

At the Council Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL** held at COLEHILL VILLAGE HALL on **9TH DECEMBER 2025**, at **7.15pm**.

PRESENT

Cllr Clare Davison Chair

Cllr KD Johnson, Vice-Chair

Cllrs Nigel Bridle, Carol Butter, Susan Cowsill, Ann Edwards, Leslie Gibson, Patricia Gray, Mark Keniston, Ken Murgatroyd, Richard Palmer and Emma Urquhart

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Andy Todd – It was RESOLVED to accept the reasons for the apologies.

Dorset Councillor Jindy Atwal also sent apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Z Caddy – Clerk.

215.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

216.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

217.25 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Progress is being made with a junior cricket league and the St Michael's Middle School head will talk to Colehill Sports and Social Club about setting this up.

Training nets will possibly be bought by the Chair from the Chair's allowance to help this project along.

218.25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th October 2025 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed.

219.25 MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

220.25 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) HIGHWAYS PLANS & THE ENVIRONMENT – 28th October 2025
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES – 28th October 2025
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

(c) HIGHWAYS PLANS & THE ENVIRONMENT – 11th November 2025
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

(d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES – 11th November 2025
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

(e) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES – 25th November 2025
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

221.25 DORSET COUNCILLOR REPORT

No Dorset Councillor was in attendance.

222.25 TOWN COUNCIL CONVERSION

Work and research carried out by the Town Conversion Working Group as well as the results and data from the public consultation which ran between 12th-26th November 2025 were examined. Cllr Cowsill expressed concern that the public consultation should have been published more widely – Cllr Gibson pointed out that ‘clicks’ on the consultation page on the website were in the region of 1,300-1,400 so that should show residents were aware although Cllr Cowsill remained concerned. RESOLVED that Colehill parish shall have the status of a town, and the council of the parish will be called Colehill Town Council, as permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 sect. 245 para 6. It was NOTED that the budget will be largely unaffected and that items needing rebranding will be done so on an ‘as and when’ basis rather than all in one go to save unnecessary expense. It was further RESOLVED that the titles of Chair and Vice-Chair be retained, and we do not adopt the alternate style of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

223.25 GOVERNANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS

Members reviewed and it was RESOLVED to adopt the following documents:

- (a) Data Breach Policy
- (b) Grant Aid documents
- (c) IT Policy

These documents will be published online.

224.25 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was RESOLVED to allow Cllr Urquhart and Butter to join both Highways Plans and the Environment & Finance & General Purposes Committees with immediate effect.

225.25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

From the applications currently listed on www.colehill.gov.uk, members reviewed and discussed the following - comments were recorded as follows:

PA No	Development Proposed
P/HOU/2025/06813	Location: 4 Leigh Common, Colehill, Dorset, BH21 2DE

	<p>Proposal: Erect single storey rear extension and associated alteration</p> <p>No comment</p>
P/VOC/2025/07020	<p>Location: Quarterjack Park Development, Leigh Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 2DA</p> <p>Proposal: Approval of reserved matters application in respect of appearance, layout, scale and landscaping following outline planning application 3/15/0789/COU for residential development of 305 dwellings (with variation of Condition 1 of Permission 3/19/2426/RM to revise the landscaping and drainage)</p> <p>No comment</p>
P/PPRD/2025/06939	<p>Location: 6 Cobbs Road, Colehill, Dorset, BH21 2RL</p> <p>Proposal: Demolition of a dangerous structure.</p> <p>OBJECTION on the following grounds:</p> <p>The Heritage Statement provided contains substantial errors of fact and unsound inferences.</p> <p>The statement in section 2.1 that “The property occupies a plot on the east side of Cobbs Road” is not true – it is to the west of Cobbs Road and hence within the Green Belt, which fact is not mentioned anywhere in the Heritage Statement.</p> <p>The dwelling at 6 Cobbs Road is actually in the Burts Hill/Merrifield/Colehill Conservation Area. The designation of this conservation area was approved on 6th September 2006. Throughout the Heritage Statement, 6 Cobbs Road is described erroneously as being within a Wimborne Minster Conservation Area. This makes a number of subsidiary observations in the Statement false or irrelevant and paints an erroneous picture of the conservation area to which Cobbs Road actually belongs, and therefore the Statement cannot be used as a reliable history and record of the building.</p> <p>Regarding the proposal to demolish, it is of interest that section 6.1 contains: “A Structural survey was undertaken post collapse, if [sic] which failed to mention any structural concerns. Since collapse another structural survey has been instructed.” The statements in section 6.2 “The building’s condition precludes safe occupation or repair, and the only viable option is controlled demolition to remove the hazard and allow for future redevelopment” and in section 6.3 “The extent of structural failure and loss of original fabric means that the building cannot be repaired or restored without complete reconstruction” would therefore still seem to be questionable.</p>

	<p>Section 7.3 contains a statement that the National Trust's agreement to demolition is documented as part of the planning application. But this agreement has not been evidenced.</p> <p>We also comment that as of 8th December 2025 at 10:30 no Site Notice has been displayed.</p>
P/HOU/2025/06798	<p>Location: 4 Stroud Close Colehill BH21 2NX</p> <p>Proposal: Replace existing roof tiles, form new WC window and change height of front window, change direction of external staircase, form lean to roof to rear elevation and change external cladding</p> <p>No comment</p>

226.25 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2026/27

Dorset Council had advised that the Tax Base for 2026/27 was 3052.5.

The Members considered the receipts and payments for 2024/25, the estimated balances for 2025/26, the budget for 2025/26 and the earmarked reserves for 2025/26.

Cllr Bridle proposed a Parish Council Tax Levy of £143,000.00 seconded by Cllr Cowsill. With a budget of £214,549.27 and a predicted income of £188,696.40, this would mean that £19,852.87 would need to be drawn down from reserves.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the budget for 2026/27 of £214,549.27 and the earmarked reserves be approved.
- (b) a precept of £143,000.00 be levied on Dorset Council. This gave an equivalent Parish Council Tax Levy of £46.85, a 2.9% increase on that for 2025/26 (£45.51);

The budget and current expenditure this year to date is/will be published online.

227.25 TREE WORKS

It was RESOLVED to appoint Contractor A to carry out works recommended in the Dorset Council tree team inspection report to trees in both Triangle Woods and Churchmoor Copse.

228.25 EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

It was RESOLVED to go out for quotes to suppliers for proposed exercise equipment for a potential installation at Olivers Park.

229.25 AGM NOTICE

The AGM notice/invitation from Colehill & Wimborne Youth & Community Centre to the Council as member was received.

230.25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED that the accounts listed in Appendix 1 to these Minutes in the Minute Book be passed for payment and bank transfers actioned accordingly.

231.25 REPORTS

Members NOTED the following information:

(a) Notes from Julians Bridge Joint Working Group meeting on 9th October.

The report appears as Appendix 2 to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

232.25 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND CLOSE OF MEETING

A verbal report from the Village Hall Committee representative Cllr Emma Urquhart who attended their meeting (along with the other rep Cllr Ann Edwards) on 8th December was received.

The Community Highway Officer has changed to Louis Minchella.

The Meeting ended at 9:02pm.

CHAIR