

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** of  
Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 15  
February 2017.

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PRESENT: Councillor Farrell in the Chair  
Councillors: Battle, Farrow, Jones and Wallace (from item 51)

#### **46 APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

#### **47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

#### **48 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD**

It was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Farrell to **ACCEPT** the minutes of the 23 November Meeting as a true record.

#### **49 PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL YEARS – EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL**

The Deputy Town Clerk had produced a summary of how other local authorities had dealt with Exclusive Rights of Burial where they were nearing the end of the eligible period (99 years in the case of Coleshill EROBs). A number of authorities had sold an additional sale period but there appeared to be no consistency on charge levels or length of extension.

Members agreed a charge, for an additional 25 years, of 25% of that for a currently purchased plot (i.e. to allow for different amounts depending on whether a Coleshill or an out of town resident). It was stressed that there would also most likely be a further £45 charge as it was necessary for the grave deed to be transferred into the name of a living family member at the same time.

It was agreed that an extension could be bought at any time but subject to the maximum remaining period not exceeding 99 years.

These recommendations were **ACCEPTED** unanimously.

#### **50 CEMETERY CHARGES – 2017/18**

A draft charging schedule for April 2017 to March 2018 had been circulated based on a general 3% level of increases. Members were agreeable to this principle.

However, the Chairman was aware of a national lobby campaign to reduce or eliminate charges in the case of infant charges for burials. The Town Council already had reduced terms for baby and under-12 children interment. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Jones that the baby and under-12 children

charges be waived altogether but for Coleshill residents only. With this amendment, the schedule was proposed and seconded by Cllrs. Jones and Battle and **AGREED** unanimously.

Clarification was given on a couple of other burial charge matters. The council had resolved that a second ashes interment at the same time would attract a 50% charge. Members felt this decision should hold in the rarer instance of a second full interment at the same time. It was also felt that a request for permission for burial of loose ashes in instances where the maximum interment of 6 ashes caskets in a full plot had been reached would be considered on its merits at the time.

#### **51 DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS /OTHER WASTE**

A report had been produced detailing that some local authorities were helping to curb dog mess by installing waste bag dispensers. There was some underspend in the Equipment Supply budget to allow a trial. Cllr. Battle proposed and Cllr. Jones seconded that three units be trialled at Green Lane, Memorial Park and the green near Ennersdale Road /Community Centre. This was **RESOLVED** unanimously.

The Chairman was also aware of Roman Way being problematic for HGV driver's litter and mess and recommended a trial of litter bins on lighting columns there. Cllr. Jones proposed the purchase of five. This was seconded by Cllr. Battle and **AGREED** nem. con. Broxap was the usual bin supplier in the town but the **Deputy Town Clerk** was to consider Oaklands as an alternative, and possibly cheaper, supplier.

#### **52 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCHING ON**

In recent years Coleshill High Street had a late night Christmas shopping event held on the last Thursday of November or the first Thursday in December. This had drawn some criticism from local residents that the Christmas lights were not switched on at the time of the late night shopping. The Council only had the option of a Saturday light switch on in 2017 on a provisional 2 December date as another booking had been accepted the previous Saturday, 25 November, which would be difficult to change.

Members felt at this stage it was best to continue with the 2 December date and for Love Coleshill to focus on this date as well. Furthermore, it agreed that the 2018 date for a Saturday switch-on would be most suitably on 1 December.

#### **53 PLANTERS AND LIVING SCULPTURES**

In 2016, the Town Council rented two living sculptures (a horse and a bookworm) and four large planters from RC Smith Plants in Atherstone. As this was surplus stock, the cost of hire was significantly reduced.

The Committee wished to delegate to the **Deputy Town Clerk** to visit RC Smith Plants with the Head Groundsman and two Councillors, as available. It was hoped that a recommendation for a horse, some large planters and another living sculpture (bookworm or other) could then be brought to April Town Council.

The above was proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **AGREED**.

#### **54     “BATTLE’S OVER” – END OF GREAT WAR COMMEMORATION IN 2018**

The Council had received correspondence from the National Pageantmaster that a beacon celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I was planned for 7 p.m. on Sunday, 11 November 2018.

Members were keen that the **Town Clerk** should respond that the Town Council would be a participant authority. A working group would need to be formed but initial thoughts were to involve Coleshill Remembers (possible a drum solo), the parish church, schools and the Coleshill Town Band. This would be an evening but on the same day as the morning’s Remembrance Day service and procession. An indicative budget might be £1,000 which would have to be included in the 2018/19 budget setting.

Potential offers of help were Cllr. Battle’s company for a steel beacon basket and Cllr. Jones for the Coleshill Carnival PA system. Cllr. Jones had contact details for Masters Bakery, who provided hog roasts.

#### **55     ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk had provided an update on occupation and latest projects. In addition, it was reported that the AGM had not been chaired by a member as Cllr. Farrell had been unavailable and Cllr. Farrow had been unwell on the day. The Deputy Town Clerk and Records Assistant had led the agenda.

Cllr. Wallace advised of potential fly tipping of a large quantity of wood two days earlier, which had not been reported. The **Deputy Town Clerk** was to 101 Report the matter after investigation.

*[Addendum: after investigation, this wood was found to have been requested by an allotment holder from which to build a shed].*

The church group that had taken responsibility for the Community Allotment had requested space for a community orchard. The Chairman was to discuss with its contact, Ms. Leanne Carr, the prospect of using the unkempt allotment sites at the lower end of Stonebridge South allotments. The **Town Clerk** agreed to write to members to ascertain any concerns which needed to be discussed with the group.

It was also agreed that the **Town Clerk** should also write to the County Council (possibly Mr. Andy Keating) about the responsibility for the strip of bramble and bush land alongside the A446 to the west side of the Stonebridge Allotments. The Town Council might consider a transfer if this was agreeable.

#### **56     PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

The instigation of PSPOs gave the police and local authorities more powers over control of dogs, litter and anti-social behaviour.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the **Town Clerk** should investigate a PSPO for litter and dog mess control at the Memorial Park.

**57     COLESHILL WALKS**

Coleshill Civic Society, in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council, had, for a number of years, regularly checked and maintained the walks in and around Coleshill. However, the Civic Society now felt that the maintenance of these footpaths was too great for its volunteers and it requested the greater assistance of Coleshill Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would, on a temporary basis, look to put way markers in where needed and look at where stiles and kissing gates were needed for repair.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

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Chairman