

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 20 November 2019.

PRESENT: Councillor Reilly in the Chair
Councillors: Clayton, Hammond, Hayfield and Richardson
Also present: Cllr. Battle.

24 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies as there was a full committee present.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Reilly declared a personal interest in Item 28 as a County Councillor.

25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of 9 October were proposed by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ACCEPTED** as a true record, without amendment.

26 COLESHILL CYCLING FORUM

The Chairman of this Committee had involvement with some neighbouring parishes to Coleshill and was keen to seek improvements to the provision of cycling in the town, surrounding villages and connecting roads.

It was thought that forming a Coleshill Cycling Forum would help in bringing cyclists together and allowing discussion of which measures might most assist with encouraging cycling participation. A forum such as this might also be useful in agreeing what might be prioritised as requests of the appropriate local authorities. It was also hoped that a Coleshill Cycling Forum might create an interest in the surrounding villages such that some of these might consider creating similar groups.

Members saw benefits for community support, health, lifestyle and visitors to the town. There was support for a staff member to attend and minute meetings and to offer a meeting room. If HS2 plans were progressed, there were grant assisted cycle way improvements planned from the interchange, passing the River Cole Country way, around Kingsbury Water Park and linking Cole End Park to Coleshill Parkway.

Cllr. Hayfield suggested engagement with schools and Cycling Efficiency schemes and that the forum might assist in identifying pot holes to the County Highways service. The forum already had a potential chairman, officer support and committee member interest.

It was **AGREED** in principle, with the Chairman pledging to set a date for an inaugural meeting and to involve the relevant Borough and County Council officers.

27 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Council's 4-Year Action Plan included a specific biennial action to "To produce and then review policy on community engagement". The report circulated was to help facilitate a revision to a policy first written in 2017.

It was felt that the current policy was more of a series of statements. It needed an opening paragraph that the Council sought to enhance and facilitate the furtherance of the statements that followed. Cllr. Hayfield also suggested that the ambassadorial role of the Mayor should be described as part of the support of the community events.

Members also wanted to add that the Town Council welcomed the community benefit of those residents of neighbouring parishes who were workers, shoppers and visitors to the town. The revised policy was **ADOPTED** with these changes, by consensus.

28 RING AND RIDE BUS SERVICE

The Chairman had sent a proposal, to chairmen and clerks of neighbouring authorities, to establish a local parish council-funded Ring and Ride bus service that might connect them to each other and to Coleshill High Street. The following parish councils were included in the potential routing:

Coleshill
Water Orton
Curdworth
Lea Marston
Nether Whitacre
Shustoke
Over Whitacre Parish Council

Each authority had been requested to consider this proposal and possible financial contribution. The service provider would be TJ Travel which operated a 16-seat mini bus and a 29-seat full bus but was more supportive to the isolated customer with social care ideals than a regular service. Its current public service operator's licence expired in May 2021, so a 16 month pilot was under consideration.

The Ring and Ride service would operate a figure of eight route that would cover two journeys with Coleshill High Street as the common destination and departure point, but would also connect each of the villages to each other. At the same time, the County Council was tendering for an enhanced service covering a similar area. The Ring and Ride would not be a charged service, since the majority of passengers were entitled to free travel, anyway.

The TJ Travel costings, based on population apportionment, suggested that the annual running costs for Coleshill Town Council were £6,303. This did assume that all other parishes were prepared to contribute their apportioned annual costs. Cllr. Richardson proposed that up to £10,000 per year for the 16 months should be allocated to the project, under the authority of the Chairman to negotiate within that headroom as necessary. This was seconded by Cllr. Hayfield and **AGREED** nem. con. It was envisaged the charge would be charged to the High Street Support Fund.

29 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

There had been a short listing of 12 people for the Hub Coordinator and interviewing of 8 of the candidates. Ms. Charlie Painter was selected and was a Coleshill resident, returning after a childcare break, enthusiastic to make a difference and highly familiar with social media.

The £75,000 HS2 Grant for the Community Hub move was currently underspent because the main contractor had tendered under the target cost and Headlam Ltd had provided free flooring cover and fitters. It was hoped to use the underspend balance for pre-opening publicity, an official launch event and a contingency fund.

However, the timing for the project had been affected by the need to replace doors for the Fire Assessment requirements and the longer period than estimated for laying the flooring cover. This had led to complications of inability to move Hub items downstairs and store issues for deliveries of chairs, desks, computers and other fixtures until the floor was finished. The Hudson Room, Green Room, Fifield Room and main offices had been temporarily used while the building was still open to hirers and visitors, leading to moving items from room to room.

The staff were thanked for their patience and endeavours in managing the project as well as the preparations required for the asbestos removal and Fire Assessment revisit.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.

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Chairman