

Minutes of a meeting of the **COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE** of Coleshill Town Council held in the Old Courtroom on Wednesday 17 November 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor Richardson in the Chair
Councillors: Axe, Battle, Clayton and Hayfield
Also present: Cllrs. C Symonds, P. Symonds and Wallace.

34 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

35 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of 6 October were proposed by Cllr. Battle, seconded by Cllr. Clayton and **AGREED** for accuracy, unanimously.

36 DISCUSSION OF POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Mohsin Yaqub was in attendance to advise on current issues in the town and advised that he and PC Simon Ackroyd were endeavouring to call into some of the voluntary club meetings in the Council buildings to show a presence.

Members heard of the latest anti-social behaviour, such as eggs thrown, door knocking and climbing on roofs. Other issues discussed were the recent homeless people in the streets, late night motorbike activity in Memorial Park, speeding and its controls. PCSO Yaqub agreed to come back with information on recent road issues.

The police had been active on yellow line and dangerous pavement parking and also where it was seen to be too close to the zebra crossing.

37 WELCOME BACK FUND UPDATE

There was a short, statistical report presented by Mr. Des Gallagher, Information Manager at North Warwickshire Borough Council. Retailers in Coleshill were more negative about expected future trading than those at Polesworth and Atherstone. The footfall counter near Church Hill showed that in Coleshill, the return of visitors had been a gradual, slow increase rather than as sudden re-emergence of footfall, as we moved out of the pandemic.

There were general member views expressed about the WBF: relating to its restrictions in use, the short-term benefit and difficulties in providing activities that were most of benefit to the retailers. However, all of this was accepted as being design issues of the scheme, as required by HM Government and the EU's ERDF rules. An extension beyond March was sought, and **Mr. Gallagher** would investigate if this was possible. This was particularly desired given the lengthy closure of the Cole Bridge, which was affecting visitor numbers to the town.

Members had a strong support for beautification measures, including street furniture cleaning, maintenance and (if allowed) replacement of fixtures as well as weeding and
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tidying of pavements. There was also a keenness to replace vandalised panels of bus shelters, if this could be funded.

The Halloween events which were held on 30 October were well supported and a Spring Bash, talent show or other event was suggested for the New Year. The footprints from Morrisons to High Street idea was being finalised but thought was being given to how this might be linked to retailer promotion and in-town activity.

38 CHRISTMAS FAIR PREPARATION

Arrangements for the 4 December Christmas Fair were that there were sufficient stall holders to merit use of the Old Courtroom as well as Fifield Hall, with Santa's Grotto in the Hudson Room. Some of the stall holders were booking contacts from the Welcome Back Fund markets.

Chantry House car park was to be open all day and shops were encouraged to stay open longer in the day. The Leisure Centre was planning a 4 December Christmas Fair but **Cllr. C. Symonds** was to ask the Borough Committee Chairman if this could be cancelled.

39 STATION ROAD COMMUNITY SPACE

When the County Council was considering a location for the Art Challenge, Town Council members expressed a wish for the artwork piece to be sited on Station Road, possibly at its junction with Rose Road, as part of a community space with bench, feature planter and an art piece.

It was expressed, at the time, by the County Council's officers that funders liked to see projects that had completed initial investigatory work. In particular, it was referenced that the Town Council should demonstrate support and enthusiasm for the community space idea (and a lack of opposition) from some form of consultation, in advance of seeking funding.

Cllrs. Clayton and Battle proposed and seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that, in the first instance, the **Town Clerk** should consult with the Borough Council about the principle of a community space being placed on its land.

40 QUEENS GREEN CANOPY

Councils were being encouraged to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" and thus create the "Queen's Green Canopy", with North Warwickshire Borough Council offering the Town Council to cover the cost of the tree(s) and possibly a plaque.

Various sites were discussed: near the back gardens to Bramble Close, the footpath from Cole End Park to Beggars Well footpath, the Green Lane to Castle Lane walkway and the A446 dual carriageway where some trees had been vandalised, recently.

It was also suggested that the Town Clerk should speak to the Woodland Trust about options for starting the green corridor near the Wave Park and the Wall of Answered Prayer, as this was supported by the Neighbourhood Plan. This was **AGREED**.

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41 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

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Chairman