Colaton Raleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Colaton Raleigh Village Hall on Monday 9th March 2026

(Draft Minutes – the minutes will be signed as an accurate record at the next Parish Council Meeting)

Present: Cllr. R. Clay (RC) - Chair
Cllr. Christopher Pound (CP) – Vice Chair
Cllr. Stephen Manley (SM)

In attendance: Clerk – Harriet Pipkin
Cllr. Melanie Martin (MM) -East Devon District Councillor
Cllr. J. Bailey (JB) – Devon County Council
Danuta Joyce (DJ) Footpaths Officer
Members of public – 2

26.iii.1 Apologies

Apologies accepted:

- Cllr. J. Hart
- Cllr J. Papworth

Apologies noted: Ed Suttie (Footpaths Officer)

26.iii.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

26.iii.3 To consider co-option of member/s to the Council to fill Casual Vacancies currently outstanding

No current interest.

26.iii.4 Minutes of previous meeting

No comments.

26.iii.5 PROGRESS REPORTS

a) **Refurbishment of MUGA –** Final sand dressing will be applied once the weather improves. This has been pencilled in by Outdoor Carpets. **Action:** Clerk to pin down a date

b) **Playpark fence repairs –** Works have been completed by Halcyon Landscaping. This has been completed and it is a nice job. However, line wire to be tightened. **Action: Clerk to request for this to be done at their next visit.**

c) **Replacement/repair of toddler swing considerations around new playpark equipment –** Currently, no site visit has been scheduled. Clerk has been working through previous quotes from Creative Play and Wicksteed and has approached to have site surveys completed. Funding needs to be accessed in 1 package to maximise sec106 funding. **Action: Clerk to chase and book in site surveys for Spring**

d) **Village Tap (Meadow Way) –** it had been reported that works to widen a driveway, which have been completed, have removed the supporting flint wall for the tap near Meadow Way. CP has assessed this, however has not approached the owner of the house. The brickwork could do with some form of render to seal it and prevent damage. This would require advice from a contractor – it is noted that there is one booked to complete work at the church.

e) **Signs to Village Hall & Church (RC) -** At our November Parish Council meeting we discussed the request from the Village Hall Committee for help with signs at the centre of the village, to direct people to the Church and Village Hall as visitors to the village have trouble finding them. The Parish Council were in support of the idea and the possibility of fixing signs to the bus shelter was suggested, which is located at the junction.
The Village Hall are keen on this idea and Nick Sweet was commissioned at this Monday's Village Hall meeting to investigate how this can be made to work and develop proposals for a sign. The initial ideas for this are that it will probably be in the form of a double sided arrow pointing down Church Road and fixed to the Bus Shelter just below roof level. **Action: RC to work with Nick Sweet to try a mock up to see what it looks like, to be fixed to the bus shelter at the top of Church Road.**

26.iii.6 MATTERS REQUIRING DISCUSSION

A. **Grant application from Exmouth & District Community (£116.98) -** Email received from Exmouth and District Community Transport Group on 20th January 2026. This outlined support offered for locals who may be unable to drive or walk far. They have not increased their grant amount this year and have requested the above sum from our parish to support this service. Parish Council will start to advertise their service on website and noticeboard to ensure residents know the details. Support approved.

B. **Finalise arrangements for APM (Monday 20th April 2026) -** A speaker from Otter Valley Association (Peter Williams) booked to come and complete a talk regarding the ORCA water testing and campaign. He will provide a 30 minute presentation including a Q&A. Tea coffee and biscuits will be provided.
Action: Clerk to advertise APM and speaker locally (Facebook/website/notice board) – also to speak with OVA for image and information to use on posters.

C. **Proposal for the movement of the bus stop on Exmouth Road to accommodate a shelter -** Following the previous meeting, there has been a number of emails sent to the clerk regarding the proposal for moving the bus stop. This is proving a concern among local people, regarding safety of passengers disembarking and crossing the road at an already busy junction. The reduction in parking has also sparked concerns. This has now been fed back to Devon County Council for feedback from highways. However, there is no plan to go ahead with any design at this stage. There is only exploratory plans to find a suitable and safe solution, which benefits local people.

