

Issue date: 26th February 2025

Parish Clerk To: Members of Colyford Parish Council

You are hereby summonsed to an **Ordinary Meeting** of **Colyford Parish Council** on **Wednesday 5th March 2025 @ 19:00hrs At Colyford Memorial Hall Committee Room** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

Clerk to Colyford Parish Council clerk@colyford-pc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

2. APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS INTERESTS-To receive any Councillors' declaration of interest in respect of items on the agenda. Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or disclosable pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.

4. MINUTES-To receive, and resolve to approve as a correct record the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2025.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

6. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

See report from Paul Arnott below.

7. PUBLIC SPEAKING-To receive any comments from members of the public relating to the Parish Council or on any future matters the Parish Council may wish to consider. (The Chair reserves the right to restrict this item to no longer than 15 minutes at any meeting, with a maximum of 3 minutes per speaker).

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED- to receive and action any matters arising from the correspondence list as appropriate (Council may also consider any correspondence received after publication of this agenda)

Email from AS requesting renaming of footpath.

9. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS-(Council may consider any applications received after publication of this agenda)

22/2781/MOUT - Land Adjacent To Harepath Road Seaton Devon - on the agenda for consideration by the Council's Planning Committee at their meeting on 25 February 2025.

25/0305/CPE - Birch Grove Colyton Hill Colyton EX24 6HY - Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate (CLUED) for occupancy of a dwellinghouse in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition (condition 3 of permission 7/79/78/1826/36) at Birch Grove, Colyton Hill, Colyton, EX24 6HY.

10. CONSIDERATION OF HIGHWAY MATTERS-(Council may also consider any notifications received after publication of this agenda)

- Potholes at Far View Lane/Springfields

11. POLICE ADVOCATE REPORT-Cllr Wheeler

12. MEETINGS ATTENDED AND INVITATIONS RECEIVED-to report back on any meeting attended not covered under

any other item and advise of invitations to meetings received -

13. FINANCE

1-Payment Schedule-to receive and agree to approve the payment schedules

-Regular Payments-DD to Simon Martin for payroll services-£20 paid XXXXXX DD HG3 for mobile phone £9.41 paid 10.02.2025

Payment of Wages and HMRC made on 6.02.2025

Payment to Memorial Hall for room hire of £22 made on 18.02.2025

Payment to Apple for extra storage at 0.99 per month processed on 24.02.2024

2-Bank Receipts

£20.88 Interest payment for deposit account paid on 10.2.2025

£137.20 Bank compensation received 6.02.2025

£424.55 Bank compensation received 24.02.2025

3-Bank Reconciliation- to be signed off by authorised Parish Councillor. Up to 28.02.2025

-Current Account – £XXXX

-Deposit Account- £XXXX

5-Assets – any changes to be noted.

6- Banking -Update on application for Clerk. Approval required to buy extra storage for laptop on cloud.

14. PARISH MAINTENANCE

1-Village Maintenance-to receive details of any additional works carried out since the last meeting and to consider works required

-Play park maintenance as outlined in annual report-Cllr Priestley

2-Footpaths

-Missing posts & signs-reported to Devon Highways PROW- Clerk chased again still on list

-Obtaining cutting quotes for 2025- ongoing

3-Maintenance Management Plan

- Noticeboard on wetlands

15. COLYFORD PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN-Cllrs to report on progress of items allocated to them on Action Plan

1-Ambassadors for AONB-Cllr Manton

2-Road Safety-Cllr Watt

3-Cllrs to give update on items allocated to them

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-to receive requests from Councillors for future agenda items

17. AOB

- Heritage Trail – see plan distributed
- Hall shed for storing resilience plan resources
- Final dates for meeting and speakers in April. 2nd Annual Parish Meeting 9th normal meeting
- Telephone kiosk – decide on replacement insurance amount
- Clerk – 5.41 days leave owed. Approval sought to carry forward to 2025/26 or have paid in March pay.
- P3 Footpath scheme – paperwork to be agreed and signed

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Part B)-To agree that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, to consider and agree that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item(s) of business.

19. CLOSE OF MEETING

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 2nd April Annual Parish Meeting @ 19:00hrs and Weds 9th April @ 19:00hrs At Colyford Memorial Hall

In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 all attendees of the meeting are hereby notified that the meeting will be recorded as an aide memoir for the Clerk when compiling the minutes. The recordings are held securely and are deleted after the resolution that the minutes are a true and correct record.

Members of the public should be aware that being present at a meeting of the Council or one of its committees or sub-committees will be deemed as the person having given consent to being recorded (photograph, film or audio recording) at the meeting, by any person present.

Councillor Paul Arnott: Coly Valley Report

February 2025

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

On December 16th 2024, the government belatedly published its White Paper regarding the above. It is fair to comment that it has caused confusion and chaos in the already defunded and crisis-ridden local government sector across the country.

Unfortunately, Devon County Council seized the opportunity to ask to cancel this May's elections on spurious grounds, and last week they were told by government they had failed in this. All Conservative members voted for the cancellation, which would have resulted in them serving a further year, probably two, unelected. Many of them will now be standing for election in May after all having tried to avoid that democratic process.

The challenge ahead now is for Devon councils to revert to government by the end of March with ideas for reorganisation. This would be to form what will be known as "Principal Authorities", or new Unitaries, to replace the abolished County and District Councils. Discussions are being had daily on this. Those ideas would be expected to be worked into firm and granular proposals by the end of November.

A further challenge is that these Principal Authorities must sit under new Strategic Authorities which will have a Mayor elected by the residents of that area. The minimum number of people set by government is 1.5 million, and Devon alone is not big enough for this. One option is to form a Strategic Authority with Cornwall, but Cornwall Council and its MPs are taking a hardcore line that they do not wish to join with Devon.

In those circumstances, and if government defies its own policy by allowing Cornwall to go it alone with a population of under 550k, Devon may need to seek a deal with Somerset and Dorset and beyond. We shall see.

Crucial to all of this is that the voices of Parish and Town Councils be heard as proposals begin to be developed. There are opportunities and risks to them in this process.

Colyford Local Government Reorganisation order

It was said at a Colyton Parsh meeting recently that the prospect of local government reorganisation may have some retrospective effect on the process of forming Colyford Parish Council. This is not the case, and perhaps this should be made clear to save further confusion.

- The governance review was a “process” made legally and within the required time limits under the Colyford (Reorganisation of Community) Order dated 11th January 2023
- Under the legally approved Colyford Governance Review process, the Stafford Cross fields were vested to the new Colyford PC through legal consultation at stage 3 of the CGR. Colyton PC failed to take notice of the proposal to do so in the Statutory framework of the consultation.
- This was reinforced on 22nd November 2023 at the High Court, Administrative Order AC-2023-CDF-000048 when Colyton Parish Council’s challenge was refused at the permissions stage. The High Court refused permission for three reasons:
- First, the claim was not prompt and was brought late. Second, the community governance review did not exceed the 12-month period. Third, even if it had exceeded the 12-month period, the alleged consequences do not follow
- Regarding land at Stafford Cross, the transfer of the field was covered by the Schedules to the Colyford Reorganisation Order (RO). The RO is an “output” from the CGR process and is not related to the time schedules applied to the CGR “process”. Therefore, some Colyton councillors are casting a mistruth by relating the RO transfer within the timescales of the legally binding CGR process
- Colyton PC cannot seek to administer the Stafford Cross fields since they are within the Colyford PC boundary set by the CGR.
- There is no evidence that under the forthcoming review of local councils that parish boundaries are to be brought into consideration at all.