

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd January 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: One member of the public.

Clerk: Lizzie Barnicoat

2025/44 Apologies

None received.

2025/45 Declarations of Interest, Registers of Interest

No declarations received.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point

2025/46 Public Open Forum

Resident clarity sought on residents paying for the incident on Cleat Hill and associated costs relating to this through the local Council Tax in the borough, Richard Fuller MP had asked questions of government regarding this. Cllr. Sira gave clarification on the repayment claim being made by the local authority to recoup some of the monies paid out regarding this.

Large pothole concerns as you enter the village from Little Staughton on left hand side, and near Tenacres further breaking up of surface. Photos to be shared on, encouragement given to report these to the local authority Highways Helpdesk.

Gully cleaning query, confirmation this had recently been carried out in the parish.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

2025/47 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 6th November 2025

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

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

2025/48 Bedford Borough Councillor report

Latest report circulated. East Park energy notion to raise serious concerns had been discussed by the local authority. Cllr. Sira due to attend forthcoming East West Rail meeting, noted that Richard Fuller MP visiting Little Staughton shortly, residents encouraged to attend. Question regarding Universal Studios implications, awaiting mitigation details from central government planning consent due shortly.

2025/49 Planning

Feedback from Ward Forum meeting with Planning Service lead at Bedford Borough Council – Cllr. Palmer attended, feedback notes circulated. Noted new NPPF currently out for consultation till 10th March which is what is holding the progress of moving forward with the new Local Plan.

25/02479/FUL Single storey front, side and rear extension, first floor side extension and erection of detached car port/store at 10 Church Road – Councils unanimously agreed to have no objection to the application.

25/02539/S73A Change of Use of domestic outbuilding for dog grooming business (development already carried out) at The Shielling Honeydon Road – noted this application outside the parish, concern expressed over whether there is adequate on site parking at this premises and whether it would result in on road parking which would be a highways safety concern.

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

Decisions to be noted

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 – Permitted

25/01668/FUL Provision of new farm access off New Road to serve New Shrub Farm and associated works at New Shrub Farm Kimbolton Road Bolnhurst - Withdrawn

2025/50 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way

Discuss Highways matters including looking at village highways issues, the surface condition at Queens Road and City Lane concerns raised. Encouragement given for photographs of the damage to be reported into Highways Helpdesk.

East West Rail in person forthcoming stakeholder meeting, Cllrs. Palmer and Pegler due to attend.

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.

Discuss any Rights of Way matters, feedback that footpath 10 needs the path needs to be re-instated and sprayed out again, Clerk to follow up.

2025/51 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 are taking place regularly, thanks given to the individuals supporting the checks. Cllr Pegler had followed up with the organisation regarding the Community Heartbeat communication discussed at the last meeting, checks to continue, with pads and replacement batteries would need to be replaced by the Parish Council going forwards, so this would be factored into the Council budget.

Community police priority setting meeting on 30th January information circulated. Clerk has to seek clarity on who the current local police team are.

2025/52 Country Park, Playing Field, Gardening Club and Triangle

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

Noted Clerk previously had made application for Ward Fund, still awaiting feedback with Borough Officer, has been chased by Cllr. Sira. Officer had confirmed payment being processed, but no clarity on level of award. Unclear if play equipment and two benches for the Country Park at a cost of approximately £150 each, were all successful through the Ward Fund or not.

GP had arranged for a tree inspection, report shared, quotations would be needed for some of the identified work. GP was thanked for arranging the fallen churchyard tree to be made safe so promptly. Charge by tree surgeons for £180.00 plus VAT was considered reasonable for the work carried out.

Village Hall have declined to empty Playing Field bin, Councillors discussed next steps. It was agreed that bin to be removed and signs to be placed to encourage litter to be taken home, Cllr. Marsh to find suitable signage and Clerk to seek quote for bin removal.

Request to use the Playing Field in June 2026 received by the Village Hall had not been received, to be resent so to be a future agenda item for consideration.

2025/53 Finance

Review receipts and authorise payments – see below.

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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. Awaiting copy of invoice. Clerk to circulate a potential grant application form for Councillors to consider.

Budget planning 2026/27 reviewed, discussed, tree work expected during the year discussed, Churchyard budget heading in Parish Council drafted budget had £400 allocated for trees Councillors noted. It was agreed to place £1000 in the budget for further tree maintenance and felt appropriate to use some Council reserves for these works to enable a larger allocation than usual to this area. It was unanimously agreed to approve the 2026/27 budget, resolution passed.

Councillors considered the precept for 2026/27, looking at different scenarios, it was unanimously agreed to collect a precept of £18,114, resolution passed. Clerk to submit request.

Update on Parish Council communications, price options discussed, DropBox was the preferred platform by Councillors, Clerk to trial some uploads and circulate link to aid Councillor understanding on how accessible a platform it is.

Interest account review, Councillors confirmed they are in agreement with the bank account that continues to earn some interest on Parish Council funds.

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

Backlight Ltd	Administration services	£972.19
HMRC	PAYE expenses	£321.81
Tree Specific	Tree clearance Churchyard	£216.00
RGS	Tree survey work	£600.00
Cloud Next Ltd	Website hosting charge	£119.98
Colmworth Village Hall	Q3 hire charges	£28.00
These payments below are only for ratification		
Ionos	Monthly charge for November email to be ratified	£25.80
Ionos	Monthly charge for December email to be ratified	£25.80

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 5th March at 7pm, Village Hall future dates to be held in the Randall Room, noting to be 7th May, 2nd 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
 November and December 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

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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 – agenda item

Meeting closed at 8.30pm