

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016** at 7:00 p.m.

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

Councillors: - Battle, Breeze, Farrell, Farrow, Jones, Richardson and Wootton.

16/39 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mason and Taylor.

16/40 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Prejudicial interests were declared in item 16/47 by the Mayor as a member of the Coleshill Drama Group and by Cllr. Jones as a member of the Coleshill Carnival Committee.

16/41 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting of 15 June and Extraordinary Meeting of 27 July were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Richardson but with amendments:

Item 16/30 should read “putting its rates up” and 16/33 should say “proposed by Cllr. Farrell”.

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

16/42 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OR GIVEN BY THE MAYOR

Since the June meeting, the Mayor had attended the 100th Anniversary Warwickshire Cubs Camp for the Queen’s 90th Birthday celebration, a Royal British Legion event at Stratford, the Warwick Civic Service for the folk festival (including bands and Morris dancers), the Whitnash Civic Service, the Whitacres and Shustoke Show and a Nuneaton and Bedworth fund raising event at a Gurkha restaurant.

More locally she had supported the Art Week judging at High Meadow School, a community picnic at the Croft, the Bell-ringers invitation at the Parish Church and also at this church, the commemoration of the Somme (which Simon Toon co-ordinated extremely well) and all who helped were thanked. The previous night she had attended the Investiture Evening at the Coleshill Cubs at the Community Centre.

The Mayor had also been part of a hosting of visitors to the town in the Market Hall from the Coventry Civic Society.

She also wished to advise that her Evening of Music on 21 October at the Town Hall was in aid of Parkinson's UK. Tickets were available from her and she would welcome donations of raffle prizes.

16/43 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Beth Robinson introduced some Brownies and Guides to help publicise the 50th Anniversary Gang Show in the Town Hall in April 2017 and to talk about the girls foreign visits and also to the World Centres of Guiding.

Mrs. Clayton was a resident of Digby Road and was concerned about the new gym equipment's close proximity to residential properties and the lack of consultation with residents. The Mayor advised of the questionnaire and consultation that had taken place and further that any abuse of the equipment should be reported to the Town Clerk and any anti-social behaviour to the police. Cllr. Jones felt that residents had not had adequate consultation. Mrs. Clayton also reported a gym item that squeaked, which the **Town Clerk** would investigate.

New benches were due at Cole End Park in the next month or so, as reported by Cllr. Dominic Ferro. Also, bulbs, materials and resources had been offered towards works at the Trajan Hill spinney.

Cllr. Peter Fowler was hopeful that 4 average-speed cameras would be available to the Coleshill area and he was to discuss with the Traffic Management Group the idea of reducing the Coleshill section of the A446 speed limit to 50 m.p.h. He was working on new signage for the Temple Way /Ennersdale Close area to deter HGV drivers from entering and had drawings for signs at the Green Man crossroads (for Planning Committee discussion). A proposal as part of Civil Parking Enforcement was to have a police car parking bay marked on the High Street. The County Council was undertaking a review of what to do with its Area Forums.

16/44 TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Planning Committee minutes of 6 July and 31 August were proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. Jones and **AGREED** unanimously. The Mayor referred to the open land on Park Road being incorrectly described as No. 3 in the meeting papers when No. 1 would have been more accurate. The Town Clerk said he had previously referred this to the Borough Council officers who preferred to keep the location reference as No. 3, Park Road.

In the Community and Environment Committee meeting minutes of 27 July, it should refer to "there were 4 operational committees", not 3. With this amendment, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. Breeze, seconded by Cllr. Farrow and **AGREED** unanimously.

For the 17 August Resources and Amenities Committee meeting minutes, the Mayor did not support the £200 expenditure on ClubsPark or on keeping the tennis courts regularly locked and was seconded by Cllr. Jones. Cllrs. Wootton proposed and Cllr. Farrow seconded a more flexible arrangement of using ClubsPark but also having some 'open' session times, under the control of the staff. It was then **RESOLVED** nem. con. to use ClubsPark but to refer it to the next Community and Environment Committee meeting for a discussion of flexible operational procedures. Cllr. Jones felt the minutes were inaccurate as they did not contain a statement he had read out at that meeting.

The Mayor said it was not the practice of this council to produce verbatim minutes. Cllr. Jones called for a named vote on the minutes, which had been proposed by Cllr. Wootton and seconded by Cllr. Richardson:

For: Cllrs. Battle, Breeze, Farrell, Farrow, Richardson, Wallace and Wootton.
Against: Cllr. Jones.

The minutes were **ADOPTED** by majority with one amended spelling of “licensed”.

