

**Minutes for the meeting of Colyton Parish Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>  
February 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Colyton Town Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs S Real, A Mills, C Pady, K Clifford, A Parr, C Denny, A Stenning, J Gardiner, R Turner and J Hay. Also S Haines (clerk)

**Members of public:** 7

**22/02/54. Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence:** Cllrs H Parr and Arnott (attending EDDC meeting) Cllrs K Mills and A Jarman (prior engagements)

**22/02/55. Declaration of Interests.** None

**22/02/56. Public Question time** (maximum 15 minutes) Public did not wish to speak.

**22/02/57. Colyford Governance Review.** Cllr Real spoke about the clarity of the map stating that he has had many phone calls from confused and upset residents, the map is appalling, it is unclear as there are no estates named, it ought to have been done using an ordinance survey so it is clearer. The proposed boundary is huge. Cllr Pady clarified that it is an arbitrary boundary, it was drawn up by himself years ago when the Mayor wanted to know the boundary, it is not official. He stated that the total area of the current boundary is 10 square miles, the proposed boundary would take out 2.5 – 3 square miles. The result of a split would be 18 Councillors needed and he is concerned about the number of volunteers available to come forward, there are already volunteers needed in Colyford for the Goose Fayre committee and the Memorial Hall Committee that they cannot fill so who will stand for Councillor. It would also produce a huge duplicate in work load, there would need to be two clerks, two handymen, duplicate meetings. It would result in Colyford having an extremely part time clerk so items between meetings could easily be missed. Also fewer meetings so deadlines for responses could be missed. Cllr Pady also commented that as of now, there are four Councillors who are from Colyford who are available anytime and a clerk who mans the office most days so the Council is very accessible. Cllr Gardiner asked if the map is set in stone, Cllr Parr replied that it is not, comments can be made on the boundary during filling out the survey and the EDDC legal team will have to decide on an official boundary based on responses.

Cllr Real commented that the proposed boundary takes in land at Stafford Cross which is owned by the CPC and brings in a lot of money, that money is used to maintain the cemetery. Cllr Parr stated that a Parish Council can own land which is situated in another Parish,

Cllr Clifford stated that the boundary used for the 'Beating of the Bounds' has changed from when he was little to now indicating that there is no official boundary.

Cllr Parr stated that he has had many calls from residents who are on the outskirts of Colyton who consider themselves as being from Colyton and are now suddenly being looped into Colyford and they are very unhappy about that.

Cllr A Mills spoke as a resident of Colyford, he stated that he is extremely concerned, the documents being posted through his door seem to be anonymous, they have the logo of the Borough on them but it appears this is nothing to do with the Burgesses which is creating confusion. These leaflets are full of information which, from a personal view of being a Colyford resident and attending Council meetings as a Councillor does not ring true, in his view Colyford is never 'voted down on' or 'misrepresented' there are four Councillors who live in Colyford and they are never 'outvoted' just because they are from Colyford. The Councillors take into consideration the facts that are presented to them and make a decision which is fair and informed. This review is creating uncertainty and division and a lot of concern with the older generation. Cllr Pady confirmed that he has asked for the logo to be taken off as this review does not have the blessing of the Burgesses who are separate from the CVRA. Cllr Pady also added that the flyer makes it seem like all the issues of Colyford will be solved with a separate Council, the CPC have tried for years to get the traffic issues resolved and the buses moved. The new Council would have to go down the exact same channels as we do now.

Cllr Gardiner raised issues about the proposed budget, it seems incorrect, we know how much we pay for verge cutting for example and it isn't what they have written down, seems flawed so more incorrect information being circulated.

Cllr Real pointed out that residents living outside the Parish have to pay double to be buried in the Cemetery, this would be the case for Colyford if they split away, Cllr Denny agreed and stated that this

would be the same case with the allotments, people from Colyford would only be allowed a plot if there was nobody from the Parish on the waiting list.

Cllr Gardiner also raised concerns over the Steering Group. They have to be independent, this steering group was put together by the CRVA, the very group pushing for the split, which is not allowed as the CVRA could be seen as a pressure group and EDDC need to be aware of this.

Cllr A Mills stated that the information put out to residents to even begin the Governance Review was incorrect and flawed, it needs to be stated that Colyford and Colyton residents are seen as equal and there is no bias towards either.

Cllr Parr mentioned the Neighbourhood Plan, stated this was a united effort, it protects Green Wedges and was voted through with an overwhelming majority, a great example of both communities working together to protect itself.

Cllr Turner is concerned what the split could mean for the amount of money currently being spent on amenities within the Parish. The Green spaces, sport and leisure facilities are there for ALL to enjoy, with less income the standards to which these places are kept will have to slip, this will be detrimental to the young people and the community as a whole. Cllr Pady also raised concerns over the maintenance of the footpaths and bridleways which the Parish Council currently undertake alongside DCC.

Cllr Stenning stated a concern that if the independent Council were to form and then not have enough volunteers or money and it had to fold, they would not be allowed to come back to Colyton, they would get absorbed in EDDC.

Cllr A Mills stated that as many people as possible need to be encouraged to complete this survey.

It was decided that Cllr Parr draft a letter to be sent to Cllr Clifford and Cllr A Mills for review, then to be circulated and posted out to ALL residents.

**22/02/58. Items brought to the CPC's attention after the agenda had been published** – Site visit/plan needed for Millfield as Wildlife Trust have advised Pile can be cleared carefully now by hand. Cllr Pady will ask Mr Voysey to park his trailer next to the pile to commence clearing by hand carefully. He will confirm costings with Mr Voysey.

Am waiting to hear back from Wildlife Crime officer RE burning hedge cuttings at PMPF but could we keep waste for Jubilee beacon? Burning of hedge cuttings can be done before 1<sup>st</sup> March.

A tree has fallen at the allotments. It was agreed that Arthur can burn it now at Millfield on the site for the new car park. Far away from the pile!

**22/02/59. Matters to be taken into Committee**

**22/02/60. Dates of future meetings**

Finance & Planning – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Full Meeting – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March