

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 23 May 2018.

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell in the Chair
Councillors: Battle, Farrow and Wallace
Also present: Cllr. Symonds.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies given.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Farrow was proposed by Cllr. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **APPOINTED**.
nem. con.

4 CHAMBERLAIN WALK

Recently, there had been discussions about a partnership solution to improve the immediate maintenance arrangements of Chamberlain Walk. It has been estimated to need a £18,000 repair project. If the North Warwickshire Borough Council oversaw a repairs exercise, Warwickshire County Council Highways Department would assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance. The Town Council was asked to put forward £3,000. This was **SUPPORTED** unanimously with the budget to use initially being the High Street Improvement Fund.

The two provisos were that the 'local authority' repaired side of Chamberlain Walk should have some clear demarcation from the 'shop-owner' side and that Warwickshire County Council's offered responsibility for maintenance should be received in writing.

5 OPERATION OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

The "Coleshill Consortium" of schools has held 3 meetings since the Youth Council had recommenced. The schools invited have been the Coleshill School (senior) and junior schools from the town but also the surrounding villages.

Members were keen to support Mr. Purcell-Temple in his attempts to get some meaningful activities organised with the students. The Mayor was keen to be invited to a future meeting, possibly after the one attended by Cllr. Reilly where HS2 and road issues were to be discussed. A visit to the Borough Council chamber was suggested as an activity.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the £200 Youth Council grant be reinstated. For 2018/19, any agreed spending could be charged to the current Youth Club budget, which might be under-spent due to other income.

6 CONSULTATION ON UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

The government consultation document on unauthorised encampments was discussed. Members were content for the **Community & Partnerships Manager** to reply with general comments:

- Unauthorised encampments should be classed as criminal offence with fines and /or imprisonment available to agencies.
- The speed of court injunction processes needs to improve.
- It should be recognised that there are more travellers than spaces in authorised sites and that places are charged for. Local authorities should be given some inducement to seek additional sites.
- Section 61 Police Order Act gave authority but the police needed more power and resources to enforce it.
- Local authorities powers on traceability of individual travellers and vehicles needed to improve.
- Government should fund such officer resource as is required to allow 'on site' presence (as travellers are more likely to move when there is a continual officer presence on site).
- There should be a parish council education programme (approaches to take and the legal process).
- The 'stay away' period should be longer than 3 months.

7 MAYORAL OFFICE SUPPORT

There was a view that the mayoral support given by officers should be allocated purely to the small number of formal civic events and not be provided for the non-formal charity events. The counter argument was that poorly organised charity events reflected on the reputation of the host local authority. A common sense approach could be in agreeing to provide "reasonable" support and identifying to the new incumbent where resources were needed from outside the council officer contingent.

The titles of "Mayor's Secretary" and the generic heading of "Mayor's Office" (where a second person dealt with correspondence) were also discussed. In addition, it was felt that the Mayor should not be charged for hiring Town Council venues for agreed civic and charity events, if they met the reasonableness test.

Cllr. Wallace believed that fellow Councillors should offer greater assistance to the Mayor in organising events and that making money for charity was not the sole purpose of events. All agreed that community spirit was more important than money raised.

It was proposed by Cllr. Farrell, seconded Cllr. Farrow and agreed nem. con. that the recommendations in the report be **ADOPTED**.

8 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON ARRANGEMENTS

In the last few years, there have been the Town Council's "official" switching on of the Christmas lights on the first Saturday of December (along with the Town Hall Christmas Fair) but also to have another switching on for the last Thursday in November to support the Late-Night Shop event in the town, run by Love Coleshill.

There were provisional bookings in the Town Hall diary for Thursday 29 November evening to support the Late-Night Shop event and also Saturday 1 December daytime into early-evening to support the Christmas Fair.

Cllr. Farrell was keen to remove the Saturday 1 December daytime event to support Love Coleshill one and cease an event that had reduced support. Cllrs. Battle and Wallace felt both events worked in 2017, the latter adding that many voluntary organisations would lose a fund raising opportunities.

Cllr. Farrow suggested that the Town Hall fair could precede the Love Coleshill events, all on 29 November. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Wallace, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **AGREED** unanimously that the voluntary organisations (existing patrons and wider organisations) should be asked to comment on their views of the Town Hall fair moving from Saturday 1 December to Thursday 29 November. The **Community & Partnerships Manager** was to seek responses in order to report these to the next meeting of this committee in July.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

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Chairman