

# ***Coleshill Town Council***

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019** at 7:00 p.m.

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

Councillors: -, Battle, Hammond, Hayfield, Reilly, Sparkes, C. Symonds and P. Symonds.

## **19/25 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Clayton and Wallace.

## **19/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr. Reilly declared a personal interest in item 19/30 as he was on the board of Tame Valley Wetlands.

## **19/27 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22 MAY 2019**

Cllr. C. Symonds advised that she had proposed the vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor and Cllr. Wallace had proposed this for the outgoing Sergeant at Arms, not the other way around. With this amendment, the minutes were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Reilly and **ACCEPTED** nem. con.

## **19/28 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was a most enjoyable day for the Mayor when he visited the Shipston Wool Fair. More locally, he had been pleased to officially open Alex's Barber Shop and have a shave at the same time.

A highly touching invitation had been to the Rotary Club's Day Out. This had been at Drayton Manor where disadvantaged children had been given exclusive access to the rides. It had been heart warming to see the enjoyment on the faces of the children.

## **19/29 ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERGEANT AT ARMS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

The Mayor was pleased to announce his Sergeant at Arms for the year was to be Mr. Peter Farrugia, currently serving with the Fire and Rescue Service.

Mr. Farrugia was present at the meeting and said it was to be an honour to be able to serve the Town Council in such a capacity.

## **19/30 PRESENTATION FROM TAME VALLEY WETLANDS**

There was a presentation from Mr. Simon Lowe of Tame Valley Wetlands, before a question session. TVW was part of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and had links with Borough and County Councils. It had started from a Heritage Lottery Fund bid but was

now largely sustained by large scale project funding across Tamworth, North Warwickshire, Castle Vale and Solihull.

There was a “Love Your River Cole” project as part of a wider £1m fund application to HS2 Limited. This aimed to enhance the environment, educate and involve multiple stakeholders. The B46 area was not as involved as other areas and so a commitment from Coleshill Town Council was welcomed and agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding with TVW had no direct cost implication. Mr. Ian Wikes of TVW was able to discuss this in more detail.

Cllr. Reilly proposed and Cllr. C. Symonds seconded that the Town Council should sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding and that Mr. Ian Wikes should be invited to a future Community & Partnerships Committee. These were **RESOLVED** unanimously.

### 19/31 **PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC**

A suggestion was voiced by Mr. Bert Hammond that the town centre part of the High Street should be 20 rather than 30 m.p.g. to aid safety and control contaminants. Cllr. Reilly felt this should be discussed under Item xx on Speed Watch measures. Cllr. Hayfield advised it was a County Highways matter and introduction of such controls were tightly applied.

There was general discussion on the planned parking charges at Coleshill Parkway and the likely effect on Station Road if the Harvester was to charge. The rear of the Nisa Supermarket store was also expected to have barriers and charging. Cllr. P. Symonds was keen to see some subsidised parking arrangement. Cllr. Reilly announced that he was taking the matters up with West Midlands Trains as a Borough and County Councillor.

### 19/32 **TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

In the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 25 May, Cllr. Reilly wished to add that as a Borough Councillor, if he made any comments, these were a preliminary view and that he might change his view when hearing all the evidence at the Regulatory Board as well as the Planning Board of the Borough Council. With that amendment, he proposed them, was seconded by Cllr. battle and the minutes were **ADOPTED** unanimously.

The minutes of the Community & Partnerships Committee for 5 June were proposed and seconded by Cllrs. Reilly and Hayfield and those of the Procedures & Amenities Committee of 12 June were proposed and seconded by Cllrs. Battle and Sparkes and then unanimously **AGREED**.

### 19/33 **ANNUAL RETURN TO THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR 2018/19**

Part A – Internal Audit arrangements. The Internal Auditor, Ms. Diane Malley, had signed off her 18/19 Audit without any untoward comments.

