

Coleshill Town Council

Meeting of the **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Coleshill on
WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

23/118 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllr. Hayfield.

23/119 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

23/120 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 29 NOVEMBER

The minutes of 29 November meeting were proposed by Cllr. C. Symonds, seconded by Cllr. Ford-Terry and **ACCEPTED** unanimously, without amendment.

23/121 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

23/122 MAYOR'S UPDATE

Since the last meeting, the Mayor had taken a presenting role in the Christmas Fair. This had been well supported and he thanked all that had been involved in running it or who had attended.

The three care homes in the town had all been visited by the Mayor and Consort, on Christmas Day. It had been heart warming to meet so many residents and to take part in the handing out of presents.

23/123 POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Mohsin Yaqub updated on the Crime Prevention Event that was held before Christmas, when there had been education given about latest trends in banking fraud and scams. He hoped it would be repeated in the summer.

During January, there had been 3 ASB occurrences, 2 burglaries and a number of car racer incidents. As a result, there were plans to increase the resourcing for patrols.

23/124 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

It was the concern of Mr. Steve Graham that the town's retailing diversity was reducing with another planned hair treatment outlet due to open in a vacant shop. The Mayor said

that the Town Council had little influence on deciding the incoming retailer types. Cllr. Brett stressed it was important for residents to support those retailers that were open in the town.

Mr. Tony Baker highlighted the poor condition of the pathway between Green Lane and Castle Drive and wanted to know of its ownership. It was believed to be not under any local authority control but Cllr. Dave Humphries agreed to enquire about maintenance responsibilities, via County Pathways.

A question was raised about progress on Fifield Room spotlighting. The Town Council was awaiting the results of the Coleshill on Stage's application for external funding before progressing the project.

23/125 UPDATE FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Dave Humphries had been concentrating on the requests for yellow lines on Maxstoke Lane and various resurfacing works. He agreed to copy forward, to the Town Council, details of the expected finish of the Green Man Crossing project. He would also review, with County Highways, where any obscured positioning of 20 mph signs needed correction.

23/126 FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3, 2023/24

The £106,000 in the balance of all accounts at the end of December 2023 was significantly down on previous months. For instance, it was £168,000 as at the end of October 2023.

Receipts were ahead of budget, particularly helped by the cemetery income. The payments were well behind what had been planned, mainly due to the non-completion of a number of the planned Capital Projects. The planter project and Old Market Hall toilet renovations would spend some of this fund, hopefully in this financial year.

The accounts were proposed by Cllr. Brett, seconded by Cllr. C. Symonds and **ACCEPTED** unanimously.

23/127 ADDITIONAL ASHES PLOTS

Interment spaces in Coleshill Cemetery were regularly sought by non-residents. There was potential for the Council to create some additional space in the older section of the cemetery to continue to allow this. The Deputy Town Clerk had provided a plan of the Cemetery indicating where a strip of land (near the tennis courts boundary) might be suitable.

This creation of additional plots at this location was proposed by Cllr. C. Symonds, seconded by Cllr. Richardson and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

23/128 OLD MARKET HALL TOILETS AND PROPERTY COMPETENT PERSON ARRANGEMENTS

Councillors had identified the urgent need to upgrade the Old Market Hall toilets. However, there was a request at the November Town Council meeting for a report on the Council's Competent Person requirements on property maintenance. The Town Clerk had provided a report covering both issues, including a schedule of the current audit and regular checks.

Cllr. Brett was keen to see the annual boiler checks taking place on the Community Centre and Old Market Hall boilers as well as the Town Hall, as happened at present. He also felt the boiler rooms should be subject to an annual carbon monoxide test.

There was a project being led by Cllr. Richard Habgood, of North Warwickshire Borough Council, to coordinate a procurement process for building and equipment repairs. Cllr. C. Symonds suggested the **Town Clerk** should seek to be involved in the group, which could share contractor details.

