

# ***Coleshill Town Council***

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2017** at 7:00 p.m.

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

Councillors: - Breeze, Farrell, Farrow, Gibbs, Richardson, Symonds and Wallace.

## **17/33 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mason & Wootton.

## **17/34 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllrs. Battle and Richardson declared personal interests in 17/47 as they both knew Mr. Carlton Watson well.

## **17/35 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AS A COUNCILLOR**

Mr. Garry Gibbs was elected to the Town Council at the by-election on 13 July and read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

## **17/36 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 21 JUNE**

Item 17/19 of the minutes should have referred to the vacancy being for the representative for Coleshill in Bloom. With this amendment, they were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Breeze, seconded by Cllr. Symonds and **ACCEPTED** nem. con.

## **17/37 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor had visited the Shustoke Show, Coleshill Carnival, Father Hudson's Summer Fete and the High Sherriff's Garden Party and complimented each on their highly successful events. In particular the Mayor had enjoyed the tea party held by the Brownies to raise money for their forthcoming trip and praised them for a well-served cup of tea!

The Mayor had also represented Coleshill at events held by the Warwickshire Folk Festival and at North Warwickshire Area Parish Councils, where Warwickshire County Council's 'cyber man' had held a very interesting talk on password security. There was a historically and architecturally interesting event at Shire Hall and he had enjoyed the Mayor of Alcester's Civic Service which included the best buffet ever!

The "Battle on the Croft" was an immensely successful day, blessed with fine weather and a large turnout from Coleshill residents and beyond. The event had succeeded in raising in excess of £4,000 for the Mayor's chosen charity, the Woodlands School.

## **17/38 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Peter Fowler, had received many compliments from residents about the growth and longevity of Coleshill in Bloom's flowers this year and thanked Coleshill Town Council

and in particular Cllr. Farrell, Deputy Town Clerk Zoe Hillcox and Derek Axe for their help with the arrangement of the watering of the planters. He added that Coleshill in Bloom were to re-establish the hanging baskets along the High Street next year. Mr Fowler also queried the representation of the Town Council on the Coleshill in Bloom committee after the resignation of another Councillor. Cllr. Symonds volunteered to be the representative and was duly **ELECTED**.

Mr Fowler also asked that the latest minutes from the Town Council's meetings be made available on the website.

Cllr. Reilly spoke about Cole End Bridge and the programme of maintenance works due to be carried out over the next three years. The County Council was in the process of applying for the 'Challenge Fund' to fund the maintenance of some 600 historical bridges within Warwickshire – Cole End Bridge being one of the priority ones. Cllr. Reilly also reported that Love Coleshill would like to talk to the Town Council about the possibility of funding a 'round robin' bus service and a market on the High Street.

Mr. Dave Simkin raised the matter of Chamberlain Walk and the lack of maintenance causing the thoroughfare to become dangerous. Warwickshire County Councillors Hayfield and Reilly agreed to take this further.

Cllr. Hayfield discussed the County Schools Transport consultation meeting being poorly attended but the online consultation was still active. Cllr. Wallace queried the short and poorly publicised High Meadow School expansion consultation. Cllr. Hayfield disagreed with the comment, stating that the plans had been out in the open for some time. Cllr. Farrell urged councillors to take an active interest by visiting High Meadow School and talking to the head teacher about its innovative plans for development.

Mr. Derek Axe asked if the Town Council planned a response to Birmingham Airport's planned expansion. The Town Clerk stated that this had already happened through the Planning Committee's submission.

### **17/39 TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

In relation to the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting of 26 July, they were proposed by Cllr. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. Symonds and **AGREED** unanimously with a change made to the last paragraph on item 25 to read "that the Town Clerk be requested to inform CJ events that the Town Council had no objections" rather than "be authorised to book".

Cllr Farrell also provided an update on the County footpath at Memorial Park which had now been successfully completed.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting for 5 July, were to be amended on item 17 which should say 'It was agreed' and not 'It would agreed'. The 2 August and 30 August minutes were **AGREED** unamended and all were **ADOPTED** as proposed by Cllr. Breeze and seconded by Cllr. Farrow.

For the Resources & Amenities Committee meeting of 16 August, item 14 should have read that councillors had expressed a desire to have the upstairs office fire door bricked up. As a matter arising, members wished that advice be sought from a Fire Safety officer before any works to close off the door. With this change, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. Breeze and **ADOPTED** unanimously.

After the 'Youth Sports Club Update', Cllr. Wallace requested a further report and discussion on the value for money aspects of the scheme.

#### 17/40 **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY HUB**

Dr. Megan Davies, Community Development Co-ordinator, had submitted a report of the activities and developments in the Community Hub over the last year.

Members commented on the success of the Hub and the accolades it had earned as a flagship site in the West Midlands and thanks were also given to Megan Davies for the report. However, Cllr. Wallace was concerned that funding used by the Hub's groups would not be available on a repeat year basis. Cllr. Farrell commented that now the groups were established with regular members, yearly costs were significantly reduced. The main cost to the Town Council for the running of the Hub was Megan Davies' salary. However, some of her working hours were used in helping the Town Council to cover maternity leave. There was also an excess of grant income over administrative costs.

#### 17/41 **APPOINTMENT FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR QUARTER 1, 2017/18**

The financial reports for Quarter 1 of the 2017/18 financial year had been circulated.

