complaints about noise from the Skate Park ramps, which are also in need of repair, as one area is no longer fixed to the ground. Our handyman has done all he can to try to resolve this problem, but is still in need of repair. Cllr Real proposed the Parish Clerk contacts the original

Supplier of the Ramp, as they are the experts, and will provide a solution to the problem. This was seconded by Cllr Jones.

f) Thanks to Cllrs Pady, Jones and Watts for emptying the bins while John was on holiday.

20/09/27 South West Water- To remain on the following Agenda to keep the issue to attention

20/09/28 Communications from EDDC regarding the 6 month law regarding Councillors attending meetings It was agreed to leave this for discussion at the next full Meeting.

20/09/29 Public Question and Council Meeting Time Limits After some discussion, it was agreed that Public Question Time would be limited to 15 minutes, with a maximum limit of 3 minutes per person if there were quite a few Members of the Public wanting to ask questions. However if there were only 1 or 2 members wanting to ask questions, then the 3 minute guideline can be extended, but remain as a maximum of 15 minutes overall. Proposed by Cllr West and seconded by Cllr Jones

It was also agreed that a guideline of 2 hours should be agreed for Council Meetings. Final decisions and changes to Standing Orders deferred until the next full Meeting.

20/09/30 Website Accessibility Statement. The draft with minor changes including changing the wording from Town Clerk to Parish Clerk was approved. Proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr West.

20/09/31 Open Council Meetings to re-commence in October. Proposed by Cllr Hay. The Chairman stated that as a result of the recent Covid 19 restrictions to a limit of 6 persons, it would not therefore be possible at this time, and Zoom Meetings will continue for the foreseeable future.

20/09/32 Neighbourhood Plan The Chairman suggested that the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) should now be put forward for the Regulation 14 consultation by the residents of the Parish, but asked if anyone wished to speak. Cllr West stated that as a member of the CVRA and a Councillor, he had stood back from any recent discussions between the 2 parties, so that he could consider the NP as a Councillor. He stated that he considered that it was very important for the Parish Council to consider and agree the NP before submission to Regulation 14. It is important for the Parish Council to ensure that they are happy with the content before it is released, as the Council will now be fully responsible for the NP. Cllr West then proposed that as the Council Meeting had already taken up a lot of time, that the Council agree to hold a Special full Council Meeting to discuss and approve the NP before release, which should only last for about an hour or so. Cllr West did have some important items for discussion which affected both Colyton and Colyford, his Proposal was seconded by Cllr Jones.

Cllr Real proposed an amendment to the proposal to submit the current draft NP to regulation 14 as currently written with a 10 week consultation period without any changes. The Chairman then asked for a vote firstly on the amendment Cllr Real said come on Colytonians which Cllr Arnott said you cannot say that, he apologized and withdrew his comment the vote was taken which was carried by 6 votes in favour 5 against and therefore the NP will be submitted for regulation 14 consultation in its current form. The Cllr West proposal was therefore set aside.

20/09/33 Matters taken into Committee

Clerks leave

Kittles Trust

20/09/34 Dates of future Meetings

Finance, Planning, and Amenities Monday 28th September

Full CPC Monday 12th October

The meeting closed at 21.45

Appendix A

County Councillor's Report, September 2020

Covid-19 Situation Although we have had a consistently low level of infection in East Devon over the last three months, a recent small group of cases in Seaton and Axminster - resulting from residents returning from overseas holidays, rather than tourists in our area - reminds us all that the pandemic is not over. Despite the failures of the Government's national track and trace system, Devon's Public Health team seems to be dealing effectively with local issues. As cases pick up nationally and schools (rightly) return, it is vital that everyone, including

younger people, maintains social distancing and wears face masks in crowded spaces outdoors as well as in indoor environments.

Grammar School transport Following contact by Colyford residents, I took up the question of how Colyton Grammar School will manage travel to school in the new situation, and Mr Harris, the headteacher, has given me the following information: 1. Students will be advised to wear face coverings when walking to and from the bus stop 2. The arrival of the buses in the mornings are usually staggered and there will be staff on the main road, in Elm Farm Lane and at the crossroad (Gully Shoot, Whitwell Lane, Stafford Lane, Elm Farm Lane) to supervise students 3. At the end of the day we are staggering the departure time by 5 minutes to allow for the west bound students/buses to depart first and then the east bound 4. Again, at the end of the day there will be staff at the bus stops, in the Elm Farm Lane and at the crossroad 5. Where Students are being collected from school parents are advised not to arrive in the car park before 3.50pm to allow the students who use buses to clear the lanes The school will, of course, be following Government guidelines.

Effects of climate change on infrastructure I have been working with the chair of the residents' group in Manor Gardens, Seaton, to deal with repeated flooding at the junction with Fore Street and its effects on their private road. I have met with South West Water on site to discuss their responsibilities in this situation. With flooding getting worse because of climate change, the issues are of wider relevance.

Effects of increased visitor numbers I have raised concerns about the continued closure of toilets at Seaton Hole and alleged 'camping' in parking bays on Seaton seafront.

Online meetings There have been no County meetings during August, but it has been decided that all meetings will continue to held online until at least the end of 2019. I am not attending indoor meetings, but I am available to meet constituents in outdoor settings where necessary, as well as discussing on the phone or by email.

