

Minutes of a meeting of the **OUTDOORS AMENITIES COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 22 July 2015.

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell in the Chair
Councillors: Farrow, Richardson, Wallace and Wootton
Also in attendance: Cllrs. Jones and Mason.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies – full committee.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

3 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of 15 April were proposed by Cllr. Wootton, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Wallace was proposed by Cllr. Wootton, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ELECTED** unanimously.

5 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr. Wallace advised that the Gilson Allotments hedge was due its annual maintenance visit and suggested Mr. Bageley might be a suitable contractor.

In response to Cllr. Richardson's enquiry, members expressed the view that the practice of Coleshill in Bloom dropping off dead flowers at Gilson Allotments site to use for composting was permitted.

6 CEMETERY

(a) Memorial Wall Path

The Town Clerk gave the background that the previous Council had decided to replace the loose stone surface to the Memorial Wall path and had agreed to investigate costs for a resin-based alternative covering. Quotations had been requested by the previous Chairman from Ronacrete, a UK manufacturer. The Town Clerk had arranged a visit by this company to the Coleshill site. Ronacrete had measured the paths and determined that it needed 76 square metres of RonaDeck EcoPath MT surfacing at a depth of 35mm. It arranged for 4 of its suppliers to quote for 'Natural' colour of this specification on an entirely like-for-like basis. Members were content that Route One Highways of Wakefield were the lowest tender for the installation. Subsequent to the original quotation, the Town Clerk had requested costs for similar quantities in other colour

options. At this point, Route One advised that the yield per batch has been re-assessed by Ronacrete since quoting and was now greater (2.4sqm per batch rather than 2.1sqm), lowering the costs by the same proportion for all suppliers.

Cllr. Richardson proposed and Cllr. Wootton seconded that the committee should recommend the Ronacrete covering, subject to clarification of who was responsible for clearance of the current stone surfacing, what was provided as an edging and who would be responsible for any rectification as part of the guarantee (i.e. the manufacturer or the installer). This was **CARRIED** nem. con.

The colour option of 'Dorset Gold' was proposed by Cllr. Wallace and seconded by Cllr. Wootton and **AGREED** nem. con.

The Town Clerk advised that the Route One revised quotation for Dorset Gold was £4,270.44. Members wished to give delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to progress the order, subject to any additional requirements on clearance, edging and guarantee as above and so long as still within a £5,000 total, before VAT.

(b) Memorial Wall Plaque Removal

It was identified by the Town Clerk that plaque removal on expiry of the lease could lead to an unsightly gap in the brickwork. He suggested that as a lease expired, plaque removal would not be routine but only done when a new order for a replacement in that location was received. This was **AGREED** unanimously.

(b) Movement of Grave Adornments

Cllr. Richardson remarked on grave adornments having been apparently moved at the time of the grass cutting. The Town Clerk suspected Countrywide Grounds Maintenance might disturb some items or pick up those on ground between graves in order to mow. He was aware that the machines used by the contractor were less effective and controllable on the lower grounds near the tennis courts, due to the ground undulation. Coleshill Town FC was believed to have a large amount of topsoil to clear and the **Town Clerk** agreed to contact the club.

7 CHURCHYARD, ST. PETER'S WALK & CROFT

(a) Damaged Bench in the Croft

The iSK8 skating company had finally (on 20 July after persistent chasing) paid £350 as compensation for the loss of the bench, damaged by their delivery vehicle in November 2014. It was noted that Love Coleshill wished to pay a further £350 to compensate the Town Council for its loss during their agreed evening event on the Croft. After discussion, members agreed to accept the £350 donation and the **Town Clerk** was asked to arrange a thank you letter.

There was no discount possible from Taylormade Casting as each was individually casted. The Council had budgeted to provide 3 benches rather than just 1 as previously sited. Cllr. Wallace thought 3 benches would interfere with grass cutting and proposed 2 steel benches be purchased, to be located on either

side of the path at the third and two-third points. This was seconded by Cllr. Richardson and duly **RESOLVED** unanimously.

(b) War Memorial - Listed Status

The Coleshill Remembers group was chaired by Cllr. Wootton and one of the members had attended courses run by the War Memorials Trust. The WMT recommended applying for listed status for local monuments and as the stonemason, Brad Steele, had previously identified Coleshill's memorial as being noteworthy, Coleshill Remembers wanted an application to be made for the parish memorial. Although this could entail more administration and responsibility, it was expected to be balanced by access to funding and advice. It was proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Farrow that **Cllr. Wootton** be asked to progress a listed status application subject to it having minimal cost, providing statutory protection and obtaining clarity on facility jurisdiction.

(c) General

Residents of the Church Hill flats had complained about the loss of light and view as a result of the growth of the 8 lime trees to the side of the block and within the church grounds. One quotation to pollard to the same level as the last time had been received at £1,200. The **Town Clerk** was authorised to spend to this level on the cheapest quotation when the nesting birds had cleared the trees.

Cllr. Wallace requested that the border to the right of the St. Peter's Walk footpath be cleared of weeds, high growth and self-set trees. The **Town Clerk** agreed to organise this work.

