

# ***Coleshill Town Council***

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2019** at 7:00 p.m.

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PRESENT: - Cllr. Battle, Town Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: - Breeze Farrell, Farrow, Richardson, Wallace and Wootton.

## **18/52 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mason and Symonds.

## **18/53 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

## **18/54 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14 NOVEMBER 2018**

The minutes were **ADOPTED** unanimously, after proposal by Cllr. Farrell and seconding by Cllr. Breeze.

## **18/55 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**

For a second year, on Christmas Day, the Mayor and his consort had visited St. Joseph's and Orchard Blythe care homes. He recommended that incoming mayors should try to do this in the future as it was heart-warming, appreciated and enjoyable.

The Arts Week was to now run from Monday 11th to Friday 17th March. The library would feature different literary giants each day of the week, at least 3 Coleshill schools were to have art-based projects that week and the local painter David Rees, who died recently, was to have his family exhibiting his paintings. There was the Coleshill Town Band booked for Saturday, 16 March and a Live and Local show "Mr. Keith and his Orchestra" on 17 March. Members were requested to support these events.

## **18/56 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Hammond spoke of the issues around the Green Man crossing, including drivers ignoring the no-right-turn sign. He suggested widening the junction to allow 2-lane traffic and 20 m.p.h. controls.

The fact that the Town Council were proposing no increase in council tax charges per household was congratulated by Mr. Jack Deakin. He noted that other local councils and the police had planned for increases.

Mr. Mark Jones welcomed the Mayor's involvement with the issue of the fire engine numbers, in a non-Party political way. Cllr. Hayfield advised that the County Council budget was to be debated on 7 February but that the Conservative group was not backing the suggestion of reducing from two Coleshill-based engines to only one.

Cllrs. Reilly and Hayfield were asked if they would lobby other elected members and they replied that each political group would arrive at the meeting with its own view on the budget but that the Conservatives were not supporting a cut in the Coleshill fire service.

#### 18/57 TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the 28 November 2018 and 9 January 2019 Planning Committees were **ADOPTED** unanimously, as proposed and seconded by Cllrs. Breeze and Farrow. Cllr. Farrell updated members that the application for James Munday Rise (the name suggested by the Town Council) had been given Borough Council approval.

It was understood that The Cottage, Maxstoke Lane had recently acquired a commercial business sign, although it had not received planning permission. The **Town Clerk** was asked to investigate, and, if necessary, report it.

The Procedure and Amenities Committee meeting minutes of 12 December 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and **AGREED** unanimously. It was noted that the Borough Council had not replied to the Town Council letter sent about the delay in Community Infrastructure Levy funding allocations.

#### 18/58 MOTION ON THE FIRE SERVICE LEVELS

Cllr. Breeze spoke, presenting a pre-circulated motion, calling for the Town Council to write to the County Council about the Fire and Rescue Service, particularly the number of Coleshill-based engines. She was concerned for resident safety and fire fighter jobs.

This was seconded by Cllr. Farrell who highlighted that the budget proposals were a Party-politically driven choice. He added that he thought the proposal on the second engine could have been withdrawn from as early as 11 December 2018, when it first was discussed by the County controlling group. There was to be a proposal of £569,000 cuts to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service so there could be other fallout.

On a vote, the motion was **RESOLVED** nem. con.

#### 18/59 FINANCIAL REPORTS, 2018/19 - QUARTER 3

The Town Clerk highlighted that the net worth of the Council was £297,000 as at 31 December. £200,000 of that sum was in long-term investment in the LAPF CCLA property account. If the draft 19/20 budget was to be accepted, some of this fund might have to be transferred into the more liquid accounts within the year.

The receipts and payments for the last quarter were circulated but received no comment. The reports were **ACCEPTED** nem. con., as proposed by Cllr. Farrow and seconded by Cllr. Breeze.

#### 18/60 BUDGET SETTING FOR 2019/20

All members had been asked to submit ideas for capital /large projects. A 'shaped' budget had then been produced for circulation which showed a positive balance of £122.56 with no large project spend but a £100,627.44 deficit budget if all submitted projects were included.

This draft budget also assumed that the precept request would be £238,372.56 (the same charge per household but with a 1.12% tax base increase).

Cllr. Wootton asked what safe level of balances should be held by the Council. The Town Clerk advised that there was no specific formula available but that authorities should take account of the level of risk against the levels of planned expenditure. He added that £297,000 in balances was still over 50% of the planned budget expenditure of £451,425 but that the risk was getting higher as the reserves were diminished and the 50% figure was made closer.

The draft budget was proposed unamended by Cllr. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. Wootton and **AGREED** unanimously.

#### 18/61 **CALENDAR OF MEETING DATES FOR 2019/20**

The Town Council elections were due on 2 May. The Town Clerk advised that he was planning to have a new member induction evening on the first available after this, on Wednesday, 8 May.

Annual Council was scheduled for 22 May. As the earliest available Planning Committee date after the election was then to be 29 May, there might be a need to circulate important planning applications by email to all members for comments as the Planning Committee would not be elected until 22 May.

The calendar of meetings was noted.

#### 18/62 **CHANTRY HOUSE – SATURDAY CAR PARKING**

The owner of the Chantry House car park had agreed to allowing the area to be used by shoppers on Saturdays on a 6-month trial basis, assuming the Town Council was to pick up all costs.

Members were aware that around £1,000 in costs would be incurred by the Council in staffing the opening and closing, the legal fees for an agreement, payments in lieu to Father Hudson Homes and any signage and marketing costs. Such costs could be shown against the High Street Support budget heading.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to progress this, as proposed by Cllr. Breeze and seconded by Cllr. Wootton. It was further requested that staff were to monitor usage levels and to check that the trial was operating correctly. Furthermore, Love Coleshill should be asked to be involved with the use of a questionnaire to go to High Street businesses surveying the effects of the trial.

#### 18/63 **INTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS**

Ms. Diane Malley had indicated that she was available to carry out the Internal Auditor function for financial year 2018/19 at a fee of £275. In writing, she also offered a 3-year contract at £265 per year.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wootton and seconded by Cllr. Farrell that the 3-year contract be taken up and this was unanimously **AGREED**.

18/64 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

An expression of interest to the HS2 Community Fund was being developed, with the help of Borough and County officers with experience of completing grant applications or having HS2 coordination roles. This expression was due to be sent in the next week.

The Memorial Park playground markings were fitted as agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.



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Town Mayor