

Collings Park Trust Management Committee Minutes

22nd July 2025

at Lexdon, Hartley Avenue

Present: Andy Stewart (Chair), Andrew Leigh, Lois Conrad, Dy Taylor, Maureen Geens, Tony Bray, Geraldine Whitby, Sam Smith (by phone)

Apologies for absence from: Liz Rawlings

Andrew and Lois were thanked for hosting the meeting.

1. Minutes of last meeting (22nd April 2025) were accepted.

Matters arising:

Plymouth Pear: Luke Pollard chaired a meeting of interested parties on 2nd May; Andrew L and Andy S represented the Trust. Discussions reflected a strong commitment to conservation and propagation of the Plymouth Pear and focused on the initial steps needed to achieve this. A follow-on meeting is expected later in 2025.

Collings Park Playing Field: PCC and the Plymouth and the South Devon Community Forest/'Forest Rising' team have advised of the forthcoming installation of a path along the north edge of the playing field and then natural play equipment. Discussions are ongoing with local artists regarding the mural on the concrete hardstand.

2. Health & Safety

A volunteer has had an accident using the electric hedge cutter and suffered a laceration to their thigh. The risk assessment has been reviewed and additional PPE has been purchased that will provide a level of protection at any future incidents of this type.

The permanent barrier in front of the pond has been reinstated for a second time following vandalism.

3. Finance, Membership & Funding

There is **£622** in the cash account at present, and the new easy access savings account has been set up with a deposit of **£5,000**.

Membership has improved and now stands at 10 household memberships, 4 individual members and 14 supporters, bringing £740 to the accounts annually.

The Trust's insurance has been renewed at a cost of £172.67, a 2.6% increase on last year.

4. Policies, Procedures & Key Documents

All in date and uploaded to the Collings Park Trust website. Tri-annual review due in October '25.

A guidance document and poster for visitors and community groups to be completed and passed to Trustees for approval.

5. Progress and Planning for the Community Garden

- A new post or similar is required at the south end of the fruiting hedge to delineate the entrance to the garden (due to removal of old fence posts).

- A serious case of fly-tipping has been reported to the council and the items removed to the roadside; collection to be hastened.
- Recent, repeated acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour have been reported to the local community police team and local councillors (Angela Penrose and Matt Smith); an on-site meeting is pending.

Discussions revealed that the existing city-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) may be useful in addressing the problems associated with consumption of alcohol in the garden.

Anti-social behaviour can be reported formally to the city council via the PCC website and, if the defined threshold is reached, the council are obliged to set up a multi-agency action team to address the issues reported. This is part of the 'Safer Plymouth' initiative.

The possibility of a rubbish bin being installed adjacent the Compton Knoll Close entrance to be raised with local councillors.

The use of CCTV was discussed and it was agreed to investigate further (including the possibility of 'Proceeds of Crime' funding) but a volunteer is needed to undertake this.

6. Future Events Planning

Compton Pre-School held their end-of-year party in the community garden of 18th July.

They expressed their thanks for use of the garden once again.

The local WI are due to hold their summer picnic in the garden on 6th August.

7. External Events

The Plymouth Urban Tree Festival 2025 included a visit to the community garden on 18th May. Although only a small number attended, the organisers said that they would like to visit again next year and that they expect more will attend then.

A roster of volunteers to act as hosts is required for the Open Garden event in aid of St. Luke's Hospice over the weekend of 30th/31st August 2025, running from 11am to 4pm.

8. Feedback from Board of Trustees

Nothing to report.

9. AOB

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10. Date and venue of next meeting: Tuesday 21st October 2025, 19:00 hrs, to be held at TBC (Liz's home (Lexdon) if available, or Andrew and Lois' home (12 Fortescue Place)).