

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on Thursday 6th November 2025 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

2025/34 Apologies

None received.

2025/35 Declarations of Interest, Registers of Interest

No declarations received.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point

2025/36 Public Open Forum

Request that Parish Council consider a future donation to the running of the Colmworth Chronicle around £200, highlighted supporting information would be helpful to aid Council future consideration.

Request for update on average speed camera calibration latest, no feedback received to date, awaiting cost of calibration and maintenance checks. Follow up to actioned again to Highways Officer. Average speed camera data to be requested in the communication as well.

Request for broadband services latest, no further information since last local authority update that village not included in next roll-out scheme.

Bushmead Road work taking place near the highway, clarify it is work relating to the solar farm.

Bulbs had been secured from the local authority for the Village Hall and green triangle.

Chronicle December deadline shared.

Next meeting highlighted as 22nd January.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

2025/37 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 4th September 2025

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

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

2025/38 Bedford Borough Councillor report

Latest report circulated. Ward Forum meeting postponed again, waste food collection clarity sought and received.

2025/39 Planning

Bedford Borough Local Plan had now been agreed formally to be withdrawn. Parish Council representatives able to attend an informal meeting with new Head of Planning Services locally.

To consider any planning applications received after the publication of the agenda if applicable –

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 – Councillors reviewed, unanimously agreed no comment to be submitted, resolution passed.

25/02161/FUL Conversion and refurbishment of existing barn to form summerhouse, replacement cladding to separate detached barn and demolition of third barn at Colgro Farm Channels End Road Councillors reviewed, unanimously agreed no comment to be submitted, resolution passed.

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Decisions to be noted

25/01649/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension to 2 Sycamore Close to create of an indoor swimming pool at 2 Sycamore Close – Refused

25/01571/FUL One and two storey front, side and rear extension and associated internal alterations and finishes, increased driveway, new gate and wall to main access and refurbishment of existing outbuilding to form garden room at Colgro Farm Channels End Road - Refused

25/01221/FUL Single storey rear link extension to connect dwelling to existing stable barn and conversion of barn to additional living space, including demolition of existing single-storey modern side addition to dwelling at Channel End Farm Channels End Road - Permitted

25/01222/LBC Single storey rear link extension to connect dwelling to existing stable barn and conversion of barn to additional living space, including demolition of existing single-storey modern side addition to dwelling at Channel End Farm Channels End Road - Permitted

2025/40 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way

EWB matters – communications continue to be circulated when received.

Hedge on highways verge between crossroads and the Church was reported as overhanging and causing access issues for a mobility scooter. The high weeds near the footway from the Church corner to the Church Road crossroads, also been reported.

Confirmation received that the Honeydon Road drain work had been completed by the local authority from Cllr Sira and a resident.

VAS device on Wilden Road device not working – local authority have been asked to lop the nearby vegetation.

The issue with heavy good vehicle sign was raised as well at the meeting with Parish Council funds had been used for those £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.

Heavy vehicles being reported at Channels End, including verge damage, site visit requested with original authority Officer, Borough Councillor Sira to support with this. Follow up communications had been sent regarding the heavy goods warning signs at this location to be larger to match these local signs in neighbouring parishes. Officer feedback had been challenged, informed they are legal signs and budget challenges means they will not fund a replacement. The highways safety issue with stone edging on Channels End from Mill Road had been raised with local authority Officer.

Rights of Way – no items to note.

2025/41 Village matters

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

Noted that no community police communication received on new local officers to date.

2025/42 Country Park, Playing Field, Gardening Club and Triangle

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

Play equipment slide repair quotation from CPM Playgrounds for the slide sides had been actioned, Clerk had made application for Ward Fund, still awaiting feedback with Borough Officer, has been chased by Cllr. Sira. No news on Ward Fund request submitted that two benches for the Country Park at a cost of approximately £150 each, awaiting feedback.

Parish Council noted specialist tree surgeon would be needed for some high branch work, GP to seek quotation from a contractor for some village items.

2025/43 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.

Budget planning 2026/27 reviewed, discussed, mindful local authority are looking to pass on some services in the near future to be mindful of. Tree survey work expected in 2026 it was noted, GP to follow up and seek costing for this.

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Discussion on Parish Council communications, consideration given to Dropbox and SharePoint systems as well as an online telephone service, Clerk had shared costings, data to be built into budget.

Defibrillator checks, help to be sought from the community with checks going forwards, offer of support received to be followed up. EP to contact supplier to clarify the latest communication on the checks in light of the age of the device

Suggestion that Village Hall might be able to assist with the moving of the bin at the Playing Field to aid it being emptying.

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

Backlight Ltd	Administration services	£972.19
HMRC	PAYE expenses	£321.81
W T Saunders Ground Care	Grass cutting 7	£88.20
Colmworth Village Hall	Q2 hire charges	£14.00
These payments below are only for ratification		
Ionos	Monthly charge for September email to be ratified	£25.80
Ionos	Monthly charge for October email to be ratified	£25.80

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 22nd January, 5th March at 7pm, Village Hall future dates to be held in the Randall Room.

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

EWL Local Representatives Group communications

September and October 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

Universal Studios application communications regarding public consultation

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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