

# ***Coleshill Town Council***

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courtroom, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on **TUESDAY, 25 MAY 2021** at 7:00 p.m.

---

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

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

## **21/1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hammond.

## **21/2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

## **21/3 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

Cllr. C. Symonds was proposed as Mayor by Cllr. Wallace and seconded by Cllr. Reilly. The proposer highlighted Cllr. C. Symonds' attributes, her achievements with Coleshill Angels and that, despite being busy, she thought there would be a high level of activity. The seconder spoke of Cllr. C. Symonds being a good representative of the town and Council. She was **ELECTED** unanimously and then signed the declaration.

The newly elected Mayor gave thanks for her proposer's and seconder's kind words and announced that she would not initially appoint a Sergeant at Arms, although this could be kept under review.

## **21/4 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

It was proposed that Cllr. Reilly to be appointed to the Deputy Mayor role for the forthcoming year, by Cllr. Richardson, who felt that he would become a very effective civic office holder, with his experience.

This nomination was seconded by Cllr. Battle and he was duly **ELECTED** unanimously.

## **21/5 THANKS FROM THE OUTGOING MAYOR**

Cllr. Richardson described it as crazy that someone such as himself could have been Mayor when, as a boy he was told he would never amount to anything. He thanked colleagues for giving him that chance.

He was glad that his Nan got to see his first civic year, that he made good friends and that it provided joy, fun, laughs and memories, as well as some harder times to be endured. He looked back on even doing a charity event via Zoom, with councillors and the new Mayor on the winning team.

His advice to successive civics was to try something different, not being afraid to go with new ideas, and, most of all, to do some good.

#### 21/6 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Cllr. Reilly proposed and Cllr Hayfield seconded that Standing Order 14(b) be partly suspended. This was to ignore the element which determined that the main committees “shall consist of five members of Council with each Committee made up of a different five Councillors”. This suspension was **AGREED** unanimously.

With such a suspension, there was a composite proposal on the committee composition from Cllr. Hayfield, which Cllr. Reilly was able to second. The vote was then **AGREED** nem. con. for the following:

##### Community & Partnerships Committee

Cllrs. Battle, Clayton, Hammond, Hayfield, Richardson (5).

##### Procedures and Amenities Committee

Cllrs. Battle, Sparkes, C. Symonds, P. Symonds, Wallace (5).

##### Planning Committee

Cllrs. Clayton, Hammond, Reilly, Richardson, Sparkes, P. Symonds (6).

##### Staffing Committee

Cllrs. Hayfield, Sparkes, C. Symonds, P. Symonds, Wallace (5).

#### 21/7 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen positions were to be elected by each committee at the first meetings, as proposed by Cllr. Sparkes, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

#### 21/8 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There was also a composite proposal for the representations on outside bodies from Cllr. Hayfield, seconded Cllr. Battle. These were **CARRIED** unanimously as follows:

Grammar School Endowment Foundation	Cllrs. C. Symonds & P. Symonds
Simon Lord Digby Trust	Cllr. Wallace
Patient Reference Group	Cllr. Wallace
North Warwickshire Citizens' Advice Bureau	Cllr. Hammond
Coleshill Town Band	Mr. Bill Richards
Coleshill in Bloom	Cllr. C. Symonds
Coleshill Parish Trust Fund	Cllr. C. Symonds, Mr. P. Buckingham & Cllr. Richardson
Love Coleshill	Cllr. Richardson
WALC Representative	Cllr. Sparkes
NW Area Committee Representative	Cllr. Sparkes

#### 21/9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 31 MARCH 2021

These were proposed to be adopted without amendment by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Battle and **ACCEPTED** nem. con.

The tree officer at the North Works. Borough Council did not wish to see a TPO on the oak tree at the entrance to Memorial Park. **Cllr. Hayfield** agreed to follow this up with the Borough Council.

#### 21/10 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

It was the first Town Council meeting attendance of Cllr. Dave Humpheys, newly elected County Councillor for Coleshill South & Arley. He introduced himself as someone who had been a Borough Councillor for 10 years. The newly elected County Councillor for Coleshill North & Water Orton was Cllr. Martin Watson who was isolating but hoped to be present at the next meeting.

Cllr. Wallace proposed a vote of thanks to former Cllrs. County Councillors Hayfield (20 years) and Reilly (4 years) for their representation of the interests of the town at county discussions. This was **ENDORSED** unanimously.

#### 21/11 TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 7 April and 5 May were proposed by Cllr. Hayfield and seconded by Cllr. P. Symonds and were then unanimously **AGREED** to be adopted.

As a matter arising, the **Town Clerk** was asked to enquire of the Borough Council as to why so many applications were at pending status, past the 8-week period for planned determination. Cllr. Hayfield suggested members might consider the need for the Planning Committee in their future discussions.

#### 21/12 RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4, 2020/21

At the end of a pandemic affected year, the cash in hand figure had increased from £21,240 to £47,253. While Town Hall income had been £24,000 under budget and that for the Community Centre £8,000 under budget, the Council had managed to keep reasonable cash reserves by cancelling major capital projects (e.g., Town Hall kitchen renovation, High Street Improvement Fund).

Cllr. Richardson asked that the Town Council should publish the amount raised in the Mayor's Charity account. The **Town Clerk** agreed to do this and was also asked to investigate whether the with Mayor's Charity account should be part of the Audit returns of the Council.

A number of queries were raised. The T-lights and jars were bought for the Holocaust Memorial Day. Skip charges were higher at the cemetery and for clearance of dumped materials at the allotments. The Council was due to finish its Parish Buzz obligations from 23 May. The Website /IT costs figure included BlueClickIt costs for monthly helpdesk support.

The **Town Clerk** was to investigate why the gas charges for Town Hall for the year when the building had been less in use during the lockdown periods.

The reports were proposed by Cllr. Hayfield, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ACCEPTED** nem. con.

## 21/13 **CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

The LGA had proposed a new National Code of Conduct and NALC had agreed to adopt this and no longer issue its own model code of conduct. It had been suggested that all parish /town councils could adopt the new National Code, along with all Districts, Boroughs, Unitaries and County Councils who were expected to follow.

However, Cllr. Reilly advised that North Warwickshire Borough Council had declined to agree the national code and instead had set up a working party. He proposed that the Town Council should defer a decision on signing up to it and to await the working party's outcome. This was seconded by Cllr. Hayfield and **RESOLVED** nem. con.

## 21/14 **TOWN CLERK REPORTS**

The CCTV project had moved a little further forward in that the County Council Highways department had now agreed the socket provision and circuit work on the lighting columns. Orders had been placed and the work was due to take place within two weeks. Once the project was delivered, it would entail additional cameras for the High Street and one more at Memorial Park (looking down the entrance drive).

The lease transfer of the Old Market Hall lease was with the two sets of solicitors to agree the contract. The hiring administration had been taken over by the Council and a leak onto the wooden floor and a stress crack in a large front window had been discovered. On more positive news, the Town Council's energy broker was expecting that the gas supply contract could allow savings of hundreds of pounds on a two-year deal.

## 21/15 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 31 MARCH 2021**

On item 20/77, where it referred to "no documentation that exited", the last word should have been "existed". With this amendment, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. Wallace, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **ACCEPTED** nem. con.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.



.....  
Town Mayor