



<https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

News for the villages of Colsterworth, Woolsthorpe, Stainby, Gunby, North Witham and Lobthorpe

Edited by Stuart Whitcombe

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Colsterworth & District Parish Council

VACANCY

PARISH CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Colsterworth and District Parish Council is recruiting for a Part-Time Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

The Council is looking for an enthusiastic applicant for this exciting and rewarding role. Which, is primarily homebased except for monthly council meetings for 16hrs per week to be reviewed after 3 months. The applicant must be willing to undertake any other duties as may be reasonably required from time to time and will also act as Community Manager. The outgoing Clerk will provide a staged one to one training for a minimum of 4 weeks after which this will be reviewed.

For more information and an application form please visit <https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/> under latest news.

Closing date for the application is 10th November 2025 with interviews to be arranged very soon thereafter.

Website: <https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

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Parish Council Report

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Your headlines from the Parish Council (PC) Meeting 7th October 2025

Full minutes and reports are available on the Colsterworth and District Website

(Search "Colsterworth and District Parish Council" and find the agendas and minutes under "Council Business": **Council business – Colsterworth and District Parish Council** (lincolnshire.gov.uk))

PUBLIC FORUM:

Cllr E O'Neill (Chair) opened the meeting and invited the one member of the public present to speak. They spoke in support of their application to be Co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Colsterworth said they had lived in the village for eight years. They gave a brief background on themselves adding that they were involved in the set-up of the Colsterworth Collective Action Group (CCAG) but think they would be more effective as a Parish Councillor.

A second member of the public joined the meeting at 7.32pm who also spoke in support of their application to be Co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Colsterworth. They said they had lived in the village for ten years, during which they had been involved in the set-up of Colsterworth Festival of Remembrance (CFoR) and the founder of Forces Equine. They added that they had recently taken the position of secretary for the Rutland and Stamford Reform UK Branch.

Cllr E O'Neill thanked the two members of the public and invited them to stay for the Co-option agenda item later in the meeting.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Cllr E O'Neill (Chair) thanked Cllr C Hainsworth (Vice Chair) for chairing the previous two meetings in their absence. They announced the resignation of Cllr C Rowland and thanked them for their contribution to the Parish Council. They reminded everyone that there remained one Cllr Vacancy for North Witham and Lobthorpe, Gunby and Stainby with three vacancies at Colsterworth.

Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Councillors Report.

SKDC Cllr D Bellamy reported.

1. National Grid Upgrade - Along with Cllr B Green they will be having a meeting to discuss the pylons and solar farms which are likely to be connected to the sub-stations which are part of the pylon project. There is facility to connect 44 renewables projects to the three sub stations at Spalding, Corby Glen and Waltham on the Wolds. The County Council are keeping an inventory of all plans for solar farms.
2. Local Plan Consultation – This has now ended and comments by consultees should be available to view from the middle of November 2025. They commented on how there were nearly as many responses submitted from Colsterworth as the market towns. It will possibly be two years before the Local Plan is adopted but because there is not a five-year land supply there may be speculative planning applications submitted for developments.

SKDC Cllr B Green sent their apologies.

LCC Cllr C Vernon sent their apologies.

Remembrance Sunday

It was resolved for Cllr C Hainsworth (Vice Chair) to lay the Parish Council Poppy Wreath.

Christmas Lights Switch On

It was resolved for the Christmas Lights switch on to be at 6.30pm at St John the Baptist Church on Friday 5th December 2025.

It was unanimously agreed to invite Sandra Arnold from the Colsterworth Co-op to switch on the Christmas Lights.

Updates for Council administration

Recruitment for a new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr E O'Neill (Chair) informed Council that the recruitment process was progressing with suitable candidates, for a proposal to take to the next Finance and Administration meeting.

Co-option for Cllrs for Colsterworth
Debi Heath French and Stephen Jordan-Bird were Co-opted as Councillors for Colsterworth.

Finance

Accounts for payment were approved by Council.

Highways & Footpaths Working Group Report (Cllr C Hainsworth) Ad-hoc report

No report this month.

All Fix My Street (FMS) Reports can be found at <https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Nature Trail

The volunteers continue their work maintaining the Nature Trail for all to enjoy. The Flower Meadow being the current focus.

