

The Parish of Colaton Raleigh

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Mrs. Harriet Pipkin (Clerk)
Cllr Jess Bailey

Members of public – 19

1. Apologies for Absence: No absences recorded

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2025 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.

I'm sure we would all like to thank our Parish Councillors for their continued efforts. We have five Parish Councillors which means that we have three vacancies to make up the full quorum of eight. 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. There are several projects which we would like to progress but this is not possible with the current numbers.

In December we welcomed Harriet Pipkin as our new Parish Clerk on the retirement of Susan Tyrrell.

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.

Thanks are due to the Village Clean up squad who tidied up the centre of the village on Saturday 7th June last year. We are planning another Village Clean Up on Saturday 9th May and would welcome more volunteers to join us, We will meet at the bus stop at 10.00am.

The village also came together in June last year to Open Gardens with seventeen gardens open over two days in aid of Hospicare which raised nearly £8000.

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 9th May 2023 the Devon County Council Property Flood Resilience Programme is now being carried out by their contractor M3 Floodtec to improve the flood resilience of around a dozen properties in the village.

The Clinton Devon "Heaths to the Sea 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 have been submitted to DEFRA and await confirmation so the project can proceed. Danuta, Janice and John 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. Most of the new housing proposed for East Devon will be located in a new town now called Marlcombe and located between the Westpoint showground and the airport. No new development is currently allocated to Colaton Raleigh.

Some 10 new Planning Applications have been passed to us for consideration in the year and our comments have been returned to East Devon District Council.

Devolution and Local Authority Reorganisation

The councils of Devon have submitted several alternative final proposals for the new unitary authorities to Government and the consultation closed on 26th March 2026. A decision from the Minister of State is anticipated in this Summer with elections to the new councils planned for May 2027. The new Unitary Councils are due to commence their work in April 2028.

Footpaths

We extend our thanks to Danuta Joyce and Ed Suttee for their continued sterling work to maintain our footpaths. The path along the river has been badly eroded in places and has now been diverted and fenced by Devon County Council.

The footbridge at Dotton which has suffered erosion and lost the steps on the far side of the river remains closed while Devon Highways continue to investigate alternative remedial options. It is likely to remain closed for at least another year.

Highways

Thanks are due to Jess Bailey and Stephen Manley for persevering in the battle with Devon Highways to get a proper response to proposals submitted to them in 2023 for traffic calming and pedestrian protection in the centre of the village.

Our County councillor Jess Bailey is now assistant chair of the East Devon Highways and Traffic Order Committee (known as HATOC) and I made a presentation to them on 21st July 2025. Janice Papworth also made a presentation to them at their next meeting on 25th November 2025.

There was an on-site meeting with our local MP David Reed on 10th April last year to resolve the many issues with the Hawkerland Road junction. A further meeting was held on 8th October 2025 at Clinton Devon's offices with Devon County Council, the Police, Highways and Clinton Devon to try and find solutions agreeable to all. Devon Highways have agreed to provide double yellow lines in Hawkerland Road to stop parking at the junction although this will only solve part of the problem.

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 the 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.

A volunteer to carry out the fortnightly move and replacement of the battery of the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign on the main road would be welcome as nearly half of the Parish Councillors have carried out this duty for more than two years each and are becoming weary. Perhaps someone living near the main road would welcome this opportunity to help with traffic calming.

Potholes continue to be a major problem and we are pushing Devon Highways for the resurfacing of the disintegrating section of the main road at the Northern end of the village which now planned for 2027.

Thanks are due to the Speedwatch team for their tireless work. Their survey statistics continue to show a 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 13th 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 in spite of several avenues of approach British Telecom have refused permission for it to be placed on their land.

We will now progress improvements to the children's playground.

The Colaton Raleigh Charities.

After the presentation by OVA Chris Pound will update us on the Colaton Raleigh Charities

Murky Waters Hard Truths, the state of our river.

Two years ago Haylor Lass and Geoffry Porter of Otter Valley Association gave us a presentation and told us about a new project to test the water quality in the River Otter.

The results are now out and I am pleased to introduce Peter Williams of Otter Valley Association with their presentation "*Murky Waters Hard Truths, the state of our river*".

Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 11th May at 7.30pm

Robert Clay, Chair, Colaton Raleigh Parish Council

4. The Colaton Raleigh Charities

There were no requests for grants during the year. Investments have remained mostly static.

The closing balance on 31st March 2026 £813.81

Christopher Pound (Trustee)

5. Presentation from Otter Valley Association 'Murky Waters, Dark Truths'

A big thank you to Peter Williams & Jeff Porter the Otter Valley Association for an informative talk on the ORCA water testing project. If you have an interest in following the OVA project and joining as a member, please visit their website at: www.ova.org.uk or email info@ova.org.uk

6. Open Forum

No further comments or questions.

Next meeting Monday 11th May 19:30

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Signed (Chair)

Date