

# The Parish of Colaton Raleigh

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

### held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr. R. Clay (Chair)  
Cllr. C. Pound  
Cllr. J. Papworth  
Cllr. Stephen Manley

**In Attendance:** Mrs. Susan Tyrrell (Clerk)  
Cllr. Jess Bailey (DCC)  
Cllr. Melanie Martin (EDDC)  
Cllr. Charlotte Fitzgerald (EDDC)  
Members of public – 12

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. John Hart

#### **2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **3. The Chair's Review**

I would like to start by welcoming you all to our Annual Parish meeting and will quickly run through a review of the last year.

We started the year with six Councillors and two vacancies. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Chloe Pawson Pounds resigned and on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Mark Stoye resigned as a Parish Councillor. We would like to thank both Chloe and Mark for their time and efforts whilst Parish Councillors. Whilst we have managed to fill one of these vacancies by the co-option of John Hart to the Council last October, we are now left with three vacancies. Filling the remaining positions is a priority to help share the workload more evenly, and to strengthen the parish council's ability to act effectively on behalf of the community. We are particularly in need of someone to assist with monitoring the playpark.

I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk and the Councillors for their continued efforts to maintain the council and its business. I would like to thank those members of the public who have attended our meetings and contributed fully to council work at sub-committee level and with direct involvement in work on the ground.

I would also like to thank Jess Bailey, our Devon County Councillor and our three District Councillors – Melanie Martin, Charlotte Fitzgerald and Henry Riddell. We would like to thank them for attending our meetings and keeping us updated with District and County Council matters.

Following the flooding on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 our Emergency Plan has been revised. The Parish Clerk and Janice Papworth attended a number of Flood Recovery Group meetings last year organised by the Flood Resilience Team at Devon County Council. These have resulted in the Property Flood Resilience Programme which is now about to be put in place in Colaton Raleigh. If your property is due to be protected or you know of anyone else please can we all ensure that the contact by Devon County Council is not ignored as if they are unable to get a response they will omit those properties from the programme.

The Clinton Devon Landscape Recovery Plan which proposes to improve the wider Otter Valley area for wildlife and for people has secured funding from DEFRA to develop proposals. The Parish Council is part of the Stakeholders group which has allowed us to contribute and participate in the initial development phase of the project. The preliminary proposals are now out for consultation which closes on 18<sup>th</sup> April. This has meant that we can have our say about what we value in the current landscape, what aspects of the countryside we feel are less than ideal and what changes in land management, access, and habitat creation that we would like to see. Janice, John and Danuta have been our representatives at these meetings, and we thank them for their time and input to the proposals.

#### **Planning**

We continue to monitor the emerging East Devon Local Plan and its impact on Colaton Raleigh. Chris Pound attended another workshop, and consultation on the final proposals closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Most of the new housing proposed for East Devon will be located in a new town located between the Westpoint showground and the airport. The towns and larger villages will also carry part of the development load. No new development is currently allocated to Colaton Raleigh.

Some 18 Planning Applications have been considered in the year and our comments have been returned to East Devon District Council.

### **Devolution and Local Authority Reorganisation**

The Government has called for proposals from Local Authorities to reorganise as unitary authorities across Devon. After a brief consultation period the councils of Devon submitted initial proposals to Government on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. They propose the creation of two new unitary councils alongside the retention of Plymouth City unitary authority. One of the new unitary councils would encompass South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon, and Torbay, and the other would encompass East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge, and Exeter.

### **Footpaths**

We extend our thanks to Ed Sutte and Danuta Joyce for their continued sterling work to maintain our footpaths. The path along the river is badly eroded in places and continues to be monitored. The footbridge at Dotton has now suffered erosion and has lost the steps on the far side of the river. It has been closed, and we continue to monitor the situation although it is not in our Parish area. Devon Highways continue to investigate alternative remedial options.

At our meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 there was a very informative presentation about the Definitive Map Review of Public Rights of Way in Colaton Raleigh and how changes will be made. This was given by Thomas Green who is the Devon County Council Public Rights of Way Officer.

### **Highways**

We are pleased that Stephen Manley is recovering from his illness and is again taking an active part in the Parish Council. Thanks are due to Jess Bailey, Stephen Manley and the Highways Working Group for persevering in the battle with Devon Highways to get a proper response to proposals for traffic calming and pedestrian protection in the centre of the village. New local staff at Devon Highways have been engaged in further constructive dialogue and the aid of our local MP is also being sought to resolve the many issues with the Hawkerland Road junction.

We have continued to maintain the mirrors and vegetation at the Hawkerland Road junction to try and improve visibility. Thanks are due to Jess Bailey for providing the funding of new Speedwatch signs which have been erected on Exmouth Road at both ends of the village and the new village entry sign at the southern end of Exmouth Road.

Potholes continue to be a major problem and we are pushing Devon Highways for the resurfacing of the bad section of the main road at the Northern end of the village.

Thanks are due to the Speedwatch team for their tireless work. Their survey statistics show a considerable reduction in speeding through the village a rewarding achievement. They would very much welcome any new volunteers to their team if anyone can afford the time to join them.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Funds**

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 the Parish Council concluded a consultation for the village to find out how the accumulated funds should be spent. The conclusion in order of popularity was to provide a new bus shelter opposite the shop followed by improvements to the playground. There is over £20,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 monies which are available to us if we can develop compliant projects. This money comes with certain caveats and is available for sport, open spaces and infrastructure improvements.

We have tried to take the bus shelter proposal forward but an ownership check with Land Registry revealed that the road verge is not, as is usually the case, in the ownership of the highway authority but actually belongs to British Telecom. We requested permission from the owners to erect the proposed bus shelter and have received a blank refusal. We are now trying to apply more pressure to British Telecom to get the permission required.

*Robert Clay, Chair, Colaton Raleigh Parish Council*

### **4. The Colaton Raleigh Charities**

There were no requests for grants during the year.

The bank balance at the end of 2024 was £648 and share investments amounted to £4177.48.

*Christopher Pound (Trustee)*

### **5. Presentation from Cornwall Mobility given by Emma Hallet – ‘Driving Safer for Longer’**

Emma provided a very interesting and well received talk providing useful hints and tips for safer driving techniques, including the impact of health conditions and medications on driving, following which there was an opportunity to sign up for a free enhancement drive with one of their specialist instructors to help with driving safer for longer.

Further information can be found at [www.cornwallmobility.co.uk](http://www.cornwallmobility.co.uk), email: [info@cornwallmobility.co.uk](mailto:info@cornwallmobility.co.uk) or by telephoning 01872 672318

**6. Open Forum**

No further comments or questions.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm.**

Susan Tyrrell, Parish Clerk, can be contacted by telephone on 01395 568166  
or by email at [clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk) Website: [www.colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.colatonraleigh-pc.gov.uk)

Signed ..... (Chair)

Date .....