

Minutes of the Annual Town meeting held in the Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill on Wednesday 11 May 2022

Chairman: Councillor Caroline Symonds, Mayor, in the Chair
Guest speakers: Balfour Beatty Vinci Ltd, Warwickshire Fire Service, Twin Rivers WI.

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 12 May 2021 were agreed as a true record, as proposed by Cllr. Adam Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Tony Battle and the Mayor signed them.

2 HS2 UPDATE (FROM BBV LTD)

A presentation was given by Mr. Cameron Cashmore of BBV Ltd of the forthcoming stages in the HS2 project. This would include drainage and ecology surveys. Vegetation removal was due to happen in the next few weeks at Watton Lane and along the A446. The interchange station area had already had some of the clearance work take place.

There were expected two hotspot areas: one near the compound on the B4114 where offices, welfare facilities and materials stores were to be provided and the other at Gilson, where the railway split was to occur and more embankment preparation work.

BBV Ltd was planning some 1:1 sessions in the Town Hall for Coleshill, possibly 4-8 pm and maybe on the last Tuesday each month. There would also be a large room communication event. Events would be publicised via the websites and possibly via some door leafleting. It was recommended to Mr. Cashmore that he use the Coleshill Post and the town's noticeboards.

3 FIRE SERVICE RECRUITMENT

The Warwickshire Fire Service was particularly short of On Call firefighters, who would crew the second engine. Mr. Peter Farrugia described how this was a crew that was largely voluntary with some modest payments made as recompense for lost earnings. It was made up of those over 18 years of age, living or working within 5 miles of the station. It could suit those who were self-employed who worked largely from home as they could offer their required hours but use the station to do their work while waiting on call.

The brigade was also short of 25 fully paid firefighters and Mr. Farrugia described how those interested in these positions could attend a taster day at Kenilworth Fire Station.

The last request was for responses to the Fire Service as it conducted a 12-week consultation on its response models and public protection models. It was hoped that the Town Council could help with publicising the consultation links. The Mayor thought the Council could host some recruitment sessions at the Town Hall, which Mr. Farrugia was prepared to run, if needed. The meeting wished to record its thanks for the work of the Fire Service in Coleshill.

4 ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT

The report of the Town Council over the past year was circulated. The Mayor, Cllr. Caroline Symonds spoke of her mayoral role, starting largely online, in a pandemic restricted year.

The Mayor's Charity was Forget Me Not, a hyper-local cause. The Elvis Night, Ale Tasters, the Alison Core Quiz and the Town Band Concert had all contributed to the sum raised. Those nominated in the monthly Mayor's Awards were to be invited to a thank you evening at the Coleshill Hotel later that month.

The Who Does What summary showed the roles and remit of County, Borough and Town Councils and was found useful. It was recommended to be featured on social media. Cllr. Derek Axe had summarised the Neighbourhood Plan achievements but highlighted that ENP6 called for the A446 corridor space to be wooded, and this was still outstanding.

Mr. Bill Richards spoke about the Wall of Answered Prayer and Surf Park having been given planning permissions, contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan's resident wishes. The Mayor said leisure use was allowable in the Green Belt. Mr. Richards asked that a Watchdog Group be set up to monitor planning applications and some expressed a wish to be involved.

Mr. Mark Jones felt the Council could be better with communications to the public, particularly with the use of a regular newsletter. The Mayor said the Council would consider communications, possibly in June.

5 TWIN RIVERS WI GROUP

The President of the reopened Twin Rivers WI was Ms. Alison Doyle, who started her presentation with a tribute to the previous Coleshill WI Committee members who had kept it going for so long, from its start in 1915. The new group would celebrate its 100th year of operation shortly.

The WI had a yearly resolution and the current one was Autism Diagnosis and Support. Nationally, WI had attended COP26 in Glasgow and Ms Doyle highlighted its local litter pick, noting that Keep Britain Tidy as an organisation, had grown out of a WI project.

The presentation was a picture parade since the November 2021 inauguration night at the Coleshill Hotel, with members and guest presenters featured.

Meetings were timetabled for the last Tuesday in the month. The Summer Charity Ball would be to raise funds for Mary Ann Evans Hospice and Reengage (combating older person's loneliness).

6 RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS FROM ELECTORS

No other resolutions raised.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50 p.m.

.....
Chairman