

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020** at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

19/62 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

19/63 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

19/64 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 13 NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. Battle, seconded by Cllr. Hayfield and **ACCEPTED** unanimously. The discussion on Any Other Business as an agenda item would be on the next meeting of the Procedure & Amenities Committee.

19/65 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had particularly enjoyed the honour of turning on the Christmas Lights and was delighted to note that the Christmas Fair had been well attended, including the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, Mr. Simon Miesegaes and his wife who had visited.

In the week previous, he had attended the new Community Hub opening, in its new downstairs offices. Ms. Helen Whittaker, Community & Partnership Manager and all staff were thanked for their preparations and design work which had resulted in over 70 people being recorded as attending.

19/65 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Alison Doyle reported that, in connection with the temporary classroom at High Meadow School, she attended the County Council meeting on 7 January and had expected greater Town Council support in objecting to the application. Cllr. Reilly read the Town Council comments from the Planning Committee minute, but the **Town Clerk** was asked to check what had happened to the comments within the consultation process.

It had been observed by Mr. Bert Hammond that there had been arches of the historic Cole Bridge either blocked or silted up. Also, there had been some keystone damage so it appeared that the bridge was acting as a dam, beyond its design remit. Cllr. Reilly referred to a multi-agency group that had Cole End Park as a potential project for grant funding. He was hopeful that the bushes (particularly laurel) would be cleared to stop

rubbish being captured by them. Ms. Doyle wondered whether the proposed Wave Park would affect the water table. It was the view of members that this was unlikely but that the application was still subject to the permissions and approvals and this would be covered by conditions, if indeed necessary.

Mr. Derek Axe reminded the Council that it had pledged to do a Press release on the Neighbourhood Plan in a July meeting. The **Town Clerk** and **Planning Committee Chairman** agreed to do this as soon as possible.

19/66 TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 27 November were proposed by Cllr. Sparkes, seconded by Cllr. Hammond and **AGREED** nem. con. For those of 8 January, minute 69 should say workers', not worker's. Cllr. Reilly raised the matter of the large number of planning permissions required under Section 17 of the HS2 Act and how to deal with the need for quick and technically adept responses. It was **RESOLVED** that Messrs. Peter Rafferty and Barry Moore (the Council's SMZ representatives) should represent the Council on giving such observations, referring back to the Town Council any decisions the representatives felt were significant. This was proposed by Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. Wallace and **AGREED** nem. con. The **Town Clerk** was asked to inform the relevant parties.

On the Community & Partnerships Committee minutes of 20 November, there were concerns expressed by Cllr. Wallace on several projects. For the Cycling Forum, this benefited few people and took staff time. Cllr. Reilly believed improved routes and infrastructure would assist a greater number of cyclists than just forum members and that he had taken on the administration of the forum. In reply to comments about the value for money use of the High Street Support fund for the Parish Buzz Service, Cllr. Reilly said it was centred on the vulnerable elderly, the route would not compete with other timetabled services and that it could help 58 passengers over the two Figure of 8 circuits. Cllr. Wallace was keen that the efficacy of the Community Hub should be monitored and not duplicate Library footfall service provisions. It was hoped that the Community & Partnerships Committee would have frequent reporting on the Hub and that it would not undermine the efforts of the Library.

There was a need to replace "and Refused" with "was Refused" in minute 30 of the Procedure & Amenities Committee of 11 December. With this change, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. Sparkes, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **AGREED** nem. con.

19/67 FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3, 2019/20

The accounting reports to 31 December were presented, showing £278,577.24 in current balances, of which £199,179.00 was in the CCLA Local Authority Property Fund. At the three-quarter stage in the year, receipts were already in excess of the budgeted income for the whole year.

Cllr. Wallace asked a number of queries which the Town Clerk answered. The Coleshill Elite account was the remains of Sport for England funding of a previous year's playscheme. The HS2 Heritage Grant was County and Borough Council granting towards storage of materials from the former farm buildings on the HS2 route that are Grade II listed. There were a number of unusual Community Hub purchases that were HS2 Ltd funded (map, balloons, T-shirts). Members felt that football pitch charges and

the Living Wage Foundation registration needed future committee discussions. The report was **NOTED**, with the support of Cllrs. Hayfield and Reilly.

19/68 **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Members have resolved to have a Staffing Committee of 5 people, which could be from either Standing Committee. Cllr. C. Symonds has been selected as the Chairman and a first meeting date of 4 March had been scheduled.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Battle and agreed unanimously that the 5 members would be:

Councillors: - Battle, Reilly, C. Symonds, P. Symonds and Wallace.

19/69 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2020/21**

The Town Clerk had circulated papers, included projected revenue figures for 20/21 based on current year and previous year experience. This suggested an excess of spending over income by £4,647.44 but the Tax Base for 20/21 was 2.1% up on 19/20, allowing just over £5,000 additional Council Tax for the same charge per head. The revenue account was therefore very close to a balanced budget.

The capital /one off projects already agreed took the excess of spending over income to £99,897.44 (ignoring the Tax Base increase). There were several other newly-suggested additional capital /one off projects amounting to £26,900 in costs. In view of this, it was proposed by Cllr. Symonds that there should be a 3% increase on precept charge, that the new items would be set aside for 21/22 but with 'flexing' between 20/21 and 21/22, depending on a resource plan to be agreed. Cllr. Hayfield seconded this, stating that small increases per year were preferable to sudden large increases in any one year. The vote was unanimously to **ACCEPT**. Members supported the additional Christmas lights for further along Station Road but also thought that timings for skatepark lighting might be worth reviewing in the future.

The 20/21 precept calculation was therefore:

19/20 precepted amount:	£238,372.56
Increase in tax base (2435.55 in 19/20, 2487.08 in 20/21 = +2.116%)	<u>£5,043.35</u>
Sub total:	£243,415.91
Add 3% for 20/21 precepted amount	<u>£250,718.38</u>

19/70 **CALENDAR OF MEETING DATES 20/21**

The Town Clerk had drafted a schedule which included the September 2020 and March 2021 Staffing Committee dates in addition to the usual cycles of meetings. Dates might be subject to slight change as the Borough Council meeting ones were only published up to 8 June 2020. Clashes were usually avoided and Planning Committee meetings were scheduled just before the Borough's Planning Board dates.

Discussion took place about the difference between the Annual Council meeting (sometimes referred to as the 'Mayor Making' meeting) and the Annual Town Meeting. The latter was a legal requirement for the parish /town to hold a meeting for all

parishioners to pass resolutions affecting the whole parish. It was the norm for the parish /town council to host this and receive the resolutions but it was not a formal council meeting. Some parishes held a short Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Council on the same night but Coleshill Town Council had, for three years, separated the two meetings.

19/71 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

HS2 Community Engagement was to have a drop-in archaeology event in the Old Courtroom on Wednesday 5 February with experts on hand to talk about what had been found to date.

Severn Trent Water had requested the authority to dig new water pipes across Ennersdale Green, near the Community Centre to alleviate residential property flooding issues. Approval was needed from the Coleshill Grammar School Trust as the landlord but STW had offered to provide a play item to the Council (e.g. basketball hoop or a second goal post).

The Wall of Prayer attendance due at the 29 January Planning Committee was due to be recorded by a BBC documentary person but this was to be sound only and no video pictures.

As the former Relationship Manager for HSBC Ltd had not correctly processed the mandate changes from May 2019, these had to be redone. The new Relationship Manager was providing documents to be signed before the March 11 Procedure & Amenities Committee. Cllrs. Clayton and Hammond were to be invited as well as all other new signatories were on that committee.

There being no other business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.02 p.m.



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Town Mayor