



Coleshill Town Council



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party on the Croft



The great composting give away

Report of the Town Council Annual Town Meeting Wednesday 12th April 2023



Chamberlain Walk planters tidied – large



.... and the smaller ones were replanted



Commonwealth War Graves – new signage

Buildings

- After complaints about splintering, the wooden floor to the Fifield Room had a major overhaul of cleaning, sealing and polishing (below left).
- A long-term problem of drains blockage at the Town Hall was corrected with a major rebuild of the underground drain pipe system.
- The Old Market Hall (below right) continues to be the rental responsibility of the Town Council but the lease is still to transfer. It is with the landlord's solicitors to complete.



- The Community Centre has seen a number of improvements. In particular the old vinyl tiles have been replaced by more up to date surfacing (see below).



- Also at the Community Centre, the radiators have been replaced and broadband and WiFi facilities have been provided.
- The Community Centre improvements now mean that the Swan Room is used for 5 daytime bookings again, for the first time since lockdown and the closure of the previous playgroup. North Star and Resources for Autism are now sharing the regular hires Monday to Friday daytimes, giving it regular income.

Outdoor Facilities

- A number of additional trees have been provided in the Memorial Park to replace others and to infill on some other areas with space.

- In agreement with the Coleshill Cricket Club, an extension to the Pavilion has been agreed and is nearly completed. The Council has also agreed some additional benches to go in front of the Pavilion.
- The WWI commemorative oak tree on the football pitch bank has a new plaque after the previous one disappeared.



- The Allotment Holders AGM was well attended, with a number of prizes awarded to the best on site winners (above left). Allan Taylor had a supply of pots and acorns/horse chestnuts for allotment holders to take and grow (above right).

Partnership Working

- The Council worked with voluntary groups (bottom left is the Coleshill Town Band on a float at the Coleshill Carnival event).



- A major, well-attended attraction was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on the Croft, with the Coleshill Town Band and other music on the Croft via free entry ticket, (see front cover, top left). There were fireworks at the end of the night (top right).
- The 1,000 Years of Coleshill history trail gained a QR coded audio guide (above centre) with the Highwayman portrayed by Lloyd Cast, of Coleshill on Stage.
- Town Coleshill Town Soccer Camp events continued, during school holidays, on the Memorial Park.

- The Council worked with the local PCSO's to disperse a large number of compost bags that had been emptied out from an uncovered, illegal cannabis farm. The Mayor and Allan Taylor were pictured (top right on front cover), giving out bags to allotment holders and worthy causes.
- The cemetery has Commonwealth War Graves and now has new signage for this.

Personnel

- The Mayor, Caroline Symonds and Deputy Mayor, Tony Battle, carried on in office.
- As part of a monthly Mayor's Awards Scheme, run through the Coleshill Post, there was a presentation night to the monthly winners. Two of the Council's Outdoor Staff (Andy Frame and Chris Moulton) are featured with the civics (below left).
- Charity monies were presented, during the year, to the Dementia Group, Forget Me Not (bottom right).



- Deanna Baker finished as the Town Hall Caretaker, after 50 years in the role. She continues as a Key Holder, and is still a tenant of the next door property.
- Ozzie Evans commenced as a full-time Town Hall Caretaker. One of the immediate benefits is that he has been able to take on decorating and repairs work in addition. Below left is the replastered Community Centre ceiling of the disabled toilet and below right is the repainted Old Courtroom of the Town Hall.



- The number of Community Hub volunteers is at 14, with at least 2 on each day, Monday to Friday.
- With the utility charge /cost of living crisis affecting residents, a number of Hub volunteers agreed to staff a Warm Room, Tuesdays to Thursday in the Town Hall

during the winter months, led by Helen Whittaker, with the assistance of Cllr. Sheena Wynn.

- A Warm Room for the north of the town commenced at the end of February, courtesy of Dawn Ahern, another Hub volunteer.

Civic Matters

- Remembrance was a key event. There was a strong civic and dignitary attendance. All of the organising was managed by Zoe Hillcox, Deputy Town Clerk.



- Although there was no Civic Service in the year, key traditional events took place as usual, such as the Ale Taster visits (below left), Late Night Shop and Lights switch on (top right) and the Town Hall Christmas Fair (below right).



Planning

- The Council has sought to identify land ownership in the “Coleshill Corridor”, with a view to requesting tree planting on this land, as part of ENP6 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- There were a number of Special Management Zone meetings (assisted by the Council’s representatives Peter Rafferty and Barry Moore) and BBV Ltd continued to run drop in events at ther Town Hall and Community Centre.
- The discovery by HS2 Ltd of a Civil War garrison frontage and Elizabethan Garden has led to the various local Councillors having discussions with HS2 about future locations of any restored stonework and commemorative boards.
- The Green Man Crossing proposals for lights and restricted turning were discussed and the Town Council has supported the revised proposals.



- Although ownership of the planters in Chamberlain Walk is uncertain, the Council worked with Coleshill in Bloom to have both large and small planters weeded, bushes cut back and flower replanting, in time for the King's Coronation Weekend.
- The former leisure centre is still with a developer for potential housing. The Council has agreed the boundaries to the site and the developer has made minor alterations to its agreed planning application for 21 houses.

<u>Income & Expenditure Account</u>		
<u>01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023</u>		
<u>(Last) Year Ended</u>		<u>(Current) Year Ended</u>
<u>31 Mar 2022</u>		<u>31 Mar 2023</u>
<u>Income</u>		
150.00	General Administration	0.00
13,525.72	Office Rents	12,139.41
7,325.55	Community Centre	13,633.16
24,746.80	Town Hall	31,584.05
800.00	Capital Projects - Community & Partnerships	0.00
3,867.50	Allotments	3,848.00
51,692.44	General	82,825.70
3,723.08	Staff Costs	3,234.37
250,718.38	Precept	252,974.85
7,526.24	Investment Interest	32,688.81
13,418.00	Community Hub	0.00
7,704.01	VAT Refunds	25,025.35
7,586.07	Old Market Hall	9,077.68
0.00	Community & Events	80.00
0.00	Caretaker's House Costs	8,967.01
0.00	Capital Projects	195.00
£392,783.79		£476,273.39
<u>Expense</u>		
198,855.14	Staff Costs	226,259.42
14,590.84	Community Hub	0.00
734.50	Capital Projects - General.	37,256.68
29,181.70	General Administration	22,423.86
5,067.84	Caretaker's House Costs	5,879.20
7,537.66	Community Centre	10,902.47
32,065.78	Town Hall	36,931.92
25,891.31	Capital Projects - Community & Partnerships	0.00
14,747.17	Community & Events	19,406.00
2,089.76	Allotments	583.46
60,156.02	General	75,011.00
4,653.99	Old Market Hall	5,918.59
£395,571.71		£440,572.60
<u>General Fund</u>		
	Balance at 01 Apr 2022	34,960.34
	ADD Total Income	476,273.39
	DEDUCT Total Expenditure	440,572.60
	Balance at 31 Mar 2023	£70,661.13

All figures above are pre-audit ones. The 22/23 Investment Interest includes £25,000 sales of long-term investment in the CCLA Local Authority Property Fund (valued at £172,833.78 as at 31 December 2022).