

Minutes of a meeting of the **OUTDOORS AMENITIES COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 15 April 2015.

---

PRESENT: Councillor Courts in the Chair  
Councillors: Farrell, Truman, Wallace and Wootton  
Also in attendance: Gascoigne, Simkin.

## **26 APOLOGIES**

There were apologies from Cllr. Hopkins.

## **27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wallace declared an interest in any discussion about the Memorial Park development due to the close proximity of her house.

## **28 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of 29 October were proposed by Cllr. Truman, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

Cllr. Farrell and Cllr. Wootton pointed out that the clearance of the scrub and the repairs to the fence at the back of the Community Centre still had not happened. The **Deputy Town Clerk** is to chase this up. It was added that the ivy had now been cut back from the property backing onto the Croft.

## **29 ALLOTMENTS**

### **(a) Interim Meetings**

The Chairman reported that the spring allotment holders meetings had taken place. These meetings were held for each allotment site rather than on mass. The Records Assistant has now taken over the administration of the allotments. All were now let and site visits were being made to any allotment that has been left unattended.

### **(b) General**

Recent break-ins at Blythe Road site had been reported to the police. On the same evening, the Town Council garages in the cemetery had an attempted break in. Cllr. Wallace added that although the police had been contacted they did not attend the scene and felt that the entrance to the Blythe Road allotment had become more visible because of the recent removal of fencing to accommodate the moving of a mobile home into a back garden. Members expressed their disappointment at the police decision to not to do a site visit to the break-in sites.

## **30 CEMETERY**

Cllr. Farrell raised a concern from a resident on Kendal Avenue who had to seed the grave of a relative and asked if this was the job of the Groundsman. The

Deputy Town Clerk advised it was but that the nature of the soil and the different degrees to which it sank in various parts of the cemetery might have been a contributing factor. If the resident had phoned the Town Hall office (they did not) this would have been dealt with.

Cllr. Wootton put forward a request from a local resident for an additional water tap by the middle gate on the Maxstoke Lane side of the cemetery. This was not voted on. Cllr. Wallace requested the water taps be mapped for the new councillors.

Councillors requested that the green bollard water taps be left unlocked; the **Deputy Town Clerk** was to ask the Groundsman to do this.

Cllr. Truman requested that the need for additional cemetery space be addressed with the possibility of acquiring land on the Blythe Road for additional allotment space and converting Stonebridge allotments into burial space. In further discussion, it was felt that the Maxstoke Lane field would be a preferred option for additional cemetery and allotment provision with the south side of Stonebridge being used for an AstroTurf pitch. It was requested that the need for additional burial ground in Coleshill should be put into the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **31 CHURCHYARD, ST. PETER'S WALK & CROFT**

#### **(a) Damaged Bench in the Croft**

The skating company had offered £350 as compensation for the loss of the bench, which would cost in excess of £800 to replace.

It was noted that Love Coleshill wished, through Rosalie Whitehead, that it be known that the organisation was very sorry the Town Council had been affected in this way in what had otherwise been a very successful event. Walkers, the Authority's insurer had offered to help in any way required.

Cllr. Truman proposed that the offer of £350 be accepted. This was **AGREED** unanimously, with the proviso that a new bench be purchased when additional benches are bought for Memorial Park, to take advantage of any bulk purchasing discounts. There was a view that there might be only one bench along the path in the Croft, with any additional being placed on the periphery of the Croft.

#### **(b) General**

Councillors were informed by the Deputy Town Clerk that Love Coleshill had sought and been granted permission to use the Croft for a French Market on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### **32 MEMORIAL PARK**

Cllr. Truman visited a resident on Wilmot Avenue who is concerned about the development of the Memorial Park. He had assured the resident that the lockable gate at the end of Wilmot Avenue was to keep cars (not pedestrians) from entering the park and that all entrances would be mobility scooter friendly.

The Master Plan had now been signed off with Moore Environment. The new council would need to agree the implementation of this plan.

A huge amount of littering is happening on Memorial park Cllr. Wallace requested additional bins be provided. Cllr. Farrell suggested that the Town Council obtain, from the Borough Council, a designated area in which littering could be fined for, e.g. Memorial Park, where the planned CCTV would help.

### **33     STATION ROAD PLAY AREA**

The noticeboard for in front of the play area had been ordered and was due to be installed on 24 April.

Cllr. Farrell requested that the gate to the Community Centre playground be mended and a 'hoop' installed onto the gate for security. It was requested that quotes be obtained for new gates for Memorial Park and Community Centre play areas.

It was commented that the playground and grass area looked nice at the moment. However there was a certain amount of wear to the rubber flooring that needs to be addressed before it deteriorates further.

### **34     OUTDOOR AMENITIES CHARGES**

The Town Clerk had circulated a table of planned charges for burial services and football pitch hire.

Cllr. Wallace remarked that any changes in the cemetery charges cannot be implemented until they had been passed through Full Council and suggested that any discussions should have happened well in advance of the start of the new financial year. Councillors agreed and felt that any increases should be discussed at the time of budget setting and projections for the financial year ahead.

Cllr. Farrell also noted that to suggest that a 2-3% increase was in line with inflation was incorrect. Members agreed that there should not be increases with the exception of the additional £20 for 'in house' scatterings and the reduction to £45 for transfer of grave deeds. This was proposed by Cllr. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. Wootton and **ACCEPTED**. Members suggested that rather than a separate itemised charge for 'in house' scatterings the £20 should be added to all scattering total costs.

For football pitch hires, more details of the football teams, team ages and pitches used were requested before a decision was made to increase charges. These could then be implemented in time for the start of the new football season. Councillors wanted it made clear to the football teams that they are responsible for their litter and additional charges would be passed down to them if they failed to clear the football pitches after use. The Park Ranger could photograph the pitches before and after matches for evidence. This should be drawn up into a contract with the teams and checked by a solicitor.

Countrywide Services, the contractor employed to cut the grassed areas belonging to the Town Council, had agreed to hold charges for the third year of the contract even though it had been offered on a 12-month review basis.

**35     CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Request for use of the Memorial Park.

Cllr. Farrell felt that pre-Memorial Park development this type of event could be accommodated, but not after and had reservations about the fun fair being in such close proximity to the neighbouring houses. He felt that by agreeing to the fun fair this year we would be limiting the amount of groundwork that could be done to get the Memorial Park project underway.

Cllr. Wootton added that Coleshill Town Council should request references from other authorities that have allowed the fun fair to use their land. More information was required from the operator, such as which days and times the fun fair would run and also a site visit with councillors was to be arranged.

(a) Tree at the Community Centre Field.

A resident of Stanhope Way had requested attention to a tree at the field alongside the Community Centre. Cllr. Wallace asked that the Borough Council be contacted to see if there was an existing TPO. Councillors were against the removal of the tree but agreed that lower branches could be removed as per the tree surgeon's quotation.

**36     REPORTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

An additional red dog bin had been ordered for the Green Lane area. As this was ordered in early March and is on a 5-week lead time, it was now overdue delivery.

**37     ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An allotment holder had requested to have bee hives at Blythe Road allotment. Members agreed this, stating that they had already given authority to this allotment holder some years ago. The Records Assistant was to inform other allotment holders on Blythe Road to see if there were any objections.

Cllr. Wallace requested that the lock on the Parkfield Road entrance to Memorial Park be mended.

Cllr. Farrell requested that additional bins be placed at bus stops at Gorsey Way and the High Street by the Town Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06 p.m.

.....  
Chairman