

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

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

15 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllr. Wootton.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

17 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of 16 July were proposed by Cllr. Wallace, seconded by Cllr. Truman and **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

18 ALLOTMENTS

(a) Allotment Holders AGM

The Allotments Holders AGM had been held on 22 October. Holders raised matters such as assisting with the tidying of vacant plots, the provision of a second tap for Stonebridge site and the request for a car parking area. The **Chairman** agreed to look at the disused land to the front of the Stonebridge site where there was a lack of clarity of ownership. This might be easier to clear than the spare allotment plot (to the left of centre as one enters the Stonebridge South site). The latter location may have builders' rubble making it difficult to clear.

(b) Hedge and Tree Trimming

The Town Clerk reported that Countywide Services had provided good quotations (with pictures) for some tree maintenance work but were less competitive on hedge trimming. Cllr. Wallace advised that Bob Bagley of Over Whittaker provided this service for a number of local farmers, which the **Town Clerk** would investigate.

19 CEMETERY

The Committee wished to congratulate the Groundsman, Phill Dubberley on the results at the ashes plot near to the tennis courts. It was recognised that he had had to complete the project on his own, corrected some uneven previous work and had also done well to make use of the materials provided.

It was suggested that the plaques could be lined up better without compromising the marking of the ashes. The **Town Clerk** was to discuss this with the Groundsman.

Cllrs. Farrell and Gascoigne both voiced complaints from residents about the gravel surface of the Memorial Wall paths. The **Chairman** agreed to reconsider alternative surfacing. There was also discussion about the proliferation of resident-supplied vases as opposed to those provided by the Town Council. The latter had a reuse benefit over the more personal ones which occupied space on a long term basis. The Town Clerk advised that there was no policy on vase provision in the Cemetery Regulations and that he had no recollection of a minuted decision on the matter. It was then proposed by Cllr. Wallace and seconded by Cllr. Farrell that all vases other than those the Town Council provided should be removed as from 1 January 2015. This was duly **RESOLVED** by the Committee. Suitable advance notice posters needed to be designed to which the **Town Clerk** would attend.

It was noted that the Cemetery sign was sideways-on to visitors on its current location. Members **AGREED** it should be repositioned so that it faced the visitor on entrance via the back lane. The **Town Clerk** was to discuss this with the Groundsman. Consideration needed to be given to the kissing gate at the entry as this had the central post missing, possibly from vehicle damage.

Cllr. Wallace had attended a recent meeting of the Grammar School Trust Board and enquired whether the Town Council had received feedback from the covenant amendment request. The Town Clerk replied that he had not received any communication response.

20 CHURCHYARD, ST. PETER'S WALK & CROFT

The ivy from Mr. Stafford's garden was particularly intrusive on the Council's side of the wall at St. Peter's Walk. It was felt more appropriate for **Cllr. Gascoigne** to approach the owner as before, rather than the Council writing formally to him.

21 MEMORIAL PARK

(a) Development Project

The Town Clerk had circulated a progress report on the consultation stage being undertaken by Moore Environment. The consultation had been sent to more recipients than expected and costs had therefore been higher. Residents were encouraged to deliver questionnaires to the Town Council or Moore rather than using the Freepost address, which would be at a postage cost to the Town Council.

There had been a meeting on 27 October with both Moore Environment and North Warwickshire Borough Council representatives present. Simon Powell from the Borough advised that the £40k 'indicative' budget to the Memorial Park had recently been agreed as £30k commitment. Moore Environment was planning on a timetable of 14 November for the end of the consultation, draft Master Plan in December and discussion with the Council in January. This would fit well with the February and March 'rounds' for grant application. Moore was happy to help with these applications but there would be a cost to be borne. The

possible funding sources were SITA, WREN and Veolia for the general project, Arts Award for any artwork insertion and there was also a fund supporting bandstand provision.

(b) Reporting on 101

In seeking support from Robert Beggs at North Warwickshire Borough Council for CCTV improvement, The Town Clerk had discovered that the Cooperative Store was the 'hotspot' for crime in the town. This was largely because the store staff reported every crime, including attempted petty shop lifting. The newly appointed Records Clerk was now reporting Memorial Park issues and this 'spike' in reporting had been fed through the 101 service to PC Ellen Beatty who had changed the patrols as a result. Members were therefore to encourage 101 reporting (including from allotment holders, who have to report personal losses themselves rather than this being through the Town Council offices).

(c) WI Centenary Roses

The Coleshill Women's Institute offer to purchase the WI Centenary Roses to go either side of the park gate was still being pursued. The WI's payment had been taken and receipt of the roses was expected in November.

(d) Park Ranger – Weekend Priorities

The Town Clerk had suggested that Members might wish to be part of a rota of councillors who, each weekend, would show an interest in the Park Ranger's weekend project priority. This was **AGREED** and it was felt the opportunity to be part of the rota should be extended to all members, not just those on this committee. The **Town Clerk** would arrange this rota would be drawn up.

Members welcomed the initiative already shown by Michael Sattar as the new appointee but wanted to see that the role had various forms of resource and welfare support to be issued:

- Spraying course attendance
- Gardening tools, including secateurs
- Barrow-type unit to help wheel tools (discuss design with Park Ranger)
- Toilet and power supply within external door access of the pavilion (discuss with Cricket Club chairman)
- Coat or other outdoor clothing with Town Council name featured on it

The **Town Clerk** was to arrange these facilities.

(e) General

Cllr. Farrell requested that the Town Council should write to the Coleshill Cricket Club to congratulate it on the success of its grant offer from Sport England for the South wing of the pavilion. The **Town Clerk** agreed this letter would be sent.

The **Town Clerk** was to remind the Groundsman and inform the Park Ranger that the van was not to be driven across the Memorial Park grass.

The tree roots which were invading the footpath near the Parkfield Road small gate entrance were highlighted to pedestrians last year by yellow paint. The **Town Clerk** was to arrange for the roots to be repainted.

22 STATION ROAD PLAY AREA

There had been an issue regarding the fencing around the football area reported by Cllr. Wootton. The Town Clerk was to clarify when this would be resolved.

23 CORRESPONDENCE

Love Coleshill had requested the use of the Croft on 29 November, on the morning of the Town Council's Christmas Fair. It had also requested that reindeer and an artificial ice rink be brought onto the Croft area. The committee **AGREED** to grant these permissions, so long as Love Coleshill had the relevant third party insurance arrangements in place.

24 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

A field was being privately advertised for sale alongside the public footpath off Blythe Road and the Town Clerk had made enquiries about the terms of sale. It was likely that the owners were hoping to materialise a value based on housing development but due to access this was unlikely to be possible. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should make more formal enquiries as to whether it might be available for recreational use, e.g. allotments, which would present a much lower valuation than for housing.

It was noted that the Town Council had advised, as part of the Local Plan Infrastructure Delivery consultation, that it was looking to find additional burial site land. It had not, however, indicated that it was seeking additional allotments space. This was worth adding to the observation as the acquisition of any additional land might facilitate a change in a site use between allotments and burials.

25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

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Chairman