

## **COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00pm at Colmworth Village Hall**

Present: Councillor Marsh, Councillor Frew, Councillor Pegler (Chair), Councillor Palmer, Councillor Ball, Borough Councillor Sira

Apologies: None received.

In Attendance: Two members of the public.

Clerk: Lizzie Barnicoat

### **2025/54 Apologies**

None received.

### **2025/55 Declarations of Interest, Registers of Interest**

No declarations received for the agenda items received, though Cllr. Marsh noted the playing field use discussion would not partake in agenda item.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point

### **2025/56 Public Open Forum**

No public statements made.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

### **2025/57 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

The Council considered the circulated minutes, the Council accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Councillor Marsh – Proposed. Councillor Pegler – Seconded. All in favour

### **2025/58 Bedford Borough Councillor report**

Latest report circulated. Question to Cllr. Sira regarding roads maintenance and potholes, will there be continued investment in the highways. The Council are seeking the whatthreewords locations when issues being reported in, temporary repairs are being made ahead of longer term repair being carried out it was noted.

A Universal Studios scrutiny committee has been set up starting in July, Wotton and Wixams Ward Cllrs will be on this committee. Cllr. Sira had asked Cllr. Gribble for a full report on the Cleat Hill matter as raised at the last meeting.

Ward Fund follow up with Officer discussed, allocation of £1,100 to play area confirmed, Cllr. Sira to monitor.

### **2025/59 Planning**

26/00268/FUL Two storey side extension at 2 Manor Farm Cottages Church Road –

Councillors considered, no objection unanimously agreed, resolution passed.

To consider any planning applications received after the publication of the agenda if applicable – none received.

Decisions to be noted

25/02162/FUL Single storey front extension to form porch, one and two storey side and rear extensions and alterations to external finishes at Colgro Farm, Channels End Road – permission refused

### **2025/60 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way**

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East West Rail in person forthcoming stakeholder meeting, Cllrs. Palmer and Pegler had attended, meeting notes circulated. Items covered had included noise, viaducts, and a number of questions had been raised. It was agreed that the Parish Council to write to East West Rail expressing disappointment about the lack of clarity and information on offer given the next consultation is taking place shortly, where more details are due to be shared.

Discuss Highways matters including looking at village highways issues, the large pothole concerns as you enter the village from Little Staughton on left hand side, and near Tenacres further breaking up of surface, had been shared on. The poor general condition of Queens Road had been escalated by Cllr. Sira.

Average speed camera latest communications from local authority shared with Councillors, discussed. Clarity was requested regarding calibration, collection of the data by the Police, improved accessibility to the monthly data. Cllr. Pegler to collate a communication for the local authority raising the items.

The issue with heavy good vehicle sign remains ongoing, Parish Council funds had been used for them, £500, feedback was that this would be looked into by the Officer. Still no feedback received, as the Parish Council would like to discourage such vehicles from using the local road network, Mayor Wootton to liaise with Wilden. No feedback to share to date, this had been followed up with Officer supporting with the Channels End vehicle movements.

Discuss any Rights of Way, no matters raised.

### **2025/61 Village matters**

The Parish Council currently has vacancies it was noted and there is the ability to co-opt.

Confirmation that in person defibrillator checks continue to take place regularly, thanks given to the individual supporting the checks.

Community police priority setting meeting in January, Clerk had chased for clarity on who the current local police team are and current priorities, no feedback.

### **2025/62 Country Park, Playing Field, Gardening Club and Triangle**

Councillor inspections of the equipment have continued, reports had continued to be circulated to Councillors.

Grass cutting contractor communications, it was noted that up to eight Playing Field cuts, and up to four Country Park cuts, to be fed back to enable quote for work.

Noted two benches for the Country Park at a cost of approximately £150 each, unclear to date if these were all successful through the Ward Fund or not.

Cllr. Marsh is arranging for three new signs regarding litter.

Request to use the Playing Field by the local nursery was ratified, feedback confirmed.

A further request to use the Playing Field by a hirer of the Village Hall for June 2026 was considered by the Council. The Parish Council agreed to decline the use of the field as an overflow car park for a wedding, Clerk to feedback. Cllr. Marsh took no part in the discussion.

The tree survey feedback was reviewed, quotations to be obtained for the low and medium priority identified works which would then be shared with Cllrs, with Cllrs then to walk the sites to review the items to aid understanding of works needed.

### **2025/33 Finance**

Review receipts and authorise payments – see below.

The Parish Council in principle agreed a contribution of up to £200 on production of the printing invoice to enable an expense to be reclaimed for the Chronicle publication. Noted awaiting copy of invoice.

Clerk had circulated a potential grant application form for Councillors to consider. The document was unanimously agreed as approved, with minor edits to be made, Clerk to action.

Clerk had submitted precept for 2026/27 to the local authority.

Update on Parish Council communications, price options discussed, DropBox was being trialled by Clerk for another Parish Council, to circulate link to aid Councillor understanding on how accessible the platform it is.

The Full Council approved and agreed the following payments, resolution passed.

|               |                         |         |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Backlight Ltd | Administration services | £972.19 |
| HMRC          | PAYE expenses           | £321.81 |

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|                                                |                                                  |         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Tree Specific                                  | Tree clearance Churchyard                        | £96.00  |
| Cloud Next Ltd                                 | Website charge                                   | £60.00  |
| These payments below are only for ratification |                                                  |         |
| Ionos                                          | Monthly charge for January email to be ratified  | £25.80  |
| Ionos                                          | Monthly charge for February email to be ratified | £25.80  |
| Public Works Loan                              | Repayment of loan                                | £677.95 |

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May noted the meeting date would need to be moved to the following week, Clerk to action. Village Hall future dates to be held in the Randall Room, to be 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Actions/Updates:**

All items covered during meeting.

**Correspondence list –**

NALC Events Bulletin emails  
Age Partnership email promoting services  
BBC Planning weekly list email  
Online playgrounds promotional information  
CPRE update emails  
NFP Workshops bid writing information  
Beds Police crime statistics – circulated  
BBC Agenda for Standards Committee  
Regular Colmworth Trumpet communications received  
Playground & Public Park Services promotional information  
Street Trading (new application), outside of town centre, ALL CONSENT STREETS  
EWR Local Representatives Group communications  
January and February play area inspection reports – circulated  
Colmworth Village Hall booking communications  
Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust information  
A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet newsletter  
Communications regarding heavy goods vehicles damaging verges in Channels End  
CPRE Bedfordshire monthly update  
BBC Town and Parish Council update – circulated  
Bedford Borough Council Planning letter notifications – agenda item  
Bedford Borough Council Officer communications regarding community safety cameras, highways items follow up – agenda item  
Communications regarding play area repairs – agenda item  
Village tree works communication – agenda item  
Defibrillator checks going forward communications  
BBC precept acknowledgement communication  
BATPC Councillor training  
BBC letter regarding average speed cameras – circulated, agenda item

Meeting closed at 8.30pm