

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 18 July 2018.

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell in the Chair
Councillors: Battle, Farrow and Wallace
Also present: Cllr. Richardson and Symonds.

9 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies given.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

11 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 23 May were proposed by Cllr. Battle, seconded by Cllr. Farrow and **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

12 REVIEW OF THE GRANT SCHEME

The Council launched a Grant Scheme in 15/16, first agreed payments in November 2015 and the 18/19 scheme was launched on 5 July. In this time, members had developed a preference for Coleshill parish organisations to be supported over those outside and to direct grants to truly local organisations rather than regional or national charitable concerns.

It was felt important that the 6-month progress report should be diaried by the **Administration Manager** to insist on their completion and receipt.

The Coleshill Town Band and Coleshill in Bloom had previously been identified as providers of 'core' services and a principle that they should be funded separately to the £10,000 fund recipients. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs. Farrell and Battle as **RESOLVED** nem. con. that a £1,500 fund be recommended to full Town Council, to be taken from reserves, to pay for Coleshill Town Band performances. As for Coleshill in Bloom, the Council was now assisting with the summer watering and it was felt better to see if the organisation was successful with getting sponsors for new or replacement planters in the first instance.

13 PATHS MAINTENANCE

The County Council was responsible for the maintenance of official paths but had, in the last few years, been seeking assistance from other bodies and any voluntary effort. The Coleshill Civic Society initially offered to help (if the Town Council assisted with recruiting its volunteers). However, it resigned from its pathway contract in early 2018.

Cllr. David Reilly had County Council Cabinet responsibility for paths. Tame Valley Wetlands' funding was about to end but he was hopeful the organisation would work with partners to continue its work. Simon Lowe had been a tree surgeon for TVW and Cllr. Reilly and 2 other County members had agreed to fund Simon to perform the role of a Lengthsman for Warks. County Council on a 2 days /week basis.

Members were keen on volunteers being involved but they wanted more information on options for which body could most suitably take on the insurance responsibility. There was a request for the **Town Clerk** to provide another report for full Town Council looking at whether it should be County Council, Town Council or Tame Valley Wetlands policy that should insure volunteers using tools belonging to the authorities.

14 CHRISTMAS PLANS 2018

For the last few years, the Love Coleshill Consortium had run a Christmas Late-night shopping event on the last Thursday in November to coincide with November pay day. The Council had, for many years, hosted an annual Charity Christmas Fair in the Town Hall for local groups and charities to raise awareness and funds, offering seasonal entertainment for visitors, on the first Saturday in December.

A consultation with 32 previous stall holders had 8 received replies, the majority having expressed the need for only one event. However, if the Thursday evening was agreed as the single one, the stalls should be run indoors, i.e. within the Town Hall building. 4 responders were willing to accommodate the Christmas Fair on the Thursday evening (so long as in the Town Hall) but 3 would only have a stall if it remained on a Saturday. Inner Wheel was not available for 2018.

Cllr. Wallace highlighted that the Women's Institute had previously wanted to take over the refreshments duties from Inner Wheel if they pulled out. She was also saddened at the prospect of losing the traditional Saturday event which provided many organisations with a fund raising opportunity.

Other members felt that the majority of stalls held on the Saturday would transfer to the Thursday night, if in the Town Hall. Cllr. Farrell proposed and Cllr. Farrow seconded the Charity Christmas Fair being held on the Thursday. This was **ACCEPTED** by majority vote.

15 COMMUNITY HUB AND TOURISM

The downstairs rooms on the Sumner Road side of the Town Hall were vacated on 30 June. The movement of the Community Hub into these rooms could allow improved services including a tourism offer within one of the rooms, to be of particular help to people visiting the town.

Quotations had not yet been sought but the areas of cost included additional electric points, rewired phone lines, front door repairs, locks and key access revision and new external signage. A more expensive consideration was to allow ramp access for disabled users from Sumner Road. It was requested that the **Town Clerk** should

arrange quotations ready for the next meeting of Procedures and Amenities Committee, which would oversee the project's progress.

Members were particularly keen on the movement of the Community Hub as a priority over the increased tourism offer. However, it was also understood that if there was a tourism desk and materials that it might be possible to encourage North Warwickshire Borough Council matched funding. Cllr. Farrell believed that if the Town Council was to allocate £5,000 to the upgrade project that Cllr. Reilly would support a similar Borough Council contribution. The £5,000 allocation of reserves was proposed by Cllr. Battle, seconded by Cllr. Farrow and **AGREED** unanimously.

16 A446 ROUNDABOUT MAINTENANCE

The roundabouts on the A446 as it passed through the town boundary were the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council Highways department for maintenance.

Some Town Councillors had been lobbied by residents about the general appearance of these traffic islands due to the lack of sufficient care and maintenance. It was noted that the County Council opened up the traffic islands to sponsorship a few years ago, for which, it was understood, it was receiving 4-figure sums per roundabout.

Members wished for the **Town Clerk** to take up the lobbying with the County Council directly by writing to its head of service.

Item 17 was dealt with as a confidential item and so the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

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Chairman