Clerks Report & day to day business

Summary below – Full details can be found on the Parish Council Website **Council business – Colsterworth and District Parish Council** (lincolnshire.gov.uk)

1. Report that part of the post and rail fence at the top and bottom of the steps at the Bridge End entrance need repair as the posts have rotted. Post and rails replaced by the volunteers.
2. Contact made with a staff member at the Co-op following the recent serious break in.
3. The green gate at the Rope Walk entrance to the Colster Way play area has fallen from its hinges. The Clerk to arrange for it to be repaired.
4. COLSTERWORTH - ADDITION OF PF NO. 1144. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2025. Representations no later than 7th November 2025.
5. The Parish Councils comments to APPEAL – S24/0568 PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: APP/E2530/W/25/3370866 were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate portal on Friday 3rd October 2025 before the deadline of 7th October 2025.
6. Broken Street Name plates on Woodlands Drive, opposite Back Lane reported and Chestnut Grove, junction with Colster Way reported to FMS
7. Fallen trees and broken fence along footpath 17 reported to FMS by Cllr M Childs and the Clerk.

8. The Clerk raised an invoice for £6,077.12 for the LCC Grass Cutting purchase order 9. received from LCC Grass Cutting for the Grass Cutting contribution for 2025/2026.

Second instalment of SKDC's 2025/2026 Precept of £21,779 received 06/10/2025

10. Report on vehicles parking on the grass area owned by the Parish Council outside Little Legs Nursery without permission.

11. The Wicksteed annual Play Area inspections have been ordered for all 4 play areas.

Correspondence received

Council received details of correspondence received relating to speeding vehicles, lack of police presence, fly tipping and potholes.

SKDC Planning Applications

S25/1696 - Proposed new garage Location: 37 Woolsthorpe Road, Woolsthorpe By Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, NG33 5NT.

SKDC Planning Appeal

APP/E2530/W/25/3370866 - Erection of an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility and carbon capture, improvement of existing and part creation of new access track, landscaping and other associated infrastructure. Location: Development East Of Sewstern Industrial Estate South Of Sewstern Road Gunby. Comment submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the Parish Council.

SKDC Planning Permission

S25/1663 - Section 211 notice to fell Goat Willow tree. Location: 26 Newton Way, Woolsthorpe By Colsterworth.

S25/1662 - Section 211 notice to reduce height and breadth of Ash tree and cut back branches. Location: 26 Newton Way, Woolsthorpe By Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, NG33 5NR

S25/0455 - Construction of 3no. dwellings with associated car parking and external landscaping Location: Land Between 16-18 Bourne Road, Colsterworth.

S25/1320 - Proposed two storey extension to the side and single storey extension to the front of existing dwelling Location: 11 Pasture Close Colsterworth Lincolnshire NG33 5NA

S25/1807 - Crown reduction works to a mature Horse Chestnut tree (TPO 59). Location: 21 Woodlands Drive, Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, NG33 5NH,

SKDC Refusal

S25/1330 - To carry out a crown reduction (T1) Sycamore tree by 30% to reduce shading to the property Location: 6 Chestnut Grove Colsterworth Lincolnshire NG33 5PE

Matters Requiring attention

Cllr M Childs reported that streetlights from No 62 along footpath 19 from the steps at the Social Club to Old Post Lane are not working. First reported in May 2025, the Clerk to follow this up

Date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday 4th November 2025. Methodist Church Hall, Back Lane, Colsterworth.**

Temporary Traffic Order (Road closure)

Sunday 9th November 2025 10:15 to 11:30 am.

- Road Closure - High Street junction B676 to Manor Court, Colsterworth and Back Lane junction Newton Court to Back Lane junction High Street.
- Diversion Route – Woodlands Drive, Chestnut Grove, Colster Way or Old Post Lane, Colsterworth



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Colsterworth WI, 16th September 2025

When the committee planned the September meeting of Colsterworth WI to be an Open Meeting, they hoped the speaker's subject would be of sufficient interest to attract visitors. They were not disappointed. At 2.30 on September 16th Colsterworth Village Hall was a-buzz. The usual arrangements were in place: Liz at the Welcome table, the tea table laden with delectable goodies, the competition table filled with flowers at one end and 'Item of the Month' competition entries at the other. At 5 minutes to 2 extra chairs were being put out for last minute visitors.

Helen, the President, welcomed members and visitors alike. After settling everybody in, she introduced the guest speaker: Fraud Protection Officer, Sharon Hall. Sharon was a terrific speaker, full of warmth and humour. She immediately engaged with her audience, asking about various scams and attempted frauds that people had experienced, putting her own hand up to admit too she had been approached. Sharon said that 40% of all crime committed each year is fraud, with over 3.5 million examples at a cost of £7 billion to individuals. Surprisingly, only 15% of fraud is reported to the Police. Sharon gave several reasons for this:

- People feel embarrassed
- People don't know they are a victim

People hit the delete button or put the phone down.

