

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2016** at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: - Cllr. Wallace, Town Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: - Battle, Farrell, Farrow, Jones, Mason, Richardson and Taylor.

16/51 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Breeze and Wootton.

16/52 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None were declared.

16/53 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On her previous announcements item, the Mayor had attended the Whitnash Civic Dinner and not a service. With this amendment, the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of 21 September were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Taylor.

They were then **ACCEPTED** by those present.

16/53 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OR GIVEN BY THE MAYOR

Away from the town, the Mayor had attended events at Leamington, Alcester, Atherstone, Solihull and Warwick. She had also met representatives of the Heart of England Foundation. This was funded by legacies and she would pass details to the Town Clerk as members might want to encourage organisations to submit projects.

Locally she had presented cheques at the Coleshill Star Awards, which had been enjoyable and prestigious, judged Guys at the Carnival Committee Bonfire Night which had been supported by very large numbers of people and also attended the Pastoral Care AGM at Father Hudson's. Organisation of the Mayor's own Musical Evening had been greatly assisted by Cllr. Battle, Deputy Mayor, and had raised £1,125 for Parkinson's UK. An event at the Gate Riding Club had been a novelty, with horses dressed as other animals.

The Mayor had officially received the bench in the parish church grounds as donated by the Royal British Legion and looked forward to this being a feature of the Remembrance Day commemoration.

She then commented on some examples of current council issues which could not be covered elsewhere in the agenda which she believed were meritorious of being raised for the benefit of member communications.

16/54 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

In advance of the later agenda item, Cllr. Philip Mason, Chairman of Over Whitacre Parish Council spoke of his parish council's and LAWVAG's campaign regarding Hawarth Estates appeal against a planning application refused by North Warwickshire Borough Council. He advised that NWBC would not challenge any highways concerns as there had been no objection raised by Warwickshire County Council on such matters.

It was expected, according to Cllr. Philip Mason that the appeal would take 8 days in total and that 2 days would be allocated to the highways considerations. The campaigners had been advised that to fully contribute as a "Law 6 Participant", they would need to engage a barrister and a transport consultant who might cost £30,000 in total. Hawarth Estates was contesting the validity of the 1996 covenant requiring the land to be returned to its original condition. The campaign group would be seeking enforcement of this covenant.

Cllr. Peter Fowler, County Councillor, reported on some coordinated efforts involving Warwickshire County, Staffordshire County and North Warwickshire Borough Councils together with the police to curb the menace driving on stretches of the A446 and at Basset's Pole junction. The suggested police parking bay on the High Street might have to await the introduction of "decriminalisation of parking" orders in 2017.

The County Councillor also advised that he was chairing a group looking at the future of Area Forums and was looking at the HS2 Business Benefit Fund (£15m to be spent in Central Area) for potential benefits on improved lighting of the A446.

16/55 TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Planning Committee minutes of 5 October needed amending to be "she knew the applicant" rather than "he knew the applicant" and with such amendment, these and the minutes of the 2 November meeting were proposed by Cllr. Battle, seconded by Cllr. Farrow and **AGREED** unanimously.

In proposing the Community and Environment Committee meeting minutes of 12 October, Cllr. Farrell advised that details of the WCAVA Youth Worker vacancies might be circulated by members to interested parties, with details to be forwarded by the **Town Clerk**. The minutes were seconded by Cllr. Jones and **AGREED** unanimously.

The minutes of the 26 October Resources and Amenities Committee meeting were proposed by Cllr. Taylor, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ACCEPTED** for adoption unanimously.

16/56 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2016/17 QUARTER 2

Cllr. Jones and the Mayor made a number of enquires or comments regarding the payments summary relating to the purchase of new cricket nets, the ICCM training day costs, WALC subscriptions, grass cutting, litter bins and staff salary levels but these were all answered at the meeting.

The reports were proposed and seconded for unanimous **ACCEPTANCE** by Cllrs. Farrell and Battle.

16/57 ADDITIONAL DATES FOR 2016/17 MEETINGS AND TRAINING

There were a number of potential additional dates for Councillors' diaries which have been discussed recently at committee meetings and informally. These were:

Community Centre – building improvements ‘walkabout’:

Wednesday 16 November 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Setting of the 2017/18 Council Budget

Friday 30 December for budget ideas and suggested figures to the Town Clerk;

Wednesday 4 January 2017 – the Chairmen's Working Group to meet in order to “shape” the budget;

Wednesday 25 January 2017 – full Town Council to meet to agree the budget.

Diversity Training

Wednesday 8 March 2017.

Town Meeting

Wednesday 26 April 2017 (to be separate from the Annual Council meeting in May).

16/58 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OVER WHITACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Over Whitacre Parish Council and LAWVAG had a joint campaign regarding the Hawarth Estates appeal against a planning application refused by North Warwickshire Borough Council and had an expectation of £30,000 in costs in order to engage a barrister and a transport consultant.

Cllr. Taylor proposed that the Town Council should grant £15,000 as half of the required campaign fund and then monitor whether the balance could be raised by the campaign group. This was duly seconded by Cllr. Farrell who further added that the Town Council might be able to assist with publicity towards raising the balance of the fund. He also recommended that the campaign group should contact the parish church's fund raising group for their advice.

It was suggested by Cllr. Jones that the Town Council could support more of the campaign group's costs. The Town Clerk pointed out that £15,000 was the previous limit of Cricket Club emergency grant assistance and this amount had not been exceeded with any HS2 Campaign funding. As any allocation was unbudgeted and a high figure might draw a comment at the time of the audit process.

The view of Cllr. Farrell was that a £15,000 grant would be an incentive for the community to get behind the campaign in both participation via public meetings and efforts to raise the full funding requirement. Members duly voted and unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant £15,000 but also offer non-financial support to the campaign group with a view to closely monitoring the fund raising effort.

Cllr. Taylor believed that he and fellow members would be able to assist with leafleting all Coleshill households and other members agreed. The campaign group were to send any publicity material to the **Town Clerk** with an intention that this be modified and issued to residents by such hand delivery, as necessary.

16/59 **TOWN CLERK REPORTS**

The **Town Clerk** announced that the merged Town Council /Community Hub Wi-Fi in the Town Hall now covered all hire rooms and offices including the Sumner Suite and agreed to forward the password for access.

As the photocopier supplier had changed and the finance company for the previous machine had no further use for it, there was a fully operational copier available for use by a good cause, if members knew of such an organisation.

Mr. Phillip Dubberley, Groundsman, had completed 25 years service with the Authority. Coleshill Town Council had adopted North Warwickshire Borough Council's HR policies where these did not exist for the Town Council. In accordance with its long service award policy, Mr. Dubberley had been asked to select a gift of his choice and a presentation would be considered for a future meeting.

16/60 **CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

The confidential minutes of the 26 September Resources and Amenities Committee meeting were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Taylor, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ACCEPTED** without amendment.

The meeting closed at 9:10 p.m.



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Town Mayor