8 MEMORIAL PARK

(a) Park Ranger – Weekend Monitoring

After discussion, members decided not to create a rota for weekend monitoring of the Park Ranger's work but would leave this to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. However, all would show an active interest in the work, whenever it was observed.

It was suggested that the Park Ranger should be provided with all Councillor contact phone numbers, particularly highlighting the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to phone should any emergencies occur. The **Town Clerk** also agreed to email details of any large work exercises allocated on a given weekend. Cllr. Wallace also suggested that she and the Chairman should walk the park, with the Park Ranger, to identify improvement works to be undertaken.

The Chairman had held a meeting with the Park Ranger and Groundsman and agreed that tools and uniforms could be replenished as certain items had been depleted. The new south wing of the pavilion would contain a wash room and toilet which would allow Park Ranger access. He did not want any of these factors to be reasons for work not completed as required.

(b) Football Pitch Hire Charges

The Memorial Park had 2 football pitches, one known as the 'large pitch', which was of regulation shape and size. There was also a 'small pitch' which was too narrow for Senior teams to play league games and so was only used by Junior teams. The Town Clerk outlined that for the 3 teams that hired the pitches, the historic charges lacked any sense of a rationale. He suggested a start point would be to charge a base price for a Senior team on the large pitch and then calculate charges as:

50% of base for Juniors on the Large Pitch,
50% of base for Seniors on the Small Pitch and
25% of base for Juniors on the Small Pitch.

Cllr Jones stated that he had a major concern in relation to the fairness of this charging. He pointed out that Coleshill Cricket Club was currently paying £14 per year for the use of the cricket pitch and the Pavilion. He added that he knew all three teams and they were long standing residents of Coleshill and the comparison was very unfair. He personally would offer the pitches to them for nothing as it was unfair to differentiate between the cricket and the football clubs. Cllr. Farrell, supported by other committee members, felt that the comparison was not appropriate since the cricket pitch was maintained to a very high standard by the club itself. Much effort by the club members was committed, whereas all the maintenance of the football pitches fell to the Town Council.

Councillor Wallace highlighted that the Town Council had a large mowing bill to pay which suggested a higher charge would be appropriate. Councillor Farrell pointed out that the Town Council would mow the grass and have the cost, whether the football clubs were there or not.

A discussion then took place on the fee structure. The Chairman believed that as the Council had a healthy bank balance, it should set the base figure on a principle of reducing the fee to clubs currently charged higher rather than to raise charges for the lower charged clubs. After allowing a debate of alternatives (without consensus), he then proposed a £150 per pitch hired base figure. This would set the charges for the clubs as the Green Man (£150), Coleshill United (£225) and Coleshill Athletic (£150). These charges were seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **AGREED** nem. con.

(c) General

Cllr. Wallace believed that the cherry tree opposite 25 Parkfield Road was dead and should be removed. The **Town Clerk** was to arrange a tree surgeon to visit and resolve this matter.

9 STATION ROAD PLAY AREA

The wood to repair the fence panels around the large playing field had been ordered and the Groundsman had assessed the job.

10 PRIORITIES FOR ADDITIONAL CCTV

The Chairman highlighted that two further CCTV cameras had been budgeted in 15/16 but that a decision on locations would need further discussion at a future meeting. In the meantime, members suggested locations of the Community Centre area (play area surface damage), Stonebridge Allotments (thefts and ASB), High Street end of the Cole Bridge, the Green Man crossing, Bell Inn and near the Coleshill Hotel as potential priority locations.

Both the Chairman and Cllr. Jones were also Borough Councillors and wanted to have further discussions on the merits of infra-red cameras, mobile and opposed to fixed positioning of equipment and the possible participation in the Borough Council Safer Communities Board. Councillor Jones also pointed out that final decisions had not been made where this would be discussed at Borough level. These ideas could also be developed at a future meeting.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Remembrance Parade

The police had voiced concerns about the 2014 parade regarding the suitability of the marshalling, barriers and the parade's 'muster point'. Cllr. Wootton advised that the Coleshill Remembers group had already sourced some volunteer marshals to supplement those from the Royal British Legion and the offer of barriers on loan from the Borough Council. At this point, Cllr. Richardson declared a personal interest as a member of the RBL. Mr. Andy Kershaw, the head teacher of Coleshill C of E Primary School had been asked about use of the school entrance as the muster point. The **Town Clerk** was asked to ensure that there were sufficient staff members made available for the 2015 parade on barrier movement duties and other support.

(b) Royal British Legion request.

The Royal British Legion had requested the use of the Croft for an event on 26 June 2016. The Committee **AGREED** unanimously.

12 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

PC Ellen Beatty was to arrange a meeting for Town, Borough and County Councillors to discuss possible remedies regarding late night anti-social behaviour on Station Road involving cars and motor bikes ('boy racers'). This Councillor-only meeting was to be at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall on either 31 July or 7 August. The 7 Town Councillors present (including 2 on the Borough Council) preferred the 31 July date. The venue was likely to be the Old Courtroom, given the likely attendance.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

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Chairman