

Minutes of the Annual Town meeting held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 12 May 2021

Chairman: Councillor Adam Richardson, Mayor, in the Chair
Guest speakers: PCSO Craig Marshall (Warwickshire Police).

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 17 April 2019 were agreed as a true record, as proposed by Cllr. Caroline Symonds and seconded by Cllr. Richardson and the Mayor signed them.

2 POLICE PRESENTATION

PCSO Craig Marshall took questions from the floor. Mrs. Sue Rogers raised the matter of car racers on the A446. The police were in liaison with NWBC regarding possible actions. One issue was that the A446 was a 70 mph road and became a magnet for car racers (Chelmsley Wood main roads were 50 mph). A decision to lower the speed would be at County Council and would rely on statistics to justify any change.

A question was asked about trail bikes on the High Street. The police had access to off-road bikes but only a few to cover all of North Warwickshire.

In terms of police knowledge about Coleshill and the north of the county, there was a sergeant based in the Coleshill police unit for 4 days of the week.

In relation to drug taking in the town, there were no reported instances and police action had to be intelligence led.

Police did ticket drivers for unsafe parking (e.g. on the zebra crossing) and made as much noise as possible about this on social media. The officer was asked to do some parking safety checks at the school collection sites, particularly Packington Lane.

3 TREES AT CHESTNUT GROVE AND CHASSIEU WALK

Mr. John Rogers was a resident of this area and had heard that the Borough Council tree officer was intending to fell a total of 9 trees, some of which were compromising the footpath. There had been earlier proposals to pollard some of the trees, but this had not happened a few years ago. Mr. Rogers presented pictures of the trees, the pathways and his suggested alternative plan for the pathway in front of 48-52 Chestnut Grove. This involved curving the pathway a little to go around the trees that were lifting the current surface.

Cllr. Caroline Symonds introduced herself as the Borough Councillor for this area. She was supportive of the path rerouting idea and agreed to speak to Andy Watkins, the NWBC tree officer, to take this forward.

It was requested by Cllr. Sue Wallace that a committee of the Town Council should write to NWBC to support the path rerouting and also to the Environment Agency to ask it to dredge the river from Cole Bridge to Swan Barn.

4 ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT

The report of the Town Council over the past year was circulated. The Mayor, Cllr. Adam Richardson and Cllrs. Caroline Symonds and Tony Battle spoke of some highlights and future plans for the Council in a troubled year. The Council had taken over the management of the

Old Market Hall, alongside the Town Hall and Community Centre. Venue hire income had taken a big hit during the pandemic and some budgeted spending had been removed from the plans.

A question was raised about the Chassieu Walk floral horse. This would, hopefully, return after it had been replanted.

The Wall of Answered Prayer and Surf Park had now both been given planning permissions.

Mr. Derek Axe highlighted that the 20/21 accounts appeared to show a £200,000 reduction in assets held. This was explained by the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) property Fund, which had been shown in short-term investments in 19/20 but were now part of the long-term asset holding in 20/21. This would be shown as a note to the accounts in future.

5 COLESHILL LOCAL ARTS WEEK (CLAW) 2021

A booklet for CLAW 2021 has been produced, with details from Peter Scott (local artist), the church, the Library, Civic Society, Country Market, voluntary groups and schools. The events were to run over the dates of 22 - 31 May.

There were printed copies of the programme and posters in the Town Hall and in shop windows and the details would also be made available on social media channels.

6 50 YEARS OF THE BAKERS

Mrs. Deanna Baker completed 50 years of service as the Town Hall Caretaker in May 2020 and, at the same time, 50 years of residence in the house owned and provided by the Council. They wanted a bench for the garden, with suitable plaque and the Council agreed to buy this for them.

Deanna and Barry were present as Helen Whittaker, Community & Partnerships Manager at the Town Council, presented a short history of their involvement in the town and the building. She described as Deanna, working in a grocer's shop, met Barry who was a carpenter. They married in Maxstoke Church and had the reception in the Coach Hotel. Helen felt that Deanna always seemed to be available for deliveries at all hours and quick setting and clearing rooms. Sometimes this had been at Town Hall. Community Centre and Old Market Hall at the same time!

There was a rousing round of applause for Deanna and Barry.

7 RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS FROM ELECTORS

No other resolutions raised.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.25 p.m.

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Chairman