

Collings Park Trust Management Committee Minutes

28th October 2025

at Lexdon, Hartley Avenue

Present: Andy Stewart (Chair), Andrew Leigh, Liz Rawlings, Dy Taylor, Geraldine Whitby

Apologies for absence from: Lois Conrad, Maureen Geens, Sam Smith

Liz was thanked for hosting the meeting.

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

Matters arising:

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour: Increased police presence (PCSOs) has improved the situation. Councillors Penrose and Smith to be thanked for their support in this matter.

Collings Park Playing Field: PCC and the Plymouth and the South Devon Community Forest/'Forest Rising' team have advised that installation of natural play equipment and a path along the north edge of the playing field is delayed until the spring. An artist has been engaged for the mural on the concrete hardstand. A decision on the application to renew the 'Asset of Community Value' designation is awaited from the PCC legal department. The council's recent 'Call for Sites' was discussed and noted as a threat to the playing field as open green space.

2. Health & Safety

The tree stump near the Compton Knoll Close entrance was reported as becoming unstable; to be investigated and mitigated as appropriate.

3. Finance, Membership & Funding

There is £686 in the cash account at present, and the new easy access savings account stands at £5,040.

Membership has improved and now stands at 11 household memberships, 4 individual members and 14 supporters, bringing £784 to the accounts annually.

4. Policies, Procedures & Key Documents

Gardening risk assessment has been updated and uploaded to the Collings Park Trust website. The tri-annual review of policies and procedures is now due, committee members agreed to assist with this.

It was agreed that Dave Rowe or other professional be contacted about producing a poster giving guidance for visitors and community groups, based on the visitor guidance document recently drafted, and possibly a separate poster for the pond area.

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).
- Further woodchip top-up to paths is required.
- Fruit trees will need pruning.
- A diagram showing the location and varieties of trees in the garden and 'ransom strip' to be produced for display in the notice board.

6. Future Events Planning

The idea of holding another evening of carols was discussed.

7. External Events

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8. Feedback from Board of Trustees

The programme for preparation and distribution of the annual accounts and report, and the AGM, will be re-issued.

9. AOB

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10. Date and venue of next meeting: Tuesday 20th January 2026, 19:00 hrs, to be held at TBC (Liz's home (Lexdon) if available, or Andrew and Lois' home (12 Fortescue Place)).