

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 2015.

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

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Adam Farrell.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Richardson declared a personal interest in item 5a because he is the Vice Chair of Coleshill's Royal British Legion.

## **3 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of 22 July were proposed by Cllr. Wallace, seconded by Cllr. Wootton and **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

## **4 ALLOTMENTS**

Councillors were informed by the Deputy Town Clerk that there had been a fire at Stonebridge North allotment site, a skip had been hired by the Town Council for the removal of the damaged shed and the Deputy Town Clerk had offered the services of the ground staff to help with the clearance. Questions of insurance have been raised because of this issue, Coleshill Town Council are under no obligation to have any insurance on the allotment sites other than Public Liability. The Town Clerk has investigated further and the view of The Allotments and Gardens Council UK is that allotment holders should take out individual insurance. All details will be passed onto the allotment holders. Councillors felt that they should have been informed by office staff about the recent fire and indeed any issues that they may be questioned on by residents.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that during the Allotment AGM on the 14 October, PC Ellen Beaty was on hand to offer advice on marking tools with smart water; offering to attend allotments in the spring to mark items. She also stressed the importance of calling 101 to report any issues. Awards were presented to nine allotment holders, for 'Best Allotment', 'Most Improved' and 'Best Newcomer'.

Allotment holders reported that traffic coming off the Police Station Island onto the A446 had caused a few near missed recently, councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the **Town Clerk** should ask WCC if the Town Council could assume ownership of the land immediately in front of the allotment site to improve the safety of the entrance.

The Chairman also noted that several allotment holders had moved from Stonebridge South onto Gilson and suggested that a natural progression of allotment holders leaving the site without being replaced would open up other opportunities to utilise the site in future years.

Cllr. Wootton congratulated the Community Shed Project on having recently won awards from North Warwickshire Allotment Federation and the Royal Horticultural Society and Heart of England in Bloom.

## **5 CEMETERY**

### **(a) Memorial Wall Archway**

The Chairman gave the background that the previous Council had decided to decline the offer from the RBL to install a memorial archway in the Garden of Remembrance. However because the issue was being raised again it was for the new council to decide.

Cllr. Richardson added that the RBL wanted the archway with a poppy emblem upon and would be having it custom made by a blacksmith, Cllr. Wootton agreed that it would be a specialist blacksmith that would be commissioned to make the piece.

Councillors felt that the Garden of Remembrance was more aesthetically pleasing left as an open area. It was suggested that the RBL should be asked to, in conjunction with Coleshill Remembers, provide an ornate poppy bench, perhaps to be located by the war memorial. Cllr. Wootton agreed that this would complement the Coleshill Remembers plan to reinstall the gate/archway at the entrance to St. Peters & St. Pauls Church.

The Chairman deferred a vote on this matter until the next Full Town Council meeting and asked that if all councillors were in agreement that the **Town Clerk** write the RBL thanking them for their kind gesture but suggesting the idea of the bench.

### **(b) Potential Areas for Burial Space**

The Chairman explained the need for additional burial space. The Dell once belonged to the church but maintenance of the site has since been assumed by the Town Council. If burial space in the Dell was to be reclaimed, as it has been done at Water Orton, it is a lengthy process.

Councillors felt that Coleshill Town Council should continue to offer burial space and whilst the preferred route would be to purchase additional land councillors requested that the **Town Clerk** continue in his investigations of the Dell.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Councillors that letters had been sent to known land owners in the area. CGSEF has land to the North- North/East side of the current Cemetery, a coppice and a field, Councillors felt that neither was appropriate because of issues with water/trees. It was requested that the **Town**

**Clerk** does not pursue this avenue but concentrates on purchasing the land off Maxstoke Lane adjacent to the current cemetery.

(c) General

Cllr. Richardson requested that a handrail be placed by the steps to the Garden of Remembrance councillors **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**, the **Deputy Town Clerk** was requested to get quotes for this

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

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the trees in the churchyard had been pollarded, new benches put into place in the croft and the pathway in the Garden of Remembrance laid.

## **7 MEMORIAL PARK**

(a) Development Project update

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that the Working Group meeting would be on the 6<sup>th</sup> November with the inclusion of Alethea Wilson from NWBC who would have no voting rights. Councillors agreed that at the working group meeting they are expecting to be informed by Moore Environment about the phase one plan as well as specific costings and additional explanation on the funding process. Councillors stressed the importance of bringing phase one in on budget in conjunction with successfully won funding. Cllr. Jones emphasised the importance of continued consultation with residents.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that Moore Environment had informed the Town Council that their funding application for Veolia was being progressed; the **Deputy Town Clerk** will help with any information requested by Moore Environment.

The Chairman requested that the **Town Clerk** ask Moore Environment to chase up funding from Sport England to be used on two tennis courts as well as clarifying what will happen to the hedge bordering the path at the back of Park Avenue and Chelmsley Avenue.

(b) Friends of the Park

The Chairman asked for clarification on when the Town Council had voted to put £5000 in the budget for a 'Friends of the Park' Group. The Chairman also wanted clarification on the benefits of the formation of the group, the objectives stated in appendix 3 being largely the responsibilities of the Town Council not a third party. Councillors **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** not to give the go ahead for the Friends of the Park Group to be established and requested more information on the benefits of the group including information on when the council had agreed to budget £5000. Councillors also requested that Moore Environment clarify which funding applications required this group to be set up. The **Town Clerk** is to report back at the next Full Town Council

(c) General

The Chairman asked again for the cherry tree opposite 25 Parkfield Road to be removed. The **Deputy Town Clerk** was to arrange this.

## **8      STATION ROAD PLAY AREA**

Councillors were asked, in their own time, to visit the play area and bring back suggestions for future developments to the next Outdoor Amenities meeting.

## **9      PRIORITIES FOR ADDITIONAL CCTV**

Councillors were asked to put forward their suggestions for the next two priority CCTV cameras. Cllr. Jones explained that he had recently put together a report for the Borough Council on the subject of CCTV and had been able to source it from a local company for a much lower cost. Cllr. Jones will pass this report onto the **Town Clerk** to be put onto the next Full Town Council meeting, Councillors **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that the decision on CCTV should be deferred until said meeting.

## **10     ADDITIONAL ITEM**

The Chairman stressed that the Council cannot avoid paying for the repair on the van, for the Council to return the van and cease the contract the van must be returned in good working order. Councillors **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to ask Cllrs. Battle and Taylor for the costings of purchasing a new van for three years or a second hand van for two with a view to switching to a Hybrid or Electric van after this time, councillors also requested projected costs for buying and setting up the Town Hall/Grounds staff Hut to power an electric/hybrid vehicle. The **Town Clerk** is to email Cllrs. Battle and Taylor.

## **11     CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence

## **12     REPORTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

This year's Remembrance Parade had been granted an official Road Closure from the Borough Council, The Town Council in conjunction with the RBL, had had to extensively 'tighten up' the way the Remembrance Parade was ran, including asking for volunteer marshals and front and rear cars to the parade, PC Ellen Beaty was satisfied that this had been done.

## **13     ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jones reported that a resident on Green Lane had been upset by the placing of a dog poo bin by her back garden. Councillors **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to have the bin moved. The **Deputy Town Clerk** will arrange this.

Cllr Richardson requested that the **Deputy Town Clerk** write to the Borough Council requesting that they place more dog poo bins along Station Road and cut back the Willow Tree that is overhanging the foot bridge. Cllr. Wooton added that they should also be asked to cut back the tree on the Lichfield Road side that is obscuring the view of the junction.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37 p.m.

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Chairman