

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7.00pm at Colmworth Village Hall

Present: Councillor Marsh, Councillor Frew, Councillor Palmer, Councillor Ball, Borough Councillor Sira, Mayor Tom Wootton.

Apologies: Councillor Pegler

In Attendance: Three members of the public and two Police representatives.

Clerk: Lizzie Barnicoat

2025/25 Apologies

Councillor Pegler.

2025/26 Declarations of Interest, Registers of Interest

Cllr. Frew declared an interest under finance it was noted.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point

2025/27 Public Open Forum

Resident had a question seeking clarification with Borough Councillor Sira regarding Ward Fund. Follow up request that Parish Council consider a future donation to the running of the Colmworth Chronicle around £200, to be considered at future meeting during budget discussions.

Speeding concerns expressed by residents, staffing challenges at Riseley station had meant a reduction in staff available to carry out speed safety checks. Thanks given to police for feedback and assistance with e-scooter use in the village.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

2025/28 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 3rd July 2025

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

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

2025/29 Bedford Borough Councillor report

Latest report circulated. Mayor Wootton outlined the budget challenges at the local authority, collaboration costs associated with the average speed camera is an item the authority are looking at charging the local Councils for, to be mindful of this during the future Council budget consideration.

Question regarding the cameras in situ operational functions, Clerk to follow up.

2025/30 Planning

Bedford Borough Local Plan deferral, clarity sought by Councillor, noted item would be carried forward to future authority meeting.

5/01649/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension to 2 Sycamore Close to create of an indoor swimming pool at 2 Sycamore Close – no objection.

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- no objection.

To consider any planning applications received after the publication of the agenda if applicable – New Shrub Farm application in Bolnhurst parish received, reviewed, no objection it was noted.

Decisions to be noted

25/01121/TPO T1 Dead Elm - Section fell to fence height. T2 Elm - Re-pollard below previous points to sound wood to create better foundations for regrowth. The trees are close to the BT cables so they

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need cutting back. T3 Oak - Deadwood, remove major deadwood overhanging the gate/driveway for safety at he Old Rectory Church Road – Permitted

2025/31 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way

EWK matters – communications continue to be circulated when received.

Hedge on highways verge between crossroads and the Church is overhanging and causing access issues for a mobility scooter, reported to Highways Helpdesk. The high weeds near the footway from the Church corner to the Church Road crossroads, reported to Highways Helpdesk. Honeydon Road Councillor Sira had been monitoring, drains had been rodded local authority reported. Challenge to this was raised, follow up seeking a site meeting to look at the issue in person to be actioned by Clerk with Cllr Sira.

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.

Concern from resident over highways verge insufficient visibility had been actioned, Clerk fed back Officer response that the verge visibility is acceptable, response had been shared with Councillor Pegler so this was fed back to the resident.

Rights of Way – footpath 10 fly tipping had been reported to local authority.

2025/32 Village matters

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

Bulky waste service reminder for 30th August.

Coffee with a Cop event on 7th July had been successful again.

2025/33 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, awaiting feedback. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote of £1300 plus VAT for the work to enable the popular piece of equipment to be accessible, resolution passed.

Request submitted that two benches for the Country Park also be considered for Ward Fund application, at a cost of approximately £150 each, awaiting feedback.

Request that Country Park paths are cut twice this year, this agreed by Councillors.

Clerk had fed back to request considered for use of field for javelin practice.

Cllr Marsh had liaised with Puddleducks regarding bin emptying, thanks given to the support with this, bags provided.

2025/34 Finance

Review receipts and authorise payments – see below.

Discussion on Parish Council communications, in place of upgrading and purchasing a new laptop, consideration to be given to Dropbox and SharePoint systems as well as an online telephone service, Clerk to explore and feedback.

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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Nina Frew	Reimbursement expenses Country Park	£59.73
Morgan Pell	Country Park cutting	£810.00
Colmworth Village Hall	Q3 hire charges	£42.00
These payments below are only for ratification		
CPRE	Membership renewal	£36.00
ICO	Membership renewal	£47.00
W T Saunders Ground Care	Grass cutting 5	£88.20
W T Saunders Ground Care	Grass cutting 4	£88.20
W T Saunders Ground Care	Grass cutting CP Cut 1	£106.08
Ionos	Monthly charge for July email to be ratified	£25.80
Ionos	Monthly charge for August email to be ratified	£25.80

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th November, 8th January, 5th March at 7pm, Village Hall future dates to be held in the Randall Room.

Actions/Updates:

Council had not submitted response to Universal Studios application to central government after reviewing the documentation.

Clerk to check bank payment details of internal auditor as payment needs to be made it was noted.

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

July and August 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

Resident communication regarding internet in Channels End – followed up and responded to

Copied into Councillor communication with Puddleducks requesting parents be kindly reminded regarding highways safety in the village

Coffee with a Cop communications

Resident communication regarding grass cutting – responded to, followed up

BBC Temporary Road Closure Honeydon Road Colmworth 25 - 046

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BBC update on August short/urban grass cutting
Police Priority Setting Meeting 31st July 2025
BATPC 2025-26 Pay Agreement Reached - New Table of Pay Scales – circulated
BATPC Training Opportunity for BATPC Members - Planning Nuts & Bolts, 24th September 2025
CPRE Planning Workshop information
BBC Planning Parish Consultation letter for 25/01571/FUL – circulated, agenda item
Resident reimbursement expenses for Country Park request – circulated, agenda item
Live Facial Recognition Van Demonstration Police communication
BATPC Updated Programme of Communications and Data Compliance Training with BATPC
Planning Parish Consultation letter for 25/01649/FUL - circulated, agenda item
Police Can you help us to share our Grassroots Innovation Fund – circulated
ICO - Renewal confirmation ICO:00010594486 – agenda item
Police request for Parish Council meeting dates – responded to
BBC Planning Parish Consultation letter for 25/01668/FUL – circulated, agenda item

Meeting closed at 8.00pm