

# ***Coleshill Town Council***

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 01 MARCH 2023** at 7:00 p.m.

---

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

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

## **22/133 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

## **22/134 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Wallace declared a personal interest in 22/146 as a member of Coleshill Drama Group.

## **22/135 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25 JANUARY**

These were **ADOPTED** unanimously, as proposed by Cllr. Wallace and seconded by Cllr. Battle.

As matters arising:

- A Matters Arising item was to be added to future agendas, as previously agreed.
- The reason for four utilities bills showing as Town Hall was to help with an administrative time-saving on Scribe, in recording four separate bills for four buildings as one item. The procedure had since been reversed so that members could see the separate charges per building, as they had seen before the change.
- The Town Clerk had written to the Mayor and members with further explanation that the Scribe accounts recorded transactions and that was why pay figures net of pension and NI were shown on the financial reports of the Council.

## **22/136 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The quiz in aid of Warwickshire Search and Rescue had raised £1,112.

The Coronation Weekend plans were being formalised, subject to a staging quotation being reviewed. The Mayor had contacted a representative of the Coleshill Town Band to keep them up to date. In summary, there would be the music and fireworks on Saturday (4pm till late), on Sunday the Carnival Committee's children's party and market and a volunteer thank you day on the Bank Holiday Monday.

## **22/137 POLICE UPDATE**

PCSO Adam Skelsey advised that ticketing had taken place for some car parking after police patrols in Roman Way, Digby Road and Clinton Road. The men involved with the cannabis farm had been remanded, pending trial. Some stolen vehicles had been seized.

Cllr. Wallace referred to a resident who had been told that November CCTV footage was no longer available. The Town Clerk was not aware of any issue with loss of images. PCSO Skelsey agreed to speak to PCSO Craig Marshall about this CCTV matter.

### 22/138 PRESENTATION ON THE HS2 PROJECT

Mr. Matthew Glover of Balfour Beatty Vinci was in attendance and talked through a number of viaduct works and expected traffic disruption to Gilson Road, Watton Lane and the A446 Lichfield Road. Typically, these entailed 4-6 nights of closures.

BBV was able to advise that a large proportion of the "Coleshill Corridor" land (where tree planting was sought by the Town Council) was in the ownership of either Coleshill Estates Ltd. or IM Properties Ltd. Mr. Glover agreed to provide contact details and maps /diagrams of their ownerships.

Drop-in sessions were booked at Town Hall (22 March and 31 May) and at the Community Centre (4 April and 7 June).

Books Revisited had been in contact about its funding appeal to correct premises issues. Mr. Glover was looking to see whether the campaign was eligible for the Affinity Fund.

100 saplings were to be made available to the Town Council but there were a total of 10,000 to be allocated in the wider North Warwickshire area (Tame Valley Wetlands and the Wildlife Trust would be receiving large numbers).

### 22/139 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr. Stephen Graham referred to the quietness of the town centre's retail areas and a number of street cleanliness or maintenance issues. The **Mayor** advised that the Borough Council was reviewing aspects of the street cleaning operations. The **Mayor** also agreed to summarise some of the Highways Department maintenance matters to send to County Cllr. Watson.

There were thanks from Mr. Peter Fowler that the worst bus shelter on Station Road had been repaired but a request that the next one nearer to the Wheatsheaf should have a missing panel replaced. He also commented on the Town Council website and members agreed that it was in need of an overhaul.

The reply from County Council to Cllr. Axe on the Greenshoots scheme had not been forthcoming. Cllr. Watson agreed to pursue this with the Portfolio Holder.

As the Town Council had not formally voted its support of the revised Green Man crossing (i.e. traffic lights and ahead and left turns only to be allowed), it was felt appropriate for the **Mayor** to be delegated the responsibility to advise the County Council Portfolio Holder of this support, taking account of Town Council member views previously expressed.

### 22/140 ENP6 OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Derek Axe has prepared some proposals for discussion which looked at three phases, to encourage tree planting on the A446 Corridor.

The meeting suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr. Barry Moore to speak. He was one of the Council's representatives on the Special Management Zone (SMZ) Group within

HS2 discussions. He said the SMZ would push HS2 to support this tree planting policy. He was to attend the SMZ meeting in late March and would update members at the 29 March Town Council meeting.

