

Minutes of a meeting of the **OUTDOORS AMENITIES COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 29 January 2014.

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

25 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies – committee in full attendance.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

27 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Accepted as a true record.

28 ALLOTMENTS

The Allotments AGM had requested that combination padlocks be applied at the three sites. This had been completed, although the lock at the Gilson site subsequently had its combination changed. It had to be cut into and removed and would be replaced, to then be monitored for correct use. At the AGM, the holders did not support formation of an association but did agree for ‘interest meetings’ to support communications between Council and the holders. The **Town Clerk** was to plan the first one for March /April.

There had been a request for a ditch at Stonebridge site, to hold any water run-off from the football pitches. This was not supported for cost /benefit and potential tree damage reasons.

The resurfacing work to the Gilson allotments had been undertaken as requested. However, it was **agreed** that the contractor should be further engaged by the **Town Clerk** to continue the resurfacing to left and right of the main section, to go 1 metre inside the gates.

29 CEMETERY

There had been two resident complaints reported to the Chairman regarding problems of disabled access to the new gravel paths in front of the Remembrance Wall. It was also reported that it represented a difficult walking surface for women wearing high heels. The **Town Clerk** was authorised to liaise with the **Chairman** in arranging for the contractor to remove sufficient gravel and replace it with finer, crushed gravel surfacing.

30 CHURCHYARD, ST. PETER'S WALK & CROFT

A request had been forwarded by Cllr. Farrell for dog mess signage which might advise of owner fines policy. This was as a result of comments raised on the B46 Community page. The Town Clerk reminded members that the purchase of CCTV cameras had been agreed for 14/15. It was **agreed** that, once installed, it would be more effective to have signage on the Croft that referred to the town's CCTV facilities being monitored.

Cllr. Wootton raised the matter of whether the Town Council was to commemorate the WW1 Centenary on grounds in this area. It was **resolved** that she should investigate funding and design matters in relation to an arched gateway to the church at the top of Church Hill. This would possibly be of similar nature and position to that of the gateway that had been removed for its metal content, as part of the war effort. Other than this, it was felt that the Town Council should help to coordinate other organisations' events rather than plan any itself. Members were reminded of the availability of Heritage Lottery and WW1 funds available from bids.

31 MEMORIAL PARK

A discussion took place regarding bench and commemorative plaque provision and cost apportionment to donators thereof. As a policy, the Town Council should provide both benches and plaques as necessary and then take any donations based on knowledge of costs. The **Town Clerk** was therefore asked to establish the costs of these items. Neptune and Cheetham bench designs were believed to be in current use and up to date prices were to be sought. In addition, the Borough Council were to be asked for price and supplier details if they were replacing benches in Cole End Park. Suppliers were also to be asked about the option of recycled, reinforced plastic benches. An enquiry to Solihull MBC would establish the cost and supplier of the plaques provided at Woodlands Cemetery.

The Town Clerk had had discussions with Cricket Club representatives regarding the swing gate entry to the park and general security arrangements. The daily opening and nightly lock up measures had worked initially but had then become lax and also the padlock had been mislaid. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk should arrange the more resilient solution of acquiring additional sleepers to restrict vehicle access to the cricket outfield (still allowing grass mower access). It was also **resolved** that the **Town Clerk** should advise the council's own outdoor staff to not drive over the grass in any area of the park.

An Outdoor Gym proposal had been agreed for the 14/15 budget and was on the agenda for discussion. However, members felt a wider dialogue on the merits of potential development of the park was required before commencing this particular gym equipment project. It was **decided** that the **Town Clerk** should arrange a single agenda item meeting for all Town Councillors and representatives of the Cricket Club, to agree a mutual and jointly supported park project plan.

In discussing the work to the park gates, Cllr. Gascoigne commented that the two wing entries would benefit from some hard surfacing. The Chairman advised that this had not been part of the specification for the contractor but could be considered. The Town Clerk advised that the original metal sign was due to be affixed to the upper support, high up on the inside of the gate rather than on the brick wall, where it could be more reachable and an attraction to vandals or thieves.

32 STATION ROAD PLAY AREA

The Park Ranger had the repair in hand to the wooden horse, which had been damaged. Cllr. Farrell suggested that keeping a log of instances of vandalism would assist with making decisions on the benefits of future expenditure, grant assistance and in liaison with the police over the need for resource.

33 CORRESPONDENCE

There had been a resident request for floodlighting to the football pitches. It was felt that this should be considered as part of the wider discussions of the park's development. It was also requested that the **Town Clerk** investigate whether it was possible to have the Skatepark lighting to be sensor activated. As an ideal, it should have gentle lighting when no-one was present and brightly lit when someone moved near.

34 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Chairman and the Town Clerk had met with Turnock Ltd, the supplier of the Christmas lights. There had been residents and businesses requesting that some additional lighting be added to the High Street between the Green Man junction and the Cole Bridge, particularly near the parade of shops. There were also views expressed by Cllr. Wallace and other members that the lighting that crossed the High Street (rather than running alongside it) needed more focal effect. Turnock Ltd. had offered to work up an additional purchase package of around £4,000 cost to utilise any underspend of the Christmas lights budget for 13/14 and 14/15 but available for Christmas 2014 use. Cllr. Farrell reminded members that the Borough had announced a reduction to the Town Council in precept support grant for 14/15 and future years. The majority of the committee were content with the use of the 2-year underspend on Christmas lights being used for this purpose. It was then proposed Cllr. Truman, seconded by Cllr. Courts and **agreed** that the **Town Clerk** should progress the purchase.

In addition, Turnock could provide a festoon link of around 5 artificial, wall-mounted Christmas tree lights which could be fixed to shops and businesses in the High Street. The **Town Clerk** was authorised to consult with Love Coleshill and individual business owners to see if a festoon link of around 5 tree lights could be provided to either side of the High Street with their contributions and agreement to bracket fitment.

35 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

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Chairman