

## **Minutes of the meeting of Colebrooke Parish Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present** – Cllr. Smith (Chairman); Cllr. Manning; Cllr. Enderson; Cllr. Wallace; Cllr. Charlton-Anne; Cllr. Hann; Cllr. Green; Cllr. Johnson; District Cllr. Letch; Cllr. Gaston; District Cllr. Binks; 2 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence:** None

**2) Declarations of Interest:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declarations of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Mid Devon District Council within 28 days of the change. None declared.

**3) Public Discussion:** An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 10 minutes. Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when the Council is in committee.

Parishioner regarding connectivity in Coleford and how poor it is. He discussed how this is affecting his business. Cllr. Letch responded that he is taking this up with the relevant people in County Hall. He will take the information given and action. It would appear that Airband are suffering from long installation delays.

### **4) County & District Councillor Reports (for information only)**

County Cllr. Letch's report circulated to councillors 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Mentioned a TV report about larger councils suffering from bankruptcy. Roads mentioned and the poor state they are in. The locality fund has increased to £8,000 for 24/25. Applications open at the end of April.

District Cllr. Binks reported that the budget for Mid Devon has been balanced. Overall council tax has gone up by 4.77% - this includes all tax bands. Some monies received for tree planting; this is for established trees not whips. Recycling is good at 54% and Mid Devon is in the top 10 in the country. Cllr. Hann questioned how much extra income comes in from all the new homes within the district. Extra income is used to service the rural areas. Mentioned the State of the District Debate to be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**5) Chairman's Report (for information only)** – Millennium Triangle has 2 picnic benches (wood) that are becoming unsafe. Will be checked next week and repairs or removal initiated.

**6) Minutes** –the minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**7) Asset Committee** – to consider the formation of an assets committee. To consider the creation of an assets map of the parish. Cllr. Smith will create a map. Asset committee on May agenda.

### **8) Playground –**

- i. A grant has been provisionally allocated to the Council from the Suez fund, subject to further documentation sent 6<sup>th</sup> March. The grant has now been confirmed, so works can go ahead.
- ii. Maintenance funding for the annual safety checks/repairs. To consider monies to be entered into the reserves account and to be ring-fenced.

**9) PLANNING** – Mid Devon District Council have asked for comments from the parish council on the following planning applications –

i. 24/00120/FULL Installation of 22 ground mounted solar panels, Penstone Barton, Colebrooke. Colebrooke Council welcomes and accepts the benefits of this installation, in both climate and practical ways. However Council feel that due to the high position on the hillside it will stand out in an otherwise green landscape.

This is something that residents, including the applicants, were very concerned about with a previous planning application on the same hillside. The applicant in that case subsequently moved the array further downhill to reduce the impact on the landscape.

As such, Council ask that the Solar Panels be moved downhill, or be suitably screened to remove the harsh visual impact.

**Sent to Planning 15/02/2024**

ii. 24/00427/00429/00421 Erection of a building over silage clamp(s) A; B & C, Land and buildings Brocks Farm, Colebrooke.  
Supported.

**Decisions –**

- i. 23/01954/FULL Erection of a dwelling and garage following demolition of existing barn (Barn 1) Pennyland Farm, Yeoford.  
APPROVED
- ii. 23/01956/FULL Erection of a dwelling and garage following demolition of existing barn (Barn 3), Pennyland Farm, Yeoford  
APPROVED
- iii. 22/02838/LBC Listed building consent for installation of wood burning stove and flue; installation of replacement first floor windows on north elevation and removal of internal wall. Spencer House  
APPROVED
- iv. 23/01652/FULL Erection of agricultural livestock and storage building, Easterbrook Lane  
APPROVED

## **10) FINANCE**

<b>Expenditure</b>	Linden Lea – grass cuts February	£160.00	BACs
	VisionIct – annual website hosting to 2025	£161.26	BACs
	Employment February & March	£501.86	BACs
	Clerk’s expenses Q4	£123.20	BACs
	PAYE Q4	£125.60	BACs

No expenditure incurred during February so no bank statement.

Council resolved to accept the accounts as presented. Proposed by Cllr. Smith. All in favour by show of hands.

**11) Policies** – to consider and update the following polices as necessary.

- a) Complaints Policy (last reviewed 2020) some amendments to be made; May agenda.
- b) Asset Register Policy - agreed
- c) Risk Assessment Council - agreed
- d) Risk Assessment Open spaces - agreed

**12) Town & Parish Charter** – this is between Mid Devon Council and towns/parishes and is up for checking and renewal. Council comments welcome. Already made.

**13) Devolution in Devon** – Consultation on the creation of a Combined County Authority closes on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Any comments as local council voices are welcome.

**14) Memorial application** – Nora Clemence. Agreed.

**15) Clerk’s Report (for information only)**

- a) Your clerk has 4 holiday days (a week) left to take before the end of this holiday year. Please may I either push this into the next holiday year or receive payment instead. Taking this forward to the next holiday year.
- b) Andy from Linden Lea Gardens is happy to continue to cut various grass around the parish in 2024 for the same cost as this financial year. However he does say he will need to increase prices in 2025.

**Items for information**

**Date of next meeting** - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall. APM first 6.30pm.  
Meeting closed at 8.27pm

**Information emails**

Roadmap Newsletter (sent 23/01)                      DALC Bulletin 03 (sent 25/01)  
Devon Climate Emergency February newsletter (sent 13/02)  
ConnectMe Devon News (sent 13/02)              DALC Bulletin 06 (sent 15/02)