

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Coleshill on **WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023** at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: - Cllr. Battle, Town Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: - Ford-Terry, Richardson, C. Symonds, P. Symonds, Tomkinson, Wallace and Wynn.

23/50 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllrs. Brett and Hayfield.

23/51 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared at this stage.

23/52 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 26 JULY

The minutes of 26 July meeting were proposed by Cllr. Richardson, seconded by Cllr. C. Symonds and **ACCEPTED** unanimously, without amendment. Cllr. Wallace advised that the letter from Coleshill Drama Group was for discussion with the Town Council, not the other performance group.

23/53 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

23/54 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Mayor had attended two openings, at the newly extended Cricket Pavilion and for the Women's Institute post-box topper, near the petrol station. He had also been in attendance at the St Joseph's School Summer Fair.

A minute's silence was observed for the death of Mr. Norman (Norrie) Henderson on 4 September. The Mayor announced that he had been Mayor for 1998/1999, 2004/2005 and 2011/2012. Cllr Wallace recounted how he had been a proud Geordie and Labour councillor. Previously serving in the Royal Navy and Fire Service, he had built the town's Guy Fawke's bonfire in some years and had climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of funding of army units. Donations in his name were requested to go to Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

The Mayor was to pass on (to Cllr. Martin Watson, onwards to Cllr. Dave Humphreys), pictures of the Green Man crossing's new metal posts, which seemed poorly positioned to allow free movement to those on the pavement with buggies or wheel chairs.

23/55 HS2 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE - UPDATE

Messrs. Derek Axe and Barry Moore were the SMZ representatives in attendance and gave an update on its discussions with HS2 Ltd. The company had described the

discussions about tree planting on the “Coleshill Corridor” as having its “open door” support. The Secretary of State was, however, to confirm his land disposal policy. Funding requests to the BBV-operated community funds were recommended.

The SMZ had challenged the construction of such large expanses of unappealing grey, concrete areas. When the high risk of large graffiti areas was raised as a concern, HS2’s response was that it was not of concern as it would repaint over any graffiti.

It appeared that HS2 had a site in mind for the former Gatehouse. The SMZ had been promised that representatives for it, the Town Council, Historic England and both County and Borough Councils would be invited to participate in the working party on the project.

23/56 LIVE AND LOCAL - RURAL HUB TOWNS INITIATIVE

Ms. Aster Woods addressed the meeting about progressing with Coleshill as part of an Arts Council England funded project through Live & Local, called the Rural Hub Towns Initiative. She said that she had already met a few people whom she was keen to work with in order to provide more arts-based community work, over the next 2½ years.

In order to be on hand to as many people, she would base herself in the Library in the mornings but also the Hudson Room of the Town Hall, particularly on Friday afternoons.

23/57 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Gill Jones raised the fact that the Church Hill streetlights near the car park were still not working. Cllr. C. Symonds was to follow this up.

There were 3 issues raised by Mr. D. Axe: the missing report from the 4 July workshop run by the Manchester Metropolitan University’s workshop (administered by the Borough Council but publication was promised within 20 days), the lack of any Town Council agenda item on ENP6 and tree planting and the need for the Town Council to agree a purpose for its 6-figure long-term investment account.

Cllr. Peter Fowler reported on his Borough Councillor work, which included more planned tree planting on Station Road and discussions with the Environment Agency about Chassieu Walk area improvements. He also requested that the Town Council website could have the meeting appendixes as well the agenda and previous minutes.

For the County Council, Cllr. Martin Watson reported on parking issues and was asked to investigate whether the main High Street was still to be resurfaced after the Cadent works were completed (due 13 October).

It was then proposed by Cllr, Wallace, seconded by Cllr. P. Symonds and **AGREED** unanimously that there should be a 10-minute-limited agenda item for Borough and County Councillor reporting, after each meeting’s public participation item. This was to allow those council’s elected members to advise Town Councillors of their work, and not for public participation. The **Town Clerk** was to revise the Standing Orders, accordingly.

23/58 INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT

DM Payroll Services had advised that the fee for the internal audit for this year was to be £350. This was based on one visit to the Town Council office, completion of a written report and the Internal Auditor section of the AGAR.

Members asked if the payroll production was still to be undertaken by Jerroms Ltd. The Town Clerk advised that Ms. Diane Malley would undertake the audit only, and Jerroms would still carry out the monthly pay run.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Symonds and seconded by Cllr Wallace that DM Payroll Services was **REAPPOINTED** as Internal Auditor, nem. con.

23/59 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr. C. Symonds declared a personal interest in this item as she was the Chairman of the Coleshill Partnership.

Cllr. Richardson raised the matter that the responsibility for organising the Late-Night shopping had been agreed, in the past, to be given to Love Coleshill. As that organisation had folded, he suggested that the responsibility now fell to the Town Council for this event, since it had not been reallocated to the Coleshill Partnership.

The Mayor and Cllrs. P. Symonds and Wallace spoke of the merit of keeping the Late-Night shopping and Christmas Fair events separate. It was the view of Cllr. C. Symonds that, although the Coleshill Partnership and Town Council would work together on the Late-Night Shop event, it was not on “owned” by the Partnership.