D. **Village Pound –** RC and CP have separately, and shortly before the meeting, inspected works which had been reported to have taken place. It was agreed that in its present condition is not satisfactory. The roof (not original) has now been completely removed, exposing the original A-shaped flint wall cappings. The North and South walls appeared to be in reasonable condition but that against the lane, seemingly, of an older vintage, is in a very tender state and requires serious attention. Some very amateur 'pointing' has been attempted in the vicinity of the N.E. corner where a steel strap has been placed. have been raised around contacting East Devon County Council for advice on listing a building. However, this is unlikely to be supported. It was also noted that nobody should be trying to remove any further ivy etc. from the stone as this may create further damage. **Action: Clerk to explore what the process is for getting buildings listed with EDCC.**

E. **Insurance Renewal (£636.37) -** After exploring quotes, the renewal price from Zurich was the cheapest. Quote agreed. **Action: Clerk to process renewal.**

F. **Hedges along Church Road -** There have been reports that for certain properties, hedges are encroaching on the carriageway along Church Road. It was discussed at the last meeting to speak with Devon Highways about this and report the issue. **Action: Clerk to email Tom Cox from Highways, copying in Cllr Jess Bailey.**

G. **General waste being left the land behind 1 Hardys Court -** Reports of waste being left at this site were raised at the last meeting. It was discussed that this may not be something which can be acted on due to the space being private land. The amount of waste being left seems to have reduced recently. The land and has been visited by Environmental Health previously and just needs to be monitored and re-reported if required.

H. **Jubilee Memorial Tap**

I. **Restoration of the plaque -** CP has possibly found another contractor and will pursue and feedback in due course

II. **Replacement of the grille below from further damage (SM)** Photographs have been sent to contractor, who is yet to be able to complete a site visit. Bases discussed previously would not be suitable to attach grille to so this may need re-thinking. Highways to be consulted re protective stones. Old photos have shown a curb standing 3"/4" above road level, a height advantage which has since been lost through re-tarmacking of the road.
Action: SM to speak with highways regarding the possibility of restoration of how protective stones were used previously.

26.iii.7 PLANNING MATTERS

a. To consider applications/appeals received

i. **26/0228/FUL – Froginwell Vineyard, Sanctuary Sleeps Sanctuary Lane Woodbury Salterton Exeter EX5 1ET**
Construction of a pod to be used as an office/laundry - No comments or objections

ii. **26/0281/FUL – Oaklands Garage, Oaklands Service Station Sidmouth Road Aylesbeare EX5 2JJ**
Removal of structures and provision of valeting hub with three jet wash bays and EVC hub, and associated works
Concern was expressed by councilors regarding entry and exit points to the garage at present, due to a number of incidents along this particular stretch of road. Implementation of a one way system within the garage forecourt and improvements to signage on the main road, before an expansion would be the recommendation. A query was also raised around noise levels/hours of operation – there is a boundary to a residential dwelling next door.
Action: Clerk to submit comments to EDDC

b. To consider applications received after agenda publication (subject to circulation prior to meeting
None.

c. To note applications/appeals/comments since the last meeting (considered under delegated authority)
None.

d. To note approvals/refusals by EDDC since last meeting
None.

26.iii.8 CORRESPONDENCE (not already circulated) and any response/s required

A. Dave Gibson – Flood Monitoring - Local resident Dave Gibson, has created a water level monitoring system. He lives next to the stream by the playpark and has often felt concern over water levels rising rapidly. He is currently in the testing stages of this equipment, however has recently gained some traction with the Environment Agency with the project. Dave has asked if someone from the Parish Council, who oversees the emergency plan, would be interested in learning about the device and being added to the notification distribution list for high water levels. Dave very kindly brought along print out of project and explained his hopes for the flood warning system. More information can be found on LinkedIn.

