

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 07 MAY 2014** at 7:32 p.m.

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

Councillors: - Courts, Gascoigne, Farrell, Hopkins, Simkin, Taylor, Truman, Wallace and Wootton.

14/1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received – all members present.

14/2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

14/3 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Cllr. Taylor was proposed as Mayor by Cllr. Courts, seconded Cllr. Farrell and **ELECTED** unanimously.

He gave thanks for his election and announced that Cllr. Hopkins was to be his consort for the year. He presented the consort's badge to the new position holder.

14/4 COMMENTS OF THE RETIRING MAYOR

The Mayor presented a commemorative badge to his predecessor, Cllr. Richards, who then spoke about his year of office. He thanked fellow members and his consort, Rita, for their support throughout the year, adding that had been enjoyable to share the civic year with Coleshill resident Cllr. Dominic Ferro as the representative of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Cllr. Richards felt that it was an easier time of Mayoral office than his previous occasion, paying tribute to the Council and its broader involvement in various projects, its supportive staff and the help of the Coleshill School, the Hub, community groups and the Coleshill Post.

Cllr. Wallace congratulated Cllr. Richards on how well he and his consort had represented the Authority and wished to record thanks for his hours of dedicated work on a number of projects in the year.

14/5 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

There was a proposal for Cllr. Wootton to be appointed to the Deputy Mayor role for the forthcoming year by Cllr. Simkin. This was seconded by Cllr. Truman and she was duly **ELECTED** unanimously.

14/6 **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

There was a consensus that the Built Amenities and Outdoor Amenities Committee composition be unchanged for the ensuing year. However, the Mayor wished not to be a member of the Planning Committee during his civic year. It was proposed by Cllr. Farrell and seconded by Cllr. Simkin that Cllr. Hopkins should join the committee in his place and this was **AGREED**.

14/7 **CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

There following appointments were **RESOLVED**:

Built Amenities Chairman – Cllr. Simkin (proposed Cllr. Richards, seconded Cllr. Courts)
Outdoor Amenities Chairman – Cllr. Courts (proposed Cllr. Simkin, seconded Cllr. Farrell).
Planning Chairman – Cllr. Wootton (proposed Cllr. Truman, seconded Cllr. Farrell).
Employment & Grievance Chairman – Cllr. Truman (proposed Cllr. Simkin, seconded Cllr. Courts).

14/8 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members discussed changes to representative appointments as follows:

North Warks CAB – Cllr. Farrell to cease the role but no new appointment to be made.
Coleshill Traffic Management Group – Cllr. Farrell off, Cllr. Truman on.
Love Coleshill – Cllr. Taylor off, Cllr. Richards on.

It was also noted that Paul Buckingham had served the term of office on the Coleshill Parish Trust Fund. Members wished him to continue for another term of office.

All of the above was proposed by Cllr. Courts to be treated en bloc as one vote. This was seconded by Cllr. Wootton and the appointments were **CARRIED** unanimously.

14/9 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19 MARCH 2014**

These were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Simkin, seconded by Cllr. Richards and **ACCEPTED** unanimously.

14/10 **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OR GIVEN BY THE MAYOR**

The Mayor had already been in touch with the Town Hall staff and had accepted a number of invitations, including some in the future months of September and October and even one for March 2015.

14/11 **PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC**

In response to concerns raised at the Annual Town Meeting, Cllr. Ferro referred to the work of the Dog Warden employed by the Borough Council. The officer would be involved with the Keep Coleshill Clean week of 1 - 8 June, part of the general Keep Britain Tidy focus week. Cllr. Ferro hoped there would be communications material delivered from a gazebo by the Cole Bridge and he welcomed the Town Council in jointly work on the campaign week.

Cllr. Ferro continued in speaking about the planned daytime opening hours of the new leisure centre. He stressed that the restricted daytime hours use would only affect the main sports hall and not the gym, aerobics and squash areas. He said that the Coleshill School was part-funding the new build and needed to have the bulk of the access to the main hall during school hours. The Borough Council officers planned to meet with the school shortly regarding the timetable but they were aware of the badminton group members who had contacted Councillors. Cllr. Richards was also in liaison with Simon Powell of North Warwickshire Borough Council, asking for negotiations on behalf of this group. Jane Taylor asked that the bookings for Tumble Time nursery group be considered as well in negotiations.

Clare Macleod had noticed the Croft had been visited by metal detectors and wondered if authority had been granted by the Council. The Town Clerk replied that it had been discussed and agreed and that the detectors had unearthed some copper coins. He was to obtain more details.

A number of members of the public supported Derek Axe and Clare Macleod in their views on graffiti needing to be addressed quickly to avoid it getting out of hand. Sitings at the A446, at Hams Hall and at the old fuel garage were mentioned. Cllr. Ferro referred to the County Highways having responsibility for the main roads and was happy to advise the police of any tags that were left.

14/12 **TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 19 March were proposed by Cllr. Simkin, seconded by Cllr. Richards and **AGREED** to be adopted.

