

Minutes of the meeting of Colebrooke Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th July 2025 in the Village Hall

Present – Cllr. Smith (Chairman); Cllr. Green; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Enderson; Cllr. Hann; Cllr. Manning; District Cllr. Chenore; County Cllr. Cairney; 1 member of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk); Cllr. Charlton-Anne.

- A) Co-option to Council to fill a vacancy** – Cllr. Smith proposed Amos Doornbos be co-opted to Council. This was agreed and the forms duly signed.

1) Apologies for absence: Cllr. Gaston. Apologies accepted for the reasons given.

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.

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

County Cllr. Cairney introduced himself and stated that he is still doing a lot of training. The Libdems and the Green party are in charge of the county council. County are looking to take road maintenance back in house in order to facilitate the pothole repairs. Cllr. Hann considers there should be a minimum standard for potholes. 20's plenty signage mentioned. Some clarity to be found regarding the siting of these signs. These signs would only be advisory.

District Cllr. Chenore – Mid Devon Council is one of the top councils in the country for recycling. She is on the Policy Development Group and now vice-chair of the district council.

Cllr. Johnson asked about concrete where big vehicles turn on roads such as is used on plane runways.

5) Chairman's Report (for information only) None

6) Minutes –the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) PLANNING – Mid Devon District Council have asked for observations from the parish council on the following planning applications –

- i. 25/00860/LBC Listed building consent for the installation of 10 replacement windows, Staddons, Colebrooke.
The environmental benefits of reduced heating and cooling requirements through more thermally efficient windows, at a time when the UK is seeking to reduce its overall energy use, are also a positive factor in this proposal. Supported.
- ii. 25/00965/FULL Erection of an agricultural storage building and associated works, land at Staddons, Colebrooke

Results

- i. 25/00623/FULL Erection of dwelling, demolition of agricultural building and associated works, land at Staddons, Colebrooke.
GRANTED

8) Open spaces –

- i. To consider replacing the declining cherry tree – to agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. Manning was thanked for her walk round and report. The cherry tree will be removed and replaced with a medlar. Clerk to action, container grown not bare-rooted.
- ii. To discuss the annual report received from the Play Inspection Company and make any recommendations as to works needed. Cllr. Charlton-Anne. Splits on trim trail timber – this is a natural product. There is a resin available to fill the gaps in the mats when they shrink back.
- iii. The roundabout – for discussion. Cllr. Charlton-Anne. Can we lift it out and grease the bearing? Replacement bearing? Clerk to action with Dragon Play.
- iv. Flood risk at Penstone – to discuss. The car park was bought by Mid Devon Council for the benefit of those who live in Penstone. The recent heavy rains caused flooding in this area. Cllr. Smith will see the owners of the field behind, to suggest halving the bank, installing a gap, this would let flood water out quicker. 10 cars were written off in this recent flooding. This area needs to be future-proofed.
- v. Pothole repairs – 2 ton of tarmac has arrived. August is scheduled to action some pothole filling.
- vi. Bus shelter on the way to Coleford – needs tidying up.

9) FINANCE	<i>Linden Lea – grass cuts May/June</i>	<i>308.00</i>
	<i>Play Inspection Co</i>	<i>166.80</i>
	<i>Employment June</i>	<i>259.48</i>
	<i>PAYE Q1</i>	<i>194.60</i>
	<i>Linden Lea – footpath strimming</i>	<i>110.00</i>

Payments already made.

July payments

Employment July	259.68
Linden Lea – grass cuts	143.00
Clerk's expenses Q1	139.00
SW Ambulance Charity – grant	300.00

Bank statement and Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting.

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

10) Grant Application – request for a grant from South Western Ambulance Charity for £300.00. Proposed by Cllr. Manning. All in favour by show of hands.

11) Policies – to consider and adopt the updated versions of the listed policies: these policies were adopted.

- i. Standing Orders
- ii. Financial Regulations
- iii. Internal Control Policy

12) Clerk's Report (for information only)

- i. The first of three annual reports submitted to Grantscape on the 7th July by email.
- ii. Clerk's holiday from 18th to 29th August inclusive.
- iii. BT Digital switchover – information received that this will be commenced in the south-west this autumn.
- iv. <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>

This is the survey aimed at everyone regarding the above – please take part and make your views known.

Councillors Reports (for information only)

Cllr. Doornbus asked how people without internet blackspots are going to be looked after when ‘voice over internet’ is introduced.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Items for information

Date of next meeting - 16th September2025 at 7pm in the village hall.

Information emails DALC Bulletin 27 (sent26/06)

DALC Bulletin 28 (sent 07/07)