B. Local Government Reorganisation in Devon proposal – Devon — Devon LGR The Government has opened a formal seven–week public consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in Devon. This runs until 26th March 2026.
This consultation will inform how local government across Devon, including Exeter and its surrounding areas, may be structured in the future and where responsibility and accountability for key decisions will sit. Full details of the consultation and how to respond are available via the Devon LGR consultation hub which can be accessed at www.devonlgr.co.uk/devon.
Action: Parish council to respond before the deadline with comments. Clerk to research the plan.

C. Connecting Coast and Country Project for the East Devon National Landscape Partnership Team – The Project, funded by National Trails UK, is looking to create three promoted routes along existing public rights of way linking the Coast Path and the East Devon Way and restore and expand wildlife habitats alongside the routes. An important part of this project is to ensure that these routes are accessible to as many people as possible and include shorter circular walks that many people can enjoy. DJ walked Wrinkley Lane walked to Newton Poppleford with the project coordinator Anna Baness, discussing potential improvements which would improve access and the environment. There are Signs already up, which link the East Devon Way to the coast path, but this was not on maps. Part of this walk was to assess gates and fencing and how appropriate they are for accessibility. If this goes ahead, there would be a request for more hedging where there are gaps. However, this would be up to Clinton Devon Estates to consider, as this path crosses their farm land.

26.iii.9 CLERKS REPORT

A. From the 24th March 2026 Barclays are reducing their interest rates on accounts. Reducing by 0.5% to 1.05% overall on a balance from £1 up to £1 million+

B. Site surveys for new playpark equipment are agreed in principle, however companies are awaiting more reliable weather. **Action: Clerk to organise firm dates for surveys**

C. Tree planting at Ashtree triangle has been discussed with the forestry team at CDE and it is felt that this is not the right location for a mature tree.

D. Playpark inspection is due. Last year this was conducted by ROSPA Play Safety. The cost of this will be: the cost will be £83.00 + 9 additional play items at £4.00 each (£36.00), total = £119.00 plus VAT (£142.80 including VAT). Agreed. **Action: Clerk to organise and notify SM of the date to accompany for the inspection**

E. P3 funding forms have been submitted, with thanks to Danuta & Ed for their surveys etc. This includes a request for materials to complete the repairs on the boards for the wooden bridges near the playpark and permissive footpath near Drupe Court

26.iii.10 REPORTS (for information)

A. County Councillor – JB

I. Libraries - trying to stop the cuts. Petition signed by 18,000 has been submitted along with a specific request for changes to be discussed at a specific scrutiny meeting. Date TBC from DCC.

II. Locality budget for groups available

III. Delivery phase for property resilience – flood protection. 23 non-listed properties works to start on 25th march.

IV. DCC are awaiting info from EDCC for listed properties for planning for the works. Suggests Dave Gibson speak with contacts from council regarding his project.

B. District Councillor/s (Report from Cllr. Melanie Martin)

I. MM has chased tree technician regarding the tree on Eden Way. They are awaiting a housing officer to provide funding for tree – however, this has been passed along again due to confusion on who is providing the funding. MM is currently chasing a number of channels, as communications seem to have dropped and there is no clear plan of who is responsible.

II. It was discussed that the PC would like to apply for a TPO for the tree on the junction of Brook Street, however, EDCC have previously said this is not needed as it should have an estate plan, which covers the maintenance. It was decided that expression of concern and that the PC feel this tree is at risk, could push through a TPO. It was also noted that this tree could do with pruning as there are a number of very low branches.

C. Police – JP – No comments.

D. Village Hall – RC

I. Floors have been sanded down and look brilliant

II. New notice boards will be put up asap.

III. Easter Bingo (20th March)

E. Footpaths (DJ/ES)

I. New gate at Dotton end of footpath (f.p.1)

II. Footpath 28 (Wriknley Lane) there are a few footpath signs which need replacing. DCC PROW team are aware

III. CP – following the raising of the matter of possible erosion of the bank on which the lane stands at the last meeting, CP walked the length of the relevant section on the 25th February and could see no signs of such erosion (so far as could be seen from the lane). A section of the stream does flow very close to the base of the bank, but always has done this and does not seem to be encroaching further.

