

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 12 February 2020.

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PRESENT: Councillor Reilly in the Chair  
Councillors: Clayton, Hammond and Richardson  
Also present: Cllrs. Battle, C. Symonds and Wallace.

### **31 APOLOGIES**

There were apologies from Cllr. Hayfield.

### **31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

### **32 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of 20 November were proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. Clayton and **ACCEPTED** as a true record, without amendment.

### **33 ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Annual Town Meeting has a legal status in being held. The Council 4-year Task Plan refers to a task listed by the previous council to conduct a review. Members felt that an Annual Town Meeting held on a separate night to the Annual Meeting of Council had been supported well by the electors. Cllr. Richardson proposed and Cllr. Clayton seconded that the separate date of 15 April for the separate Annual Town Meeting should go ahead.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously for this to continue and the **Town Clerk** was requested to invite representatives of Restful Homes, the Hazelwood Health Practice and the Parish Church.

### **34 WEBSITE INFORMATION SERVICE**

The Council's website was significantly reviewed 3-4 years ago to offer five static sections and then five 'dynamic' news reel sections. This gave flexibility to provide what most residents might want to see displayed. What was more difficult to maintain was the 'dynamic' news feed.

It was noted that the Community Hub's Facebook postings were good and that there were over 800 followers for the "What's On B46" site (maintained by Cllr. Richardson). There was a need to ensure consistency in who could be allowed to post details of events in Town Council sites. Members were **CONTENT** to continue with the current level of content but the **Town Clerk** was asked to arrange a presentation at the next meeting of this committee.

### **35 HIGH STREET SUPPORT FUND**

The Parish Buzz "Figure of 8" Service had been in operation since the previous week but had attracted only a handful of passengers each trip. The 16-month service was expected to cost around £6,000 to £8,000 of the £30,000 High Street Support Fund. It was accepted that Coleshill was paying more per head of population and agreed that it was healthy to see parishes working together.

Heartflood Ltd's submission was confidential in terms of day rates but there was a five-figure sum envisaged to provide some outlined business solutions to the town for a 12-month period, centred around a Town Team approach. This company had been involved with previous projects with Birmingham, Solihull and Banbury Councils among others and so the Chairman was confident they had a proven track record. He was also pleased to note they would hit the ground running and that the funding had been set aside to do something substantial from a previous Council budget year.

It was felt that Heartflood could assist with fund sourcing and there was discussion of the potential to make either HS2 Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) or other grant applications, with such assistance. Members were keen on a fresh view on the town's challenges, a chance to look at additional car parking and the liaison between landlord and potential target retailers on vacant properties. The Chairman identified the additional housing and visitors effect that developments such as the Wave Park, Wall of Answered Prayer and HS2 rail facilities might have on Coleshill.

It was proposed by the Chairman, and supported unanimously by committee members, that any member with concerns about the Heartflood appointment should raise them with the Chairman and the Town Clerk by 19 February. It would then be proposed at 25 March full Town Council if there were no outstanding concerns.

The **Town Clerk** was asked to notify the three members not present of the 19 February deadline to raise any issues they had, so that a universal endorsement was possible.

### **36 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FOR 2020**

In previous years, there had 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). More recently, there has been the switching on for the last Thursday in November to support the Late-Night Shop event in the town, run by Love Coleshill.

After changes from year to year, the bookings staff did not know what was happening from year to year and did not know which dates to offer and which to keep clear.

Members saw advantage from divorcing the Late-Night Shop /Lights Switch On from the Christmas Fair. It was proposed by Cllr. Hammond, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **AGREED** unanimously that the Late-Night Shop /Lights Switch On would be the last Thursday in November (if that was the Love Coleshill request) and the Christmas Fair would be always the first Saturday in December. This year the two dates were 26 November and 5 December, 9 days apart and it was recognised that this would more often be the case than a 2-day interval.

### **37 COLESHILL CYCLING FORUM**

The Committee Chairman had liaised with representative officers from Borough and County Councils, the Environment Agency and Tame Valley Wetlands. This led to the creation of an Officers' Cycling Forum with objectives to make cycling more attractive across Coleshill and the neighbouring villages, through the joint efforts of those authorities.

On 29 January, the Committee Chairman held an inaugural meeting of the Coleshill Cycling Forum, with community-based attendances from a group of cycling enthusiastic residents from Coleshill and Water Orton. Issues raised included pothole reporting and the fact that the North Warks. Cycle Route did not come through Coleshill town centre.

The next meeting of the community Coleshill Cycling Forum was to be on 9 March.

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

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Chairman