

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021** at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: - Cllr. C. Symonds, Town Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: - Battle, Clayton, Hayfield, Richardson, Sparkes, P. Symonds and Wallace.

21/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Reilly.

21/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

21/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25 MAY

On item 21/12 the reference to gas charges should have continued “were so high”. With this amendment, they were proposed by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Sparkes and **ACCEPTED** nem. con.

As a matter arising, Cllr. Hayfield requested that a Staffing Meeting be organised sooner than the date on the calendar of meetings and that the **Town Clerk** should look into it.

21/19 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had received few contacts since election but had agreed to be a regular columnist for the Coleshill Post. She looked forward to the opportunity to recognise good effort in the town.

21/20 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

PSCO Craig Marshall advised that with the ASB instances in the Memorial Park, a task group approach was being taken. There were also instances around Mornington Court and around an alleyway between the schools. In reply to a question, it was stated that the police office was a response base and not a 24 hours on-duty office. Non-urgent incident calls should be reported online (on 101) or in person at Nuneaton station.

It was the first attendance for County Councillor Martin Watson (Coleshill North and Water Orton). He had been given County responsibility for highways and planning, including electric charge points (two were planned for Church Hill). Some grass cutting of the A446 was to be reduced by allowing wild plant growth, which would also aid biodiversity. He added that grass at the junctions was still due to be fully cut. Cllr. Watson was also the County’s elected member for HS2 liaison.

County Cllr. Dave Humphreys (Coleshill South and Arley) was also in attendance and referred to a meeting on 21 June, planned to move forward on the Green Man crossing

improvement project, which was stalled. All options seemed to be very expensive, but he hoped to be able to communicate what was to be agreed soon after the meeting. He was encouraged to consider a public communications event at the Town Hall.

There was a request from Mr. Derek Axe for a feature on Neighbourhood Plan achievements to appear in the Coleshill Post. He added that the CCLA funds might be used for current projects rather than to be in long term investment. He also commented on the percentage of income spent on staffing in 2020/21 compared to 10 years earlier.

21/21 **TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 26 May were proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **ADOPTED** unanimously, with the amendment that they were in person, not on Zoom. It was also noted that the committee might recommend that all new builds should be provided with electric charge points by way of conditions on accepting those applications.

On the 2 June meeting of the Community & Partnerships Committee, it should state that Cllr. Richardson self-proposed and was seconded by Cllr. Clayton. In addition, it was a meeting in person, not on Zoom. Lastly, Cllr. Hayfield proposed and Cllr. Wallace seconded that the item on the Community Hub CHUG be referred to a further full Town Council with an issues report. With these amendments, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **AGREED** unanimously.

The minutes of the Procedures & Amenities Committee of 9 June were **NOTED** for later adoption, as proposed by Cllr. Hayfield and seconded by Cllr. Wallace.

21/22 **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (20/21)**

Ms. Diane Malley, Internal Auditor, had completed her Annual Internal Audit and Report Section 1 page within the AGAR set. All of the Internal Control Objectives that were relevant to the Council were completed satisfactorily, which members noted.

The pages for submission to the PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditor had been circulated. These showed that for the year ended 31 March 2021, total balances and reserves had increased to £52,762 from £44,632 at the end of the previous year. Total Other Receipts (other than precept and shown in Box 3) had fallen by over £60,000, largely due to the reduction in room hire during the pandemic but total Other Payments (Box 6) were reduced by a similar amount. In answer to a question, the Town Clerk said the Cemetery extension works would be a cost against Total Balances (Box 7). Members **AGREED** to authorise the Mayor to sign the Section 2 Accounting Statement, as proposed by Cllr. Hayfield and seconded by Cllr. P. Symonds.

21/23 **COLESHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW**

The referendum-agreed Coleshill Neighbourhood Plan was for 2015-30. The Planning Committee proposed that it be reviewed. The Borough Council officers views were that revision was encouraged to see what was still relevant and what was out of date.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hayfield and seconded by Cllr. P. Symonds that any revision should be a refresh rather than an overhaul, so as to not need a further referendum. A further composite motion was proposed and seconded by Cllrs. Hayfield and Wallace that the Planning Committee meeting of 28 July should consider the revision details and

that all Town Councillors and the original steering group members be invited to that meeting. This was **RESOLVED** nem. con.

21/24 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IN 2022

A four-day bank holiday weekend had been announced for 2022, to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee of 70 years on the throne. National events were to include a live concert and a service of thanksgiving. The 2022 break was to run from Thursday 2 June until Sunday 5 June, with the late May bank holiday moving to 2 June and an additional bank holiday on 3 June to allow the extended break.

Platinum jubilee beacons were to be lit throughout the UK. Communities across the country would be encouraged to sit down together for the Big Jubilee Lunch during the Sunday, the final day of the bank holiday weekend.

It was suggested that a small task group approach would be helpful to start planning for the events. It was suggested that the Community and Partnerships Committee could agree its composition.

21/25 TOWN CLERK REPORTS

The Town Clerk had sought new energy suppliers for the Old Market Hall and the savings would be roughly £700 per annum on gas and £200 for electricity charges.

A return of rates for the Town Hall had been received, via the Borough Council, from the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme. This was to partly replace income lost through Covid-19 restrictions and amounted to £2,096.

An analysis of Clubspark figures from year to year was conducted. For 2019, there were 450 hours booked but in 2020 it was 1128, many of them after the ending of the first lockdown. There were already 373 hours booked in 2021 to date.

The Council's insurer had settled in full (less the excess) for the fire-damaged basket swing. In order to avoid delay in providing a replacement, members were happy for the **Procedure and Amenities Chairman** and **Town Clerk** to liaise on a purchase, as permitted by Financial Procedures limits.

The Warwickshire Art Challenge was designed to help encourage people back to high streets, using public realm art. It was led by Warwickshire County Council working in partnership with the Borough Council and was fully funded through CWLEP grant and the WCC Place Shaping Fund. The Town Council was being asked to support the proposals and publicise the survey and requests for designs with local artists.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.



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Town Mayor