

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held on Zoom on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

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

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal interests were declared by Cllrs. Battle and Richardson in Item 7 as they knew Carlton Watson of Carlicious well.

3 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of 12 February had still to be adopted as a true record and were to be circulated by the **Town Clerk**.

4 COMMUNITY HUB OPERATION

During the period of lockdown, the Hub Coordinator had worked from home and the Town Clerk had relayed to her any enquiries by phone and any duties that might be reasonably undertaken from home, contacting other external authorities and agencies, as necessary. Other work that had been possible had been keeping in contact with Hub users and volunteers, to maintain these important relationships, thus being able to re-engage with people when the Hub reopened.

The Hub Coordinator had also been maintaining the Hub's Facebook page in order to keep residents and local people linked in with the Hub, encouraging people to send her or upload photos of Coleshill and its surrounding area to keep the Hub in the forefront of residents' minds for when it opened up again.

The **Town Clerk** was also asked to liaise further with the Hub Coordinator and also provide members with details of the part-time furlough arrangement.

5 SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY UNDER COVID-19

When the Government announced a lockdown of all non-emergency work on 23 March, the Community Hub and Town Council premises went into a complete closure, as did other community locations relied upon like the Library, Old Market Hall and the churches.

The County and Borough Councils liaised over the creation of a shielding hub in the town. The Angels of Coleshill was formed by volunteers who undertook to support residents, in particular those needing food and hygiene shopping assistance.

The **Town Clerk** was asked to liaise with Cllr. Caroline Symonds about any role in which the Hub or Council might assist the Angels of Coleshill in terms sustaining the volunteers by any means of coordinating, protecting or supporting them.

6 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTIVITY

The Council has allocated a budget sum of £30,000 in the 2020/21 budget for town centre development under the heading of the High Street Improvement Fund. It had contacts with Heartflood Limited about a report it had submitted with proposals /ideas where a figure was quoted, for further discussion. However, while the report was due to go before the March Town Council meeting, that meeting was not legally allowed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing Government lockdown restrictions on gatherings. No , Heartflood assistance had thus been commissioned.

There was a unanimous view that the Heartflood proposals and the whole High Street Improvement Fund should be held in abeyance for the time being. It was thought that the fund might be more effective as a post-Covid support one, when it could be better targeted to known projects needing financial assistance.

The Chairman was asked to use his County and Borough Councillor roles to push for Coleshill's share of town centre support from Government funding at their disposal.

7 OUTDOOR AREA EVENT HIRE BY COMMERCIAL OPERATORS

Until around five years ago, the Town Council did not charge for business use of the Memorial Park, St. Peter's Walk, the Croft and Ennersdale Green. Then, when it was approached for the cost of hire by some small businesses (e.g. boot camps, football training, field days, dog training) it decided to charge a nominal £10 per hour, with a minimum of 2 hours in booking period.

The Council had been more recently approached by some more substantial business ventures (e.g. Carlicious and Café on the Hill). The consensus view was that a strategy was needed so that charges could 'sweat the assets' to a greater return from certain outdoor event hirers. There were issues discussed around local /non-local and whether the hirer was able to charge other operators for their selling opportunities.

The Chairman asked that there should be an information paper produced and then an informal meeting to allow all members to input to a charging strategy. The committee were content with this proposal.

8 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Community Hub operations in the Covid-19 recovery period.
High Street support (when this was possible).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

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Chairman