The Mayor proposed and Cllr. P. Symonds seconded that the Old Market toilets quotation from Cartwrights of Nuneaton be accepted at £24,265. It was **AGREED** unanimously.

As regards the Competent Person arrangements, Cllrs. Brett and C. Symonds led the consensus that the Town Clerk and staff had skills that should be utilised before taking external advice but there should be facility for contractors to be called in as required. **Cllr. Ford-Terry** knew of a Leamington-based company that gave such advice to employers. It was **DECIDED** that training and contract provision should be further discussed at a Staffing Committee meeting.

23/129 BUDGET SETTING AND PRECEPT FOR 2024/25

A budget shaping meeting had been held earlier in the month that showed a near-balanced revenue budget, with a small surplus of £5,591.86 on a £448,850.77 budget for 24/25. However, members had short-listed 9 capital projects, totalling £136,000 to include in the Capital Fund part of the budget, which would spend into reserves.

The above figures assumed a £282,477.63 precept request for 24/25. That represented taking the benefit of a 0.607% increase in tax base and then requesting a 5% increase in council tax rates, on top.

The draft budget, as circulated, were proposed by Cllr. Ford-Ferry, seconded Cllr. P. Symonds and **CARRIED** nem. con.

23/130 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2024/25

The Town Clerk had circulated a calendar of dates, based on previous year's frequency and pattern. However, rather than having two meetings in early and late November, there would be one on 11 December (4 December was a date clash with the Borough Council).

The schedule was **CARRIED**, nem. con.

23/131 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Appl. No.	Address	Applicant	Prop. Development	Comment
HS2/2023/0010	HS2 Manor Drive Overbridge, South Drive, Coleshill.	High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd	Request for approval of: Manor Drive Overbridge including River Cole and Manor Drive realignment.	As per the view of the Special Management Zone.

PAP/2023/0569	Coleshill Food Waste Ad Plant Marconi Way Coleshill	Severn Trent Green Power Group Ltd, Imogen Scotney	Installation of 182 kWp solar PV equipment on the roof of a non-domestic building.	No objection.
PAP/2023/0555	40 Lichfield Road, Coleshill B46 1EG	Mr Patrick Doyle	Dropped kerb and gravel driveway.	No objection.
PAP/2023/0571	Orchard Blythe, 3 Wingfield Road, Coleshill, B46 3LL	Runwood Homes	Proposed Care Home Redevelopment - Replacement of existing 51 Bedroom Care Home with a new Two Storey 63 Bedroom Facility.	While the increase in height of the building could be classed as massing, the Council supported the proposals for its community facility benefit and noted there was a distance from neighbouring properties.
PAP/2023/0530	Sequoia House, Blythe Rd, Coleshill, Warks. B46 1AF	Ms Sophia Jetson	Proposed single storey, double storey rear extension and a new dormer.	No objection.
Colemeadow Road001	2 Colemeadow Road, Coleshill B46 1HT	Resident	Request for stopping up of the highway adjacent to the property.	No objection.
PAP/2023/0538	141 High Street Coleshill B46 3AY	Mr David Partington	Works to 4 sycamore trees in garden of 141 High Street that overhung into neighbours' gardens. In Conservation Area and was a Listed Building.	No objection.

23/132 **UPDATE FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

None.

23/133 **TOWN CLERK REPORTS**

The Town Clerk referred to a recent email sent from LAWRAG regarding the Harworth site. The action group were thanking Coleshill Town Council and others for their support

letters. Warwickshire County Council had withdrawn its enforcement notice in advance of the parties having further negotiations.

The planter supplier had requested £9,040 + VAT for the chosen planters in advance of producing them. The Town Clerk had suggested that half (£4,520 + VAT) could be paid both before and after delivery (two equal payments) and members agreed with that approach.

23/134 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Green Lane to Castle Drive pathway.
Methodist Church – future ownership and premises use after auction.
Fees and charges.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

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Town Mayor