After further discussion, Cllr. P. Symonds proposed and Cllr. Wallace seconded that the plans for the 2023 Christmas events should not be changed from the current responsibilities and dates. This was **RESOLVED**, by a majority vote.

23/60 GRANT AWARDS 2023

Cllr. Richardson declared a personal interest in this item as a member of Local Vocals.

A Working Group had met, to recommend the allocation of the following payments:

Coleshill Rainbow Guides	£750.00
Coleshill Town Football Club Under 13s	£451.72
Local Vocals Choir	£500.00
Twin Rivers Coleshill WI	£1,500.00
Young at Heart	£500.00

In relation to the Coleshill Litter Pickers request for £250.00, members thought it would be better to offer the organisation that the Council would buy the picker equipment from its supplier, for the Litter Pickers to keep in its storage.

With this amendment, the Working Group’s list of recommendations were proposed by Cllr. C. Symonds, seconded Cllr. P. Symonds and **ACCEPTED** unanimously.

23/61 TOILET IMPROVEMENTS

The toilets in all three Council buildings were all in need of some upgrade. In particular, the lease for the Old Market Hall had now been transferred to the Council after over two years of legal process and was in the greatest want for improvement. Cllr. Ford-Terry and Ms. Helen Whittaker had prepared a report of all works recommended in the 3 sites.

Cllr. Symonds felt that all the work identified in the report should be commenced as urgently as possible, using the general capital pot that had been created in the budget. Cllr. Wallace seconded the proposal and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously. The Town Clerk spoke of the one quotation received to date (for flooring replacement alone), and the difficulty in obtaining comparable contractor quotations. Cllrs. **C. Symonds, Ford-Terry** and **Tomkinson** all had bathroom repair firms they could recommend to provide these.

Members were happy with the prioritisation to be the Old Market Hall, the Community Centre and then the Town Hall, in that order.

23/62 PLANTING TREES IN THE TOWN CENTRE

This item was deferred as more specific proposals were required.

23/63 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Appl. No.	Address	Applicant	Prop. Development	Comment
HS2/2023/0005	HS2 Gilson Embankment Including Gilson Road Diversion, Gilson Road, Coleshill	HS2 Ltd	Engineering earthworks to form a railway embankment (Gilson Road Embankment), earthworks to form diversions of Gilson Road and Gilson Drive, construction of a retaining wall, and ancillary works including earthworks to form landscaping bunds, earthworks to form a balancing pond and drainage ditches, earthworks to form a watercourse diversion, construction of head and wing walls associated with the Gilson River realignment culvert, earthworks to form maintenance access tracks and an area for an Auto Transformer Station, provision of track-side noise barriers, provision of road vehicle parking, provision of replacement street lighting, location of vehicle restraint barriers and location of permanent fencing.	The Town Council's views were submitted by the SMZ, on its behalf.

PAP/2023/0122	54, Doris Road Coleshill B46 1EJ	Miss A Trueman	Proposed 2.1m high fence along boundary.	No objections.
PRE/2023/0118	Manor Drive Overbridge including River Cole and Manor Drive	HS2 Ltd	Construction of an overbridge (Manor Drive Overbridge) and associated culverts, engineering earthworks for the realignment of the River Cole, engineering earthworks for the realignment of the River Cole, engineering earthworks for the realignment of Manor Drive and ancillary works including earthworks to form 2 replacement flood storage areas. Earthworks for land drainage, the formation of ecological scrapes and the formation of maintenance access tracks. Provision of road vehicle parking, location of permanent fencing and provision of replacement highway lighting.	The Town Council's views were submitted by the SMZ, on its behalf.
HS2/2023/0006	HS2 Gilson Embankment Including Gilson Road Diversion, Gilson Road, Coleshill	HS2 Ltd	Construction of two railway viaducts (River Cole East and West Viaducts) and associated works including maintenance access stairs and earthworks for the toes of the Green Lane Embankment, Manor Drive Embankment and Coleshill No.3 Embankment.	The Town Council's views were submitted by the SMZ, on its behalf.

23/64 UPDATE FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Patient Participation Group had met but Cllr. Wallace had been away and had given apologies.

Cllr. Peter Symonds advised that the Coleshill Parish Trust Fund had agreed some funding assistance to the parish church for internal lighting.

23/65 TOWN CLERK REPORTS

Nestle Purina /Wincanton staff were having a day in the community on 29 September.

They would assist with weeding and planting in the Millennium Gardens area of Memorial Park and on St Peter's Walk.

The Town Clerk had success in a £4,500 charge being dropped in relation to the application to relocate the County Highways M67 pathway, after he had challenged its fairness with the County Council officers.

The Remembrance Parade was to start at Chantry House for 2023, due to the shortage of qualified officials, although parking would still be possible at the Coleshill C of E School. The **Town Clerk** was asked to investigate if all possibilities for engaging other holders of the traffic control certification, who might be in the area, had been exhausted.

23/66 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Carried forward:

Tree planting in the town centre.

Mother and Toddler Group funding.

Planter replacements.

Memorial Park pathway (tennis courts to the mound).

Cricket Club lease of the Pavilion building.

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

~~~~~X~~~~~

.....  
Town Mayor