Cllr. Wallace questioned the high payroll service costs. The Town Clerk explained this was a miscoding of July's salary payments. Cllr Wallace also asked for an explanation about the amount of fuel payments made in quick succession. The Town Clerk replied that this was due to the lawn mowers as well as the van now needing petrol purchases.

Cllr. Wallace also wished it to be stated and recorded as a minute that the BUPA cost was not paid by the Town Council but rather via the Town Council from full staff cost contribution from wages. Receipt C2409 on the list should read 'plaque', not 'plague'.

The report was proposed by Cllr. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. Breeze and **ACCEPTED** unanimously.

#### 17/42 **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - CONSULTATION**

A Designated Public Places Protection Order (DPPO) was in place for the town centre. The legislation has changed and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were to replace DPPOs. The Town Council was invited to respond to the North Warwickshire Borough Council's consultation on a PSPO for the same area of the town.

Cllr. Farrell proposed and Cllr. Breeze seconded that a PSPO be supported, which was **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed. It was noted by Cllr. Farrell that the area included Memorial Park and the Croft.

#### 17/43 **COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTRATION**

Recent legislation allowed a community the right to bid for assets of community value. This new Right meant communities could ask the Borough Council to list certain assets as being of value to the community.

Cllr Farrell proposed that Lloyds Bank be put forward for this added protection, which was seconded by Cllr. Breeze and **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed.

Cllr. Wallace asked if more could be put forward at a later date, which Cllr. Farrell was able to confirm.

#### 17/44 **GRANT SCHEME 2017**

The applications to the 2017 scheme had been considered by a working group, which had put forward a recommendations report.

After discussion, the following applications were proposed by Cllr. Wallace on the proviso that a discussion about any future monies to be granted to Coleshill Town Band for the concerts that they perform for the Town Council should be looked at more closely at a later date. This was seconded by Cllr. Symonds and **AGREED**:

Coleshill Town U21's FC	£2,000
5th Coleshill Brownies	£1,000
Coleshill Scout Group	£1,000
1st Coleshill Brownies	£1,000
Coleshill in Bloom	£700
Coleshill Town Band	£1,500
Coleshill Town Football Supporters Club	£800
North Warks Citizens Advice	£1,500
Coleshill Royal British Legion	£500

#### 17/45 **CASPER PROJECT FUNDING**

The Town Council has agreed to launch a crowd funding scheme: CASPER (Coleshill Art Space Project – Everyone Respects). Pledges would only be charged if the project reached a funding goal of £18,841 by 6 November 2017. The Warwickshire County Council project team were supportive and had a £134,000 Warwickshire Together fund to allocate. It was expected to pledge a figure in the thousands.

The Town Clerk had pursued informal discussions with an officer at North Warwickshire Borough Council, which was considering agreement for the former public convenience land on the High Street to be transferred in ownership to the Town Council and a contribution of some of the savings from not operating the public conveniences.

Cllr. Symonds suggested that it was easier to receive funding when some was already in place. Other members agreed and added their desire to see a design specification and a discussion as to whether the site of the former Borough Council toilets was the correct location for a sculpture to commemorate Coleshill's rich cultural heritage.

Following discussion, Cllr. Farrell proposed that the Town Council agree to pledge £5,000. This was seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **AGREED** nem. con.

#### 17/46 **POSITION OF ALE TASTERS**

The Mayor of Coleshill wished to recognise that Coleshill once had a "Court Leet" (a feudal court system set up when the Crown granted the Lord of the Manor additional control of laws). He sought to re-enact the position of Ale Tasters for a charity fund raising event on 13 October 2017 and intended to make 4-6 appointments.

Councillors universally supported this idea; Cllr. Wallace added that the event should be supported properly with provision of uniforms.

The Council **AGREED** the appointment of 4 Ale Tasters, with a view to allowing 2 more:

Mr. Luke Hundleby  
Mr. John Naughton  
Cllr. Dave Reilly  
Mr. Ray Richardson.

#### 17/47 **REFRESHMENT FACILITIES IN MEMORIAL PARK**

The Town Council has been approached by Mr. Carlton Watson of Coleshill based Carlicious, a food and drink events company providing a range of mobile refreshment kiosks, vans and trikes. The operator was keen to site a mobile coffee van at the Memorial Park, capable of providing hot and cold beverages as well as hot and cold snacks.

Members felt that it was unfair to offer Coleshill Memorial Park free of charge and were keen not to facilitate competition with High Street shops.

Cllr. Farrell proposed that Mr Watson should be offered a trial, after which, and only if the venture was successful, other local caterers could bid for the right to operate in Memorial Park. Mr. Watson was to be offered the trial after discussions with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Community & Environment Committee, particularly regarding times and days of operation on site.

This was seconded by Cllr. Breeze and **RESOLVED** by a majority in favour.

#### 17/49 **TOWN CLERK REPORTS**

Although the County path on the southern border of the Memorial Park had been completed, Warwickshire County Council's contractor was due to attend to a 'snagging list' of items, which included putting fencing back, reseeding the grass verges and inserting a tarmac pad between two Wilmot Avenue properties for motability scooter access to the park.

The Town Clerk had advised the agents for Severn Trent Water that it wished to remove its objection to the biomethane plant.

Members expressed a preference for a smooth lozenge style of door sign rather than a rough tree bark style piece of wood. The **Town Clerk** was to progress this design.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.



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Town Mayor