16/45 RISK MANAGEMENT – ACTION PLAN 2016/17

The Action Plan had been considered in detail by the Resources and Amenities Committee. The Town Clerk referred to two of the actions, by way of update.

The Equalities and Diversity training would take place after the Burials Procedures training day.

The Outside Services staff had been asked about whether they felt they were adequately safe when lone working. They had responded to say that the provision of mobile phones gave them a sufficient feeling of safety. A security door release system was to be fitted to the Burial Records office as used by the Deputy Town Clerk.

16/46 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2016/17 QUARTER 1

Cllr. Jones enquired as to why a -£7,014.05 receipt was shown under Investment Interest. The Town Clerk replied that this was as a result of the internal auditor's recommendation to show the first quarter loss in value of the CCLA investment as the initial property purchase fees were paid.

The Mayor asked a number of expenditure queries: the high travel expenses for the Head Groundsman was for his own car use in the period when the council did not have a van, litter pickers were purchased to loan to volunteers (school children in the park and adults assisting Cllr. Fowler on A446 litter picks), mobile phones were issued to three Outdoor Services staff plus the Deputy Town Clerk and a number of the game and toy purchases were as part of the JLR Limited grant for play items for the Youth Club.

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

16/47 COUNCIL GRANTS SCHEME 2016/17

This was presented by Cllr. Farrow who had chaired the Task Group that agreed the recommendation schedule and she proposed that the allocation of £10,000 be as circulated.

The Mayor questioned why grants were allocated out of the parish boundary, such as to Water Orton Carnival. The Task Group members advised that they had given this due consideration but there was perceived to be benefit to Coleshill residents attending and it was a 50th Anniversary year for the event. At this point, the Mayor and Cllr. Jones left the room with their declared interests.

Cllr. Richardson proposed and Cllr. Wootton seconded the circulated grant allocation schedule and it was **CARRIED** unanimously.

16/48 REVIEW OF THE 2016/17 IMPROVEMENTS TO MEMORIAL PARK BUDGET

A time-line had been produced for the project by Cllr. Farrell. He assessed that the latest estimated total project cost was £304,257 against a budget of £301,000 when including external funding, the additional sums separately allocated to security measures and two tennis courts and the previous years' unspent reserves.

Cllr. Jones did not agree with the principle of drawing on two-year-old reserves. He estimated there was £31,374.40 unbudgeted on the project as well as £7,920 to be paid to Moore Environment. The Mayor believed that it was a council practice to call on earmarked reserves from previous years accounts (e.g. for cemetery land purchase).

Although he supported the project, Cllr. Jones added that he was aware of 9 residents who had complained about the location of the gym equipment because of the potential for noise and anti-social behaviour. The Mayor recommended that any issues should be raised as 101 police calls and with the Town Clerk, as appropriate.

The Mayor recommended that some of the remaining commissioned planting on the project should not take place, due to the new paths being root damaged, increased grass cutting costs, obscuring of miscreant activity the skatepark, build up of tree debris and the compromising of community events. Cllr. Farrell advised that the planting had been discussed at a Working Group and its recommendations had been adopted by Town Council in the last 6 months. It could therefore not reverse a decision taken on planting, as per Standing Order limitation. He added that the master plan which included tree planting had been put together after discussion with residents, contractors and the police.

At this point, the Mayor proposed and Cllr. Battle seconded that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to go beyond 3 hours. There were no objections.

Cllr. Jones wanted to know if the overspend was to be authorised at this meeting? Cllr. Farrell was prepared to propose the overspend as presented in his report for noting as the contract was near completion and everything that could be reduced from the project had already been considered. Cllr. Battle seconded the acceptance of the report, as presented. Cllr. Jones called for a named vote:

For: Cllrs. Battle, Breeze, Farrell, Farrow, Richardson, Wallace and Wootton.
Against: Cllr. Jones.

The report was **ACCEPTED** by majority.

16/49 TOWN CLERK REPORTS

WALC had circulated a consultation on central government proposals to introduce precept capping for parish councils, as currently for Borough /District and County authorities. It was agreed that this subject should be referred to the next meeting of the Resources and Amenities Committee for consideration.

The cost of the ICCM Burial Procedures Course on 26 September was to be part-funded by attendances from two other councils with burial responsibility. They were paying for 4 places which reduced the overall cost that the Town Council would have to pay to ICCM.

Mr. Gareth Epps had written to the Town Council to introduce himself as the HS2 Independent Construction Commissioner. He was available to assist residents or local authorities for any issues relating to the construction stage.

16/50 **CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

The confidential minutes of the 17 August Resources and Amenities Committee meeting were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Wootton, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ACCEPTED** without amendment.

The meeting closed at 10:25 p.m.



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Town Mayor