She stressed that anybody can become a victim of fraud because circumstances can fit someone's life at a particular time. Sharon spoke of the impact that fraud can have on people:

- Loss of confidence
- Falling into debt
- Becoming a repeat victim
- Negative effect on health
- Damaging relationships
- Impact on care needs

(sometimes, victims can need care sooner than they would have).

Sharon explained there were four different types of fraud: phone, postal, doorstep or on-line. Phone fraud is sometimes known as 'vishing'. Generally, an automated call is made leading to offers of warranty fraud or false investment opportunities. Impersonation fraud is when somebody phones pretending to be from the Police, a bank

or the HMRC. Rogue SMS text messages are posted on phones in the hope that somebody, unwittingly, will engage with the sender. 'Quishing' is where a false QR is planted on a noticeboard, generally in a carpark. Sharon advised to always run a hand over the QR symbol to check it hasn't been added to the notice. Sharon's advice, which she repeated several times is if you are not expecting a call or message ignore it. With postal fraud, whether it be false lottery claims, catalogue fraud or inheritance offers, fraudsters need information. To guard against this, Sharon advised shredding all names and addresses on envelopes, prescription bags and boxes and parcel wrappings. Doorstep fraud targets vulnerable people with offers to repair roofs, gutters and driveways. Don't open the door to unknown callers and never engage with anybody wanting to undertake unsolicited work. People selling on the doorstep need a peddler's licence issued by the police in the area where they live. This are very rarely issued.

On-line fraud is a huge problem. Sharon advised to always use a different password for each account and to make sure it is a strong one. Never click on any link unless you are expecting it. Links enable fraudsters to access bank details or place a remote access device onto your computer. Sharon suggested only ever doing on-line shopping as a guest as this avoids giving out too much information. Sharon's talk was interspersed with video and TV clips, it was full of tips and hacks on how to avoid being de-frauded. At the end of a very entertaining and informative 45 minutes she repeated her core message- if you are not expecting it, ignore it. Pamela Harrison gave the vote of thanks and Sharon sat down to warm and appreciative applause from the audience.

The tea hostesses sprang into action – helping members to cups of tea or coffee and serving the tasty cakes, biscuits and fruit on offer. During the tea break the room was full of chatter as people discussed what they had heard. Sharon kindly stayed on to answer questions and talk to people.

With an eye to the clock, Helen brought everybody back together, inviting visitors to stay on if they wished. Members were informed that the Chair of the South Lincs Federation of WIs, Tina Orange, had unexpectedly resigned her post. Tina has been in office for two and a half years but has made the difficult decision to step down due to a change in her work circumstances. A new interim Chair, Louise Read, has been appointed.

Colsterworth members know Louise as she has attended meetings as our Trustee. Helen repeated the call for volunteers to stand as Trustees. Raising the point that with no Trustees there would not be a Federation and with no Federation there would be no WIs. Not a happy thought.

The LEBBS has kindly sent a certificate thanking Colsterworth WI for the recent donation of £97.70. Notice was given of a forthcoming trip to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire on 29th October. Several members expressed an interest in attending. Christine Whittle gave a short talk on her recent, highly enjoyable visit, to Skegness Lifeboat Station. She was very impressed with the level of training the volunteers have to undergo. Rachel Popham reported that the WI stall at the village gala had been well supported. The opportunity to practise CPR under the tutelage of local volunteer, Adrian Clarke was taken up by visitors. It was noted with approval that a female mannequin had been provided alongside the usual male ones. A donation of £93 has been sent to the local Air Ambulance Service, Adrian's chosen charity. This being the amount raised at the Green Tombola which ran concurrently on the stall.

Members were reminded of the Coffee Morning to be held at the White Lion pub on 30th October, funds raised will be split equally between the WI and LEBBS (blood bikes)

The competition winners were announced. The 'Flower of the Month' competition was won by Helen with four people Christine, Shirley, Brenda and Rosemarie tying for second place. The 'Item of the Month' competition – 'Money, Money, Money' was won by Rosemarie with an old bank note. In second place was Pamela with an Abba LP featuring the song 'Money, Money, Money!' The raffle was called. After a very busy and packed meeting Helen thanked members for attending, announced our next meeting would be our 108th anniversary lunch at the White Lion on 27th November, and wished everybody a good afternoon and closed the meeting at 4pm.

Colsterworth Women's Institute

Diary Dates

27th November

The White Lion Pub, 12:15 for 12:30pm

16th December

Colsterworth Village Hall 2 pm