Cllr. Hayfield had a concern about which agency would be responsible for identifying locations, species, the planting and the maintenance. It was the mood of the meeting that it needed to be a partnership approach with the Town Council driving it.

The policy document was proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. Wallace and **ACCEPTED** unanimously.

#### 22/141 **WARM ROOMS UPDATE**

The Community Centre Warm Room had opened on 28 February and had 7 attendees.

The Mayor and councillors spoke positively about the Warm Room at Town Hall and the desire to continue it in the present form. The Mayor felt the project had been a Council one rather than one emanating from the Community Hub.

One of the leading attendees was Mr. Tony Baker, who was allowed to speak under suspended Standing Orders. He advised that 118 attendees had been recorded during February days and that most had been there for company rather than warmth.

There were issues to consider, such as the fairness to other fee-paying voluntary groups, the noise disturbance in the offices and that the group was not doing what its original remit was designed to do.

It was proposed by the Mayor, with consensus support, that both groups should continue in their present form until the end of June, when the new Council would decide how to address the issues raised.

#### 22/142 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

These were the agreed comments to forward to the Borough Council:

Appl. No.	Address	Applicant	Prop. Development	Comment
PAP/2023/0019	15, Kendal Avenue, Coleshill, B46 1BJ	Mr C Lear	Erection of single storey side/rear extension	No objections
PAP/2023/0050	8, Castle Drive, Coleshill, B46 3LY	Mr Philip Sutton	Rear single storey extension and front roof extension and oak posts. Insulate and render external walls	No objections

PRE/2023/0016	River Cole East and West Viaducts	HS2 Ltd	Construction of two railway viaducts (River Cole East and West Viaducts) and associated works	No objections
PAP/2023/0054	Land Adjacent Grimstock Hill, Lichfield Road, Coleshill	Mr Isaac Jamal	Works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to clear low voltage powerlines	No objections

Although there were no objections to PRE/2023/0016, it was RESOLVED that the **Mayor** should contact the relevant agencies to arrange a meeting about the future relocation of the Royalist Gatehouse, as discovered by Wessex Archaeologic and removed to store. Rather than it being placed near a viaduct, members preferred it should be located as near as possible to its original location but with a marker to note the previous existence of the Elizabethan Garden at the viaduct. The two viaducts could be appropriately named, given the Civil War history of the area.

#### 22/143 UPDATE FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Coleshill Grammar School Trust had a meeting recently and allocated sums around the local schools.

#### 22/144 TOWN CLERK REPORTS

Underground leaks at the Memorial Park had been repaired but there were issues with the standpipe used by the cricket club to water the outfield. WRAS is an independent UK certification body for plumbing products and materials. Products not meeting the WRAS standard should not be installed onto a potable water network, according to Kiernan's, the contractor for the leak repair. It would not install or replace products that did not meet the WRAS standards or The Water Supply Regulations.

The Town Clerk had asked the cricket club to enquire how other clubs had been able to continue with underground taps. The matter could wait a little as the summer would be the time when watering was required.

The Rose Road benches project had evolved into a Coronation themed benches and flower bulbs one. The **Town Clerk** was to pursue whether this still met with the County Council Towns Network funding criteria.

#### 22/145 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Matters arising.  
SMZ to report back after its next meeting.  
Police representatives to be invited.  
Gatehouse location update.  
Coronation Weekend plans.

22/146 **TOWN HALL SPOTLIGHTS**

In November, the Coleshill On Stage group had requested that it be able to site up to date LED spotlights in the Town Hall. The Town Clerk had been asked to liaise with Coleshill Drama Group about its plans for LED lighting.

No specification had been forthcoming from the Drama Group but Coleshill On Stage had subsequently provided 3 quotes (in confidential section of the meeting) for a specific range of lighting units.

Cllr. Wallace said that one issue was that all of the currently provided spotlights belonged to Coleshill Drama Group and it might seek compensation if its equipment was removed. She added that the sound system linked to the control box belonged to Coleshill Drama Group as well.

Cllrs. Richardson and Battle both felt it advantageous to have one set of spotlights owned by the Council, to be used by all hirers. The Mayor added that the lighting should be available to all users, not just two performance groups.

As 10pm had been reached, the Standing Orders needed to be suspended to allow further discussion. Cllr. Hayfield was not in favour, expressing a wish for more information. The Mayor closed the meeting with no further discussion possible.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.

~~~~~X~~~~~

.....  
Town Mayor