Part B - External Audit arrangements. PKF Littlejohn had made a number of comments in relation to the 17/18 External Audit, requesting to have accounting figures resolved before commencing the 18/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The Town Clerk had accommodated the requests for the revised presentation of unrepresented cheques and unbanked cash, the use of a preferred Box Number for

Council Tax Support Grant and the corrected receipting for the Coleshill Elite Account fund into the accounts. With all of these requested changes, a restated Box 1 figure of £379,000 for 17/18 had been achieved, as requested (subjected to £1 difference due to rounding). Box Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 6 of 17/18 were also restated as requested by the External Auditor.

There had also been a request for the CCLA Local Authority Property Fund (worth over £200,000) to be subtracted from Box 8 and added to Box 9. The Town Clerk advised of three difficulties with this action. Firstly, given that the LAPF was a fund and not a property asset and could be sold, in whole or part with 28 days' notice, it had been treated as a short term investment rather than a long term asset. The first purchase in 15/16 did not get remarked upon by the External Audit for that year. Secondly, a reduction would have to be carried back through various other boxes on the AGAR and reduce the total wealth of the Authority at below £50,000, giving a somewhat misleading financial picture. Thirdly, to make a further adjustment would entail further restating the accounts for Box 1 of 17/18 to a figure much different from the £379,000 detailed above.

Cllr. P. Symonds felt that the view of an auditor should be opinion rather than prescriptive. Cllr. Reilly asked what repercussions there were of ignoring the External Auditor's advice, if that company was to insist on amendments. The Town Clerk believed there would be a further report as at the end of last year's audit, i.e. with advice to restate the AGAR box figures before the 19/20 return was completed.

Cllr. Hayfield proposed and Cllr. C. Symonds seconded that the Mayor be authorised to sign the AGAR return and this was **SUPPORTED** unanimously.

#### 19/34 **SELECTION OF ALE TASTERS**

British History Online has reference to Coleshill's Court Leet era, when held by John de Clinton (circa 1284 /85 origins). The Mayor's appointments for a modern series of ale tasting visits on 13 September 2019 were to be:

- Mr. Martin Bromage
- Cllr. George Clayton
- Cllr. Matt Ensor
- Mr. Luke Hunderby
- Mr. Nigel Rhodes
- Mr. Ray Richardson
- Cllr. Caroline Symonds.

#### 19/35 **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

A report had been circulated which outlined that Community Speed Watch schemes were coordinated by the Safer Roads team but managed and run by volunteers in the community. The scheme enabled local people to take an active role in road safety and make their community safer.

Cllr. Reilly was aware of the funding available to CSW schemes and council roles were largely in organising the volunteers. Cllr. P. Symonds was in favour, so long as the surveying was safely handled. It was the view of Cllr. Sparkes that it was for police to control speeding rather than volunteers. Cllr. C. Symonds wanted to gauge support from volunteers before selecting locations. Cllr. Reilly and Cllr. Hayfield proposed and

seconded that the Town Council's officers should coordinate an appeal programme, which was **RESOLVED** by majority vote.

19/36 **MAYORAL EVENTS FOR 2019/20**

The Mayor was to have some new events such as a Karaoke Night as well as some popular favourites, like the Coleshill Town Band concert.

A particular request for member assistance was requested for those events needing resource support, such as Shrovetide Pancake Races and the Coleshill Local arts Week (CLAW) 2020. The Kiriki Club in Concert was already booked for Saturday 14 March in the CLAW 2020 programme, with novel rock and pop in multi-languages.

19/37 **GRANT APPLICATIONS 2019 /20**

Councillors were keen to have a mix of experienced and newer elected members on the Grant Applications Task Group when it was due to meet on 28 August. It was proposed by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Reilly and unanimously **AGREED** that the group be made up of Cllrs. Battle, Clayton, C. Symonds and P. Symonds.

19/38 **TOWN CLERKS REPORTS**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the early May Bank Holiday was to be moved to Friday 8 May 2020 (from Monday 4 May 2020) to assist the VE Day 75 commemorations.

Members were asked to contact the office if they were having any difficulties with accessing the Town Council email accounts.

The Green and Yellow Tour markers were due to be installed in early July and there was to be an official launch event on Saturday 20 July.

The meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.



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Town Mayor