Minutes of the meeting of Colebrooke Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th October, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Smith (Chair); Cllr. Manning; Cllr. Hann; Cllr. Johnstone; Cllr. Green; Cllr. Doornbos; Cllr. Gaston; Cllr. Charlton-Anne; District Cllr. Chenore; 2 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1A) Co-option to Council – Cllr. Smith proposed Mark Smeed who accepted. The declaration of office was signed.

1) **Apologies for absence**: County Cllr. Cairney.

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.

Simon O'Sullivan a local beekeeper gave an update on the Asian hornet which is particularly devastating not only to the honey bee, but to all pollinators. These hornets have spread throughout the continent and are now in the UK and getting closer to Devon, having been found in both Dorset and Somerset. Thjis is to draw attention to this menace. It is unlike our native hornet, being smaller, mainly black body with yellow socks and a broad orange stripe near to the tail. If spotted, report to DEFRA at present or to Simon, who will gladly come out to see if it is an Asian hornet. They have large nests, at the tops of trees, in hedges and even in drains. To contact Simon, phone on 07794 593168 or email grannysmeadow@hotmail.com

4) **County & District Councillor Reports (for information only) –** questions for County Cllr. Cairney
   - **i.** Why tar and chip the road surface before filling the potholes
   - **ii.** Why do council workmen drive around at such speed

District Cllr. Chenore on the possibility of a yearly calendar of events across the Yeo ward, to be published in the respective parish magazines. Emergency briefing and climate change, the film that is being shown all over the country. She is creating a map of hot spots for flooding.

5) **Chairman's Report (for information only)** There are 16 grit bins in the parish now divided between councillors to check and report. There is a reference number inside the lid, report the bin to Highways together with its location for refills. Potholes were mentioned.

6) **Minutes** –the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st July 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

7) **Local Government Re-organisation –** to receive updates. Noted that this has been paused pro tem.

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

i. 26/01056/Full Erection of an equestrian stable block and construction of manege together with associated fencing, Land at NGR 275555 100948 Ford Barn, Coleford.
Having reviewed the plans and consulted locally, Colebrooke Parish Council views the planned development of a Stable and Menage at Ford Barn in a positive light. The development is proportionate and in keeping with the character of the area and will not adversely impact neighbouring properties. There should be minimal environmental or highways impact from this development. Accordingly, the Council is supportive of this proposal. Emailed 15/09

ii. 26/01140/FULL Erection of a dwelling following demolition of existing agricultural building utilising class Q fallback, land at NGR 274120 98266 southwest of Birchmans Farm, Bow.
Having reviewed the plans, consulted locally and conducted a site visit, Colebrooke Parish Council views the planned development in a positive light. The existing barn is in a dilapidated state and the proposed domestic property is a proportionate and sympathetic replacement. The removal of the existing barn should afford the trees and hedgerow in the immediate vicinity a better environment in which to grow. Whilst the loss of a section of the field in which the property will be sited could be viewed negatively, the choice of site is sensible as it avoids creating two smaller fields. The property will be on ground slightly lower than the adjacent road, minimising the visual impact to passers-by. Immediate neighbours have been supportive of the plans. Accordingly, the Council is supportive of this proposal. Emailed 15/09

iii. 26/0216/FULL Erection of covered dung store hardstanding and track, Land at NGR 279100 100729, Crediton
Having visited the site location and reviewed the plans, Colebrooke PC is supportive of this application which seeks to adopt good practice in respect of covering dung storage facilities, as encouraged by the Environment Agency. The site location is opposite from the local Recycling Centre and is over 350m from the nearest residential properties. An existing gateway exists providing access from the road and the covered storage is unlikely to have a negative impact on traffic in the area. The proposed building appears proportionate to the requirement and in keeping with other agricultural construction in the area. Environmental, noise and surface water drainage impact all appears to be low, with the benefit that the dung storage will be covered, preventing rainwater run-off from the dung heap. Similarly, given the distance from other residential properties, air quality would be unlikely to be adversely affected by the store. Accordingly, Colebrooke Parish Council is supportive of the plans. Emailed 03/10

Decisions –

i. 26/00507/FULL Construction of outdoor sand school, Wyllspring Farm, Penstone
GRANTED

9) FINANCE

Expenditure	Employment August	£274.77
	Linden Lea – tidy cemetery & playground	£100.00
	Payments made 1st September 2026	
	Employment September	£327.08
	PAYE Q2	£217.40
	Visionict – hosted email accounts	£240.00
	Payments made 15th September 2026	
	Employment October	£283.64
	Linden Lea – grass cuts	£164.00
	Clerk's Expenses Q2	£93.40

Linden Lea – grass cuts £99.00

Income

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 agreed by show of hands.

10) Website and email provision – to consider upgrading the Council website with a new provider. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Westernweb £550.00, one off payment. Parishes Online £350.00 annually (covers all costs). Aubergine £499.00 initial costs. After discussion it was decided to bring this back to Council at the November meeting. Clerk to email the costs as above to Cllr. Smeed.

11) Play Inspection Company – to consider and agree a repeat order for this company to inspect our playground next spring at a cost of £149 + VAT. Resolved to agree, proposed by Cllr. Charlton-Anne, all agreed by show of hands.

12) Hospiscare – to support fundraising ideas. Briefly discussed = a possible event next summer supported by Council.

13) Internal Audit – to resolve to appoint Hania Lee of Lee Accounting as Council's internal auditor for year ending 31st March 2027. After discussion as to the exact nature of a Council's internal audit, Cllr. Smith proposed Hania Lee, all agreed by show of hands.

14) Budget setting – to resolve to set a date/time to pre-discuss the budget for 2027/2028, bearing in mind there could be election expenses May 2027. 6.30pm on the 17th November, prior to the Council meeting.

15) Clerk's Report (for information only)

Items for information: Date of next meeting – 17th November 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Information emails

DALC Builletin 34 (sent 04/08)
DALC Bulletin 38 (sent 01/09)
DALC Bulletin 41 (sent 18/09)
September Parish Report (sent 03/10)

Statement of reserves 30th September 2026

	STATEMENT OF RESERVES	30th Sept 2026	
2026	Totals in all bank accounts		17,394
2026	General reserve 50% precept	6,767	
	Earmarked reserve Playground	5,000	
	Totals	11,767	
	Balance		**5,627**