F. Playing Field (SM)

I. SM submitted an assessment report. The bin in the park needs emptying and the equipment is looking very tired, particularly the slide. SM has a new sign to put on the gate to remind people to take their litter home, this will be put up asap. **Action: Clerk to check in Halcyon could empty the bin and continue to book site surveys for new equipment**

G. Highways – (SM/JP)

SM has received a response from Tom Cox in relation to a number of questions:

I. Pedestrian signage looking at extension to be put on a pole from existing sign (check email)

II. Double yellow lines – consultation posters to be put out asap. If approved this will be actioned in 2027

III. Village gateway team will consider other locations as previous suggestion was unsuitable. Unable to offer dates for a site meeting as of yet for this to be discussed

IV. VAS not working RC will try a different battery. This is now out of guarantee. Company have recommended checking battery voltage. If batteries are ok we can send it back to them for assessment via courier (£45 for assessment/£55 for collection and return + VAT) repair costs on top/replacement battery £85.00. still in place as a deterrent

V. There has been a meeting with a Devon Live journalist about issues on Hawkwerland Road and issues with HGVs. Photographs have been taken of the site, along with notes taken

H. Heaths to Sea Landscape Recovery Project – (JH/DJ)

I. DJ attended meeting in Feb for last minute amendments and feedback on the project. It seems at the moment that it is a good proposal – DEFRA will now take 6 weeks to decide if there is money available and if so, what for. There will be ongoing communication to all involved (incl local people). There may be guided and themed walks etc. to involve the community

I. Speed Watch – (DJ)

I. First Speed Watch of the year was in Feb due to bad weather before this. 235 vehicles recorded in one direction, with 2 speeding. 240 vehicles (9th March) with three speeding. (35mph +)

26.iii.11 FINANCAL MATTERS

a. To approve the following payments:

Clerks Expenses	£130.86
North Devon Council (Payroll x2)	£670.04
DALC (Training)	£36.00
Zurich (Insurance Renewal)	£636.57
CRPC Notice Board	£500.40
Parish Magazine Contribution	£30.00
Ring & Ride Grant	£116.98
Halcyon Landscaping (Grounds Maintenance)	£133.19
Halcyon Landscaping (Fencing Repairs)	£714.00
Bus Shelter Cleaning	£165.00 (cheque)

i. **Payments In** - none.

i. **Bank Balances**

Colaton Raleigh Community Account	£7,818.13
Business Premium ME	£20,373.75

ii. **Reserve Balances**

P3	£2686.25
Emergency Plan	£457.34
VAS	£300.00
Defibrillator	£231.52
Playpark Equipment	£966.00
CIL	£6,627.71
Devon Communities Together	£815.00
Contested election	£750.00

26.iii.12 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

I. Village seats – there are a few remaining which could do with sprucing up. Can this be done? Benches were restored last year by The Men's Shed, Ottery St Mary. Which requires benches to be transported. The remaining ones are too big for the current trailer, so there is no way of moving the remaining 4 benches

II. Pub is looking quite shabby on the exterior, could the brewery be contacted for repairs? **Action: to be looked into**

26.iii.13 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

I. CP – during bad weather, there was an ongoing flood at the Monkey Lane junction, by the Dotton Farm buildings. There is a concrete pipe, through the hedge into the field ditch, which is full of debris. This is so full, it may be blocking the pipe
Action: Ditch requires digging out. Clerk to email Tom Cox – include summary of the issue and a pin of the location to get action.

II. Spring tidy up in the village to tidy the main section of the road. Planned for 10:30am Saturday 9th May. **Action: Clerk to create posters and to be discussed at village APM 20th April.**

III. Parish magazine – to be included on May agenda in light of likely increase in cost

26.iii.14 Date of Next Meeting

i. Monday 20th April (APM)

Meeting Closed: 21:47

Harriet Pipkin Clerk to Colaton Raleigh Parish Council,

Harriet Pipkin, Parish Clerk, can be contacted by telephone on 07966 768832
or by email at clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk Website: www.colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk