

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 7 February 2018.

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell in the Chair
Councillors: Farrow and Wallace
Also present: Cllr. Symonds. Additionally, Cllr. Wootton up to item 48.

45 APOLOGIES

These were given by Cllrs. Battle & Gibbs.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

47 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the 22 November meeting were proposed by Cllr. Wallace, seconded Cllr. Farrell and **AGREED**.

48 POLICE AND CRIME DISCUSSION

Sergeant Mitch Oakley was present to discuss matters of police and crime prevention and answer questions. Members discussed current concerns such as the level of police resources, the recent spate of break-ins, CCTV best practice and monitoring, parking and antisocial behaviour (particularly car racers on Station Road).

As summary of the recent crime statistics was given by Sgt. Oakley, together with details of recent arrest successes in the area. He advised that he was to retire on 28 February and that Sgt. Neil Pearsall would then cover Coleshill for two days and have a super-beat (mainly Atherstone) for 3 days. There were other changes likely at PC /PCSO levels, but they were yet to be announced.

When asked about priorities for CCTV, he suggested more for the High Street and at the start of Station Road. He recommended speaking to Robert Beggs, a crime prevention officer at the Borough Council regarding the newer Nomad cameras as there was a purchase price, through his sales contact, for a "triple multi-cam" at around £7,000.

He also reported that representatives of Atherstone Town Council and North Warks Borough Council were due to meet on 8 February about a joint monitoring system, with which he recommended that Coleshill joined.

In the subject of illegal or inconsiderate parking, he was aware that Civil Parking Enforcement powers were not likely to commence until 2020. His advice, in advance of that was for residents to report incidents to 101. The PCs and PCSOs had the authority to issue Penalty Control Notices but needed to actually see the offence for themselves.

49 HORSE CHESTNUT TREE, MEMORIAL PARK

The Council had received a tree surgeon's report on significant issues with a Horse Chestnut tree on Memorial Park near the Parkfield Road entrance. The committee considered actions based on the report.

Cllr. Farrell proposed that the work should be carried out by Daniel Green subject to the **Deputy Town Clerk** contacting Western Power regarding paying for the work. This was seconded by Cllr. Farrow and **AGREED**.

50 PROCESS FOR CEMETERY EXTENSION DESIGN

The Council had been negotiating the purchase of land to be used for a cemetery extension with the planning application for change of use, now registered. It was possible to start agreeing some process around cemetery design detail in readiness for the exchange of contracts and planning approvals.

The only option which was agreeable to a vendor of the land was for that to the South of the existing cemetery, on the other side of the drive that runs past its entrance towards the Coleshill Tennis Club.

Members felt that holding an initial meeting between the Chair and Deputy of the Community and Environment committee, the two local Funeral Directors, Coleshill's Grave Technician, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk was the best way to start drawing together ideas for the planning of the new extension. The meeting was to be held in due course and after the decision on the planning application for the new extension was known from North Warks. Borough Council (due by 21 February).

51 CEMETERY CHARGES

The Council annually reviews its charges for the cemetery as part of the 4-Year Action Plan and the financial calendar. The Council decided last year to increase all charges by 3% for 2017/18. A circulated report included a copy of the current Cemetery charges.

Cllr Farrell proposed to freeze cemetery charges and the removal of the non-resident charge for any persons below the age of 17, seconded Cllr. Farrow and **AGREED**.

In addition the **Deputy Town Clerk** was asked to compile a report explaining the covenant on the land to the North of the cemetery.

52 BENCH PROVISION

Members received a report explaining the need for a formalised system of bench and plaque provision in Coleshill Cemetery.

Cllr. Farrell, had researched pricing schemes used by neighbouring authorities and presented a table of charges that could be adapted to suit the needs of Coleshill Cemetery:

Plaque on a communal bench (£200 for 5 years, £325 for 10 years).

Plaque on an individual bench (£420 for 5 years, £760 for 10 years).

These charges were such that the council would re-coup the cost of the bench via a lease running for a fixed amount of years.

Two additional benches had been requested and Cllr. Farrell proposed that they should be allowed. This was **AGREED** unanimously and the **Deputy Town Clerk** was asked to formalise the above charging scheme.

53 HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Council had budgeted for the 2018/19 financial year a £30,000 capital project described as a High Street Improvement Fund.

The presented report outlined a list of potential interested parties that might be consulted including Love Coleshill /individual retailers, North Warwickshire Borough and Warwickshire County Councils officers involved in development and also local regeneration or development companies.

Using the planned redevelopment of Great Yarmouth as an example, Cllr. Farrell proposed that the **Town Clerk** and staff meet with the above individuals and organisations and added that other authorities that have undertaken significant regeneration of their shopping areas should also be consulted such as Solihull and Knowle. This was seconded by Cllr. Farrow and **AGREED**.

54 EASY ACCESS SWING

The Community & Environment Committee had previously discussed the Community Centre play area and Cllr. Farrell had been given delegated authority to approve the purchase of an easy access swing and lattice matting.

However, quotes for an easy access wheelchair swing, as requested by a small number of residents of Coleshill, had come back over budget at £13,425 + VAT. A separate quote for an easy access swing (for a child not in a wheel chair) had been received £3,075.00 +VAT from one supplier (other quotes required). Councillors discussed the merits of each quote including the need to re-site the existing swings to accommodate the fence enclosure around the wheelchair swing.

Cllr. Farrell proposed that the Council should proceed with the easy access swing and that an additional piece of easy access equipment (possibly a roundabout) should be considered for the next financial year. Councillors **AGREED** unanimously.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

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Chairman