

## Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 19.30 on Thursday July 17th 2025

**Present: Councillors** John Smith, Marion Born, John Quick, Chris Burrows, Andrew Green, Malcolm Bedford, Ivan Kriznik

**Clerk** Keyth Richardson

**DCC Councillor** Steve Keable. **MDDC Councillor** Alex White

**Apologies:** none

Open Forum 5 members of the public attended.

One parishioner made an emotional comment about the level of recent hedge cutting had led to a loss of habitat for wildlife and blackberries for people to pick and they would be reporting this to DEFRA and the RSPB. They then left the meeting without waiting for a response. Following this another parishioner correctly recalled the consensus of the open meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 was that the hedges needed cutting on safety grounds and human lives were more important than wildlife. Someone else commented that section of the DEFRA website covering the cutting of hedges was quite a grey area, but that road safety is paramount. Other points raised in the discussion were whether or not the hedges could have been cut less and why was the road from the village towards Mount Evelyn not cut. Cutting of this road was not raised at the open meeting, but it could be considered next year. DCC will be asked to cut this section of road as soon as possible.

The Open forum concluded at 7:46 and the Parish Council meeting started

2025/6-18	<b>Welcome by Chairman</b>	Andrew Green welcomed all to the meeting
2025/6-19	<b>Recording of meetings</b>	no-one was recording the meeting
2025/6-20	<b>Apologies</b>	No apologies had been received
2025/6-21	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	none
2025/6-22	<b>To approve the minutes of the last meeting,</b>	The minutes of the meeting on May 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025 were approved and signed.
2025/6-23	<b>Matter arising</b>	None mentioned
2025/6-24	<b>VE Day review</b>	All present reported it was a success, was well attended, convivial and financially successful. It had raised £240 for the Royal British Legion
2025/6-25	<b>Church Clock</b>	Some of the recent repair work had failed, and the service by the Cumbria Clock Company had detailed the problems in the report. The persons involved in the initial repair have agreed to rectify the failings, but no specific timeline was agreed. The Clerk will ask the Cumbria Clock Company service engineer to review the clock once the rectification has been completed.
2025/6-26	<b>Phone box in the square</b>	This has now had the telephony equipment removed and the clerk is waiting for final confirmation the phone box has been transferred to the Parish council. A request will be sent out to parishioners via the Coldridge Calendar and WOIC seeking ideas for its use. In future budgets an allowance will need to be made for on-going maintenance.

2025/6-27	<b>Highways</b>	<p>A wide ranging discussion took place covering several key issues. 20 mph limit. The Parish Council want Devon county Council to impose a 20 MPH limit in the built up area of the village. Steve Keable is looking into this with Steve Tucker DCC Highways officer.</p> <p>White lining DCC need to reinstate the white lines at the junctions in the village. These have been identified using what three words.</p> <p>around the green <b>heavy slurping minority &amp; snug olive cook</b>  by Whitehall <b>deprives sublime arrow</b>  by Jasmine cottage <b>Geese Hurry whistle</b>  by The Cottage <b>Forest bands prevented</b></p> <p>It was suggested a “Slow” sign painted on the road at the approach to the green would help, but as this in the conservation area it is unlikely to be approved.</p> <p>The white lining on the B3220 has not replicated what was there before, re-aligning the two carriageways. Marion Born to liaise with the Clerk to map these.</p> <p>All Councillors are encouraged to check on the progress of pothole repairs still outstanding</p> <p>The clerk was asked to write to South West Water asking them to give proper notice of works. It was suggested that they do not do so as it costs them money, whereas by calling everything an emergency they do not have to give notice.</p> <p>Adam Wane was thanked for making and installing a new Coldridge sign at Hobby Moor Cross, his invoice is awaited.</p>								
2025/6-28	<b>Draft Mid Devon District Council Local Validation Checklist.</b>	Coldridge Parish Council had no comments to make on this 82 page document.								
2025/6-29	<b>Finance</b>	<p>The following payment were agreed. Proposed by Malcolm Bedford, seconded by John Smith.</p> <table data-bbox="757 1034 1339 1161"> <tr> <td>a. Cumbria Clock Company</td> <td>£234.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Clerks wages (net)</td> <td>£441.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Tax on clerks wages</td> <td>£110.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Clerks expenses</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> </table>	a. Cumbria Clock Company	£234.00	b. Clerks wages (net)	£441.53	c. Tax on clerks wages	£110.40	d. Clerks expenses	£0.00
a. Cumbria Clock Company	£234.00									
b. Clerks wages (net)	£441.53									
c. Tax on clerks wages	£110.40									
d. Clerks expenses	£0.00									
2025/6-30	<b>Planning</b>	The council were pleased to note that MDDC have given planning permission for village hall store, which will replace the current unsightly structure facing the village green.								
2025/6-31	<b>Councillor’s reports</b>	Concern was raised about the very weedy nature of the cobbles outside The Old Bakery. Following a discussion Steve Keable accessed the DCC website which show this is not DCC highways but privately owned.								

		<p>Steve Keable reported the outturn of DCC will be okay, MDDC outturn is not looking so good. Neither body is happy with the current DCC Highways contract, but there is little chance of any real change in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>DCC is being drained by the current SEND policy, which needs to be changed to pull children in this category back into mainstream education.</p> <p>The government has raised the target number of houses in MDDC, as elsewhere, meaning the existing land stock is not sufficient]t to meet this and builders are winning appeals. There is a belief land with planning permission is being stockpiled by builders, who wish to maximise their profits in the future.</p> <p>Broadband upgrade. IK will be attending an open meeting on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is no clarity on when the blocking issues will be resolved, ie the two poles which need replacing. Clerk to follow-up with BT Openreach.</p> <p>Steve Keable asked to be sent a top ten of highways issues in the village and another top ten for the rest of the parish. This will require input from all councillors to achieve this.</p>
2025/6-32	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	To confirm the date of the next meetings as September 18 <sup>th</sup> and November 20 <sup>th</sup>

The meeting closed at 20:45

Signed:

DRAFT