Appendix B

COLY VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT PAUL ARNOTT SEPTEMBER 2020

The new administration

It has been a privilege to have been Leader at East Devon District Council for more than the fabled "100 Days". There has been no alternative in the current circumstances than to work 14 hour days, 7 days a week. The reasons for this are:

- i) to ensure that local people are being well-served at district, county and regional levels during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ii) to ensure even in this context that the changes people voted for in May 2019 - when a ruling party 45 strong in 2015 was reduced to 19 – are actually enacted

Probity in Planning

As Leader I have announced at council and instructed the CEO that we wish EDDC to become a beacon council for transparency and best practice in Planning. Work is now underway to ensure this, but my first instruction was that landowners and developers will not now meet with councillors and officers without minutes being taken and agreed, then filed for the record. Similarly, any communication arising from such meetings to aspiring landowners/developers will henceforth be agreed by all who attended.

The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan

At the end of last month just over a third of councillors voted against EDDC leaving the GESP project. Arguments will be made by that third that we will lose control of our housing

supply numbers, that we will not be able to apply up the line for infrastructure funding, that by leaving we are hastening a “Unitary Devon”, even that it was undemocratic to leave without going out to consultation over plots for tens of thousands of houses with no compelling evidence that there would be any wider benefits.

All these arguments were wrong. Our housing supply is at nearly six years and the motion to leave also instructed officers to make **immediate progress with our revised Local Plan**. Regarding infrastructure money, this will most likely come through the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, to whom we co-applied with Exeter for £5m which was awarded a few weeks ago for expansion of starter company facilities at the Science Park. We can and will still be able to win central government funds.

Regarding a Unitary Devon, this is highly complex and we await the White Paper on the subject very soon, but the recent contributions from the two local MPs, Messrs Jupp and Parish, inevitably back Mr Cummings plan for abolition of local democracy in favour of it being carved into bigger more compliant chunks. I do not believe this will happen in Devon, but a lot of good people’s time and public funds will be wasted debating it.

As to the idea that it would have been “democratic” to spend thousands of pounds of public money going out to consult when the only ones to gain would be the landowners/developers of the sites suggested (who could argue an “emerging” status) this is an ill thought-out parroting from a minority angry that their scheme is now frustrated

The Planning White Paper

A Strategic Planning meeting next week will receive Officer’s responses to the government’s consultation. This is as disruptive, centralising by instinct, and half-baked as the ideas for Unitary Councils or for the GESP. We will be challenging the government hard on this

WASPI Women

This is the cohort of women born in the late 50s who have been denied access to their pensions and associated rights following Mr Osborne’s Austerity measures. Many have been making do and mending and the pandemic has made this eve harder. I was pleased to back a motion at Council leading to my writing a letter to our local MPs asking for them to take action on this matter

Council Finances

After many meetings we feel that the council’s finances are on an even keel – for now. Our greatest burden is Leisure East Devon (LED), which is asking for more than a million pounds to survive. The government has covered 75% of these costs for councils who have kept the Leisure provision “in-house” but unfortunately when the Conservatives at EDDC “out-sourced” the district’s leisure services they neither provided for a rainy day whilst also in effect offering the money raised from public taxation as the ultimate guarantee. We will find a way through this, and for all the many users and excellent staff we pledge our support. Again, we have written to the Local MPs – we have no news yet, however.

S106 and CIL

We have ordered a full audit of these, to look at practices both in the present day and historically. Colyton was just one of many parishes and towns who were unable for years to get clear information about community entitlement to these developer contributions. This will now change, and a new software package should improve record keeping and action.

Covid-19

The coming weeks will show if the country is about to return to national or localised lockdowns. One or the other seems inevitable. I sit in meetings of Regional and County Leaders being briefed on the latest developments. We are well-prepared in the region, hospitals standing ready. But very many questions asked by Leaders of the Public Health figures are still answered with “we don’t really know”. This is not their fault – the testing system in East Devon at schools where symptoms are showing directs parents to Cardiff. There are nowhere near sufficient testing kits available in our residential homes or schools.

We may be exhausted by the last six months, but we may need to redouble efforts soon.

Appendix C

District Council Report- Cllr Helen Parr Sept 2020

The Strategic Planning Committee 16 Sept will consider two government White Papers proposing changes to the current planning system. Consultation is now underway.

1. Changes to the current planning system.

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s9472/changes%20to%20current%20planning%20system%20Aug%202020%20consultation.pdf>

The proposed way of assessing housing need is of particular concern.

If accepted, it would result in a 67% increase in housing requirement for East Devon- 1614 houses per annum, up from approximately 920.

Matters for consideration- if, how and where can such numbers be accommodated? Much of East Devon is protected landscape/ AONB.

What would be the impact of such a scale of development? eg. on infrastructure- roads, schools, health care etc?

Will the proposed levels actually be built, and if not what are the implications?J

Other proposals-

Changes to the Affordable Housing requirement.

There is also a proposed Fast route to secure the principle of development for housing on sites without having to work up details first.

2. Planning for the Future White Paper - proposals to speed up and modernise the planning system.

3. EDDC continues its financial support work and work with external partners supporting residents and businesses during the pandemic- See the website Corona Virus Hub for latest updates.