14/13 **ITEMS PUSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 5(f)**

It was the view of Cllr. Gascoigne that the Town Council should write to the Borough Council to request that a portion of the existing leisure centre land was made available to support a potentially enhanced Memorial Park with a car parking area. He added that otherwise, any housing development would cause problems for the adjoining properties to the cricket pitch. Cllr. Farrell seconded the proposal, suggesting that the land value was higher than it would have been when initially designated for reuse as housing. Cllr. Gascoigne was also aware that this was a suitable location for a GP surgery, a facility he felt was lacking in the town. It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor should write to the Borough Council, on behalf of the Town Council, but circulate the letter beforehand.

A resident had suggested to Cllr. Truman that turning Sumner Road into a one-way road would allow additional on-street parking. The member did not wish to debate the merits of the idea at this meeting but suggested the Authority might pursue it in the future.

A divot in the playground at the Community Centre had been drawn to the attention of Cllr. Wootton but she was pleased to report that this had been filled in, as requested.

14/14 **MEMORIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT**

The Mayor asked that this item on the Memorial Park also consider the recommendations that had been circulated regarding the Town Council's support of the Keep Coleshill Tidy week, over 1 - 8 June.

The Town Clerk outlined the discussions that he had had with North Warwickshire Borough Council officers. These centred on the need for a specific resident consultation process, the employment of a development consultant organisation and the desire to pursue external grant funds.

Observations were made from Cllr. Wallace on the suggestions made by Borough Council officers at the April meeting. She advised that an enclosed play area had been preferred to open plan as it was 'dog proof'. Also, there had previously been a teen shelter on the park but, despite it being teenager designed, it was vandalised. Cllr. Farrell responded by saying these had been Borough officer suggestions rather than Town Council policy.

Cllr. Farrell formally proposed the principles of undertaking the specific consultation process, the employment of a consultant organisation and also the participation in the Keep Coleshill Tidy week campaign. He asked that the Town Clerk add the project quotations consideration to the 18 June Town Council agenda. Cllr. Richards seconded the formal motion and the Council **AGREED** nem. con. to adopt the proposals.

There was a concern for Cllr. Truman that the employment of an external resource would entail additional project management time for the Town Hall staff, especially if grant funding applications were also required. He planned to discuss this issue further with the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk later circulated the outline of the quotation received from Moore Environment, in advance of the 18 June Town Council meeting.

14/15 **HS2 PETITIONING**

The Mayor reported that he had been on the top table at the HS2 Petitioning Public Interest meeting on 2 May when 70 people had attended. It was highlighted that Dan Byles MP and his Secretary, Sandy Trickett both advised the Council and the Coleshill Action Group should separately petition on mitigation measures. However, representatives of the Action Group favoured a joint petition policy.

Cllr. Richards identified that it had already been discussed that it should be a joint petition and Cllr. Wallace thought that this gave more weight to the mitigation proposals. Cllr. Wootton suggested that HS2 might be more willing to negotiate with one party.

The Mayor reminded members that Paul Buckingham was legally qualified and strongly encouraged the joint petitioning. Cllr. Gascoigne pointed out that one delegate representing two petitions might have a problem with a separation of views. However, Cllr. Truman felt this was unlikely as the Town Council has not taken forward a mitigation exercise whereas the Action Group had done so in detail. He also feared for the relationship with the Action Group if the Town Council decided to ignore its considered view. Cllr. Farrell added that all of the Town Council's advertised petition, posters and signs had referred to a joint petition and it would be difficult to change policy at this stage.

Cllr. Gascoigne asked whether members thought it was an issue for the Chairman of the Action Group to represent the Town Council's view if not a Councillor. Cllr. Farrell felt that this was not a concern as the Town Council had been in complete agreement with the Action Group mitigation proposals.

Cllr. Wootton proposed and Cllr. Richards seconded that the joint petition be progressed, which was seconded by Cllr. Richards and duly **RESOLVED**.

14/16 **FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 OF 2013/14**

Cllr. Wallace asked about the number of charges for water heater repair. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Hall and the Community Centre both had a water heater which had each needed two service calls.

Cllr. Farrell congratulated the Town Hall staff on the level of income versus budget for the Town Hall, Community Centre and the cemetery. The reports were **APPROVED**, as proposed by Cllr. Courts and seconded by Cllr. Farrell.

14/17 **POPLAR TREES IN THE MEMORIAL GARDENS**

Cllr. Courts reported the fact that a tree expert had recommended the reduction of the six poplars at the lower end of the Memorial Park, adjoining the Stonebridge allotments. There had been two branches down in the storms and requests for reduction by allotment holders. The Town Clerk added that the tree expert recommendation was for a 50% reduction.

Cllr. Gascoigne suggesting that a sizeable reduction would significantly reduce the visual aspect and that a decision should be taken after the design of the park improvement project was known. He was supported in this proposal by Cllr. Wallace.

Cllr. Truman felt this did not address the advice received to reduce the trees on safety grounds and put forward a counter proposal to consult the Borough arboriculture officer for an opinion on the need for height reduction. Cllr. Farrell added that the trees were a potential screening against the proposed HS2 line routing.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council agree a composite motion to consult the Borough arboriculture officer for an opinion on the need for reduction, particularly whether it was possible to delay any work until HS2 and park development matters were known.

13/141 **TOWN CLERK REPORTS**

No further matters.

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.



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Town Mayor