

Minutes of the meeting of Colebrooke Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.

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

1) Apologies for absence: None.

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.

Parishioner regarding the planning application no 23/01652/FUL. There are non-permitted engineering works taking place. Concerns are that this will exceed the wildlife trigger table/ecological submissions/have not disputed the need for a barn. Reported these abnormalities to the enforcement team. Cllr. Charlton-Anne was under the impression the existing track was to be used. Cllr. Hann mentioned the land/house. The track has been specifically excluded from the planning application/granted permissions. Cllr. Smith advised waiting to hear from the enforcement team. Cllr. Chenore is happy to check with the planning officer and come back to Council.

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

District Cllr. Chenore added to her report (circulated) about the Government agreeing to funds for households relying on oil. Vulnerable rural households will qualify.

County Cllr. Cairney – mentioned the rRoad warden scheme; looking to get people in adjoining parishes to get together regarding this scheme. Feels that the country lanes are the ones that need doing. 2027 parish and town council elections and should also be district too. LGR elections could be the same time as these parish and town elections. Some discussion ensued. Asset transfer was mentioned.

4a) Proposal from District Cllr. Chenore – to discuss the possibility of an annual Community Champion/Community Award Scheme. Consider this could be rolled out all over Mid Devon. With the portfolio holder at present. To be continued.

5) Chairman's Report (for information only) Medlar tree is in leaf. Neville Enderson has retired and he has been in post for 47 years. Thanks for all his long service. Will replace the Coronation tree this autumn. Next agenda for suggestions for trees.

6) Minutes –the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2026 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. 26/00100/FULL Demolition of existing barn, change of use of land to domestic garden and erection of boundary wall, Barn & Springers Brook, Coleford.

Having reviewed MDCC Planning 26/00100/FULL, Colebrooke PC notes that the building is in a perilous state and may pose a risk to life to both vehicle occupants and pedestrians on the adjacent highway and people accessing the nearby play-area. Noting that the barn appears to fall inside the conservation area, the Conservation Officer's views should be sought in respect of this application. The engineer's report states that making the barn safe would be a major undertaking which would incur considerable cost and would likely take some time to complete, potentially requiring the closure of the adjacent highway and restricting access to the play-area for an extended period. The barn is not, to Colebrooke PC's understanding unique and whilst its demolition would change the vista in the immediate area, that change would not, in our view be detrimental; the additional green space might actually be an improvement.

Colebrooke PC supports the application in principle, cognisant of the conservation aspects but mindful of the importance of managing risk to life (or of injury) as a priority. Whilst access to the play-area and road may need to be restricted during a demolition, this will likely be for a much shorter period than would be required for a complex repair; the closure of a relatively busy highway through the village would also have risk-to-life implications and would disrupt school transport as well as local residents car travel.

SUPPORTED (emailed in 05/02/26)

8) FINANCE

<i>Expenditure – February</i>	<i>Visionict – website hosting/support 26 to 27</i>	<i>£175.76</i>
	<i>DALC – Good councillor course</i>	<i>£18.00</i>
	<i>SLCC – Half share training seminar June</i>	<i>£51.00</i>
	<i>Employment – February</i>	<i>£267.88</i>
	<i>All paid 21st February 2026</i>	

Employment March	£267.88
PAYE Q4	£201.00
Clerk's expenses Q4	£232.20
Chairman's allowance – spent	£50.00
Linden Lea – grass cuts	£154.00

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.

9) Parish Map – to receive an update. May agenda.

10) Clerk's Report (for information only)

- i) After attending 'Cemetery Matters' course, I have checked our cemetery charges and rules. Up to date though the charges are dated 2022. Perhaps Council should include a line which states non-biodegradable items on graves are no longer permitted. Memorials should be inspected. 34 non-biodegradable items in situ this March.
- ii) Request to move 2 weeks due holiday this year ending 31st March, into next year and to take these 2 weeks w/c 27th April to 8th May inclusive. Granted.
- iii) Mid Devon are hosting the parish and town clerks event on 29th April at 6pm. Considering this at the moment, as I will be on annual leave.
- iv) Two Moors Way 50th birthday, being marked with a series of walks.
- v) Footpath warden required.

vi) Annual Parish Meeting – 26th May at 6.45pm

11) Councillors Reports (for information only)

Cllr. Manning mentioned dog fouling – she will talk to the dog owner.

Items for information

Date of next meeting - 26th May 2026 at 7pm in the village hall (after the annual parish meeting). This will be the Annual Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Information emails

DALC Newsletter 05 (sent 28/01)

DALC Newsletter 06 (sent 02/02)

DALC LGR Bulletin (sent 17/03)