RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2017 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: Barbara Jenney, Town Mayor

Councillors: Sarah Peacock Tracey Smith Ron Pinnock
David Jenney Janet Pinnock Adrian House
David Coleman Melanie Coleman Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer Paul Harley Carol Childs
Colin Wright Philip Humphrey Robin Underwood
Kaye Rawlins

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

40/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Richard Lewis, Steven North, Marian Hollomon and Cesare Marinaro.

42/18 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

Councillor Barbara Jenney, Town Mayor, announced that one of her chosen charities was Medical Detection Dogs.

Helen Care, Client & Partnership Coordinator for the charity, attended the meeting together with Nikki with her Medical Alert Assistance Dog in advanced training and gave members a brief overview of the charity.

‘Medical Detection Dogs trains dogs to detect the odour of human disease. It is at the forefront of the research into the fight against cancer and helping people with life-threatening diseases.

Our Bio-Detection Dogs are trained to find the odour of diseases, such as cancer, in samples such as urine, breath and swabs. Our Medical Alert Assistance Dogs are trained to detect minute changes in an individual’s personal odour triggered by their disease and alert them to an impending medical event. These dogs are paired with one person and live with them for many years and give medical alert assistance when necessary.

We receive no government funding for the work we do and rely entirely on the generosity of donations from trusts and the public.

We take the welfare of our Medical Detection Dogs extremely seriously. From the moment they come to us as puppies we ensure the highest standards of care for our dogs. We have a strict no kennel policy and all our dogs live in the homes of our staff or fantastic local volunteers where they are loved and cared for as part of the family. The detection dogs live in a family environment and then go ‘to work’ during the day, returning to their families in the evening’.

The Mayor thanked Helen and Nikki for attending the meeting and explaining to members the fascinating and important work these dogs do.

Mayor’s Report

‘I would like to thank members for attending my Mayor Making and supporting me. The evening was very special and most enjoyable.'
In the last 26 days, since my Mayor Making, David and I have attended eleven events. These events included ENC AGM, Nene Valley Car Trust Gala Dinner, The Rotary Club ‘Fun Fest’, The official opening of the Hall Park Nature Trail, Zimwomen Northampton Africa Day Celebrations and the opening of the Clubfit gym in Rushden.

David and Melanie Coleman have also attended a number of events that we were unable to attend. I think it is going to be a very busy year for all of us!

43/18 POLICING ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported that a meeting of the newly reformed Rushden and Higham Ferrers JAG was due to take place on 14th June 2017. Once the Terms of Reference and membership has been established we hope to hold regular JAG meetings, setting priorities and raising issues with the police.

Members were concerned that the local police no longer attend our Council meetings as a matter of course. The Leader is to attend the next PCC meeting to express our concerns about a lack of communication between the Police and the Towns and Parishes.

44/18 LEADER’S ADDRESS

‘Firstly I would like to congratulate Cllr Barbara Jenney on her new role as Town Mayor for 2017/2018, I am sure she will carry out her duties admirable and will be an excellent ambassador for the town.

We have a busy year ahead, Rushden Lakes is due to open next month and this will see the culmination of seven years of hard work for all concerned. We anticipate there will be teething problems with regards to parking and traffic management, but the site is looking superb and any issues will be monitored and rectified.

The Neighbourhood Plan has now been reviewed following the public consultation and a revised copy will be sent out to members next month. After a final review by the Town Council the plan will then be ready to go to East Northants Council for further public consultation.

Rushden East is continuing to move forward and 2017/2018 is going to be a very busy year all round!’

45/18 CHAIRMAN’S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

i) Community Services Committee 4th April 2017

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 4th April 2017.

ii) Policy and Resources Committee 23rd May 2017

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 23rd May 2017.

iii) Planning Consultative Committee 30th May 2017

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 30th May 2017.

46/18 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

a) Annual Governance Statement for 2016/2017

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/2017 and the Town Clerk went through this in detail. After consideration it was
RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/2017 is approved by this Council.

b) Accounting Statements for 2016/2017

Members had been circulated with Accounting Statements for 2016/2017 and these were considered, members of the Policy and Resources Committee had previously studied these statements and recommend them for approval.

RESOLVED

That Accounting Statements for year ending 31st March 2017, is approved by this Council.

c) Statement of Accounts for 2016/2017

Members had been circulated with Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2017 which included income and expenditure account, Annual Return reconciliation, Balance Sheet, cash and investment reconciliation, reserves reconciliation, variance report and working details for the Annual Return. Members for the Policy and Resources Committee had previously studied these statements for approval.

RESOLVED

To recommend that the Statement of Accounts for 2016/2017, is approved by this Council.

47/18 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED

To accept the following appointments to outside bodies for the year 2017/2018

Rushden Parochial Charities

Councillor Mrs S Peacock to serve until 26th May 2019
Councillor Mrs K Rawlins to serve until 20th May 2018
Councillor Mrs B Jenney to serve until 20th May 2020
Councillor A D Mercer to serve until 20th May 2020
Councillor R Underwood to serve until 20th May 2020

Joint Action Group

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon
Town Clerk, Vivienne Prodger

Northants County Association of Local Councils

Councillor R Lewis

Northamptonshire Larger Councils Partnership

Councillor Mrs S Peacock
Town Clerk, Vivienne Prodger

Rushden East Project Board
RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 31st January 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 28th February 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 7th March 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 28th March 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 18th April 2017 be received and adopted.

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 9th May 2017 be received and adopted.
**49/18 RUSHDEN LAKES WORKING PARTY**

Rushden Lakes working party meet on 10th May 2017 and the matter of staff parking was raised as a major concern. The Crown Estate assured members that they are looking at additional parking spaces behind the retail shops. Travel plans had been issued to all retailers and bus routes will be changed to accommodate staff travel to the Lakes.

The Working Party will continue to monitor the parking situation and it was made clear at the meeting that the free parking in the Town’s car parks would not be used for staff working at the Lakes.

The Highways works should be completed by 17th July and yellow lines will be put in place on Crown Way to ensure unauthorised parking does not take place there.

**50/18 TOURISM**

A report of the Tourism Working party held on 11th May was presented by Cllr Sarah Peacock, Chairman of the Tourism working party. The report is appended to these minutes.

**51/18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

All the feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan is now being scrutinised by DLP and once a full assessment has been made a final plan will be produced.

We will be having a Neighbourhood Plan meeting at the end of July and once any final comments/adjustments have been made the plan will pass to ENC for further consultation.

**52/18 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential and sensitive nature of the following item of business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

**53/18 REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

i) Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] 28th February 2017

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 28th February 2017, be received and adopted.

ii) Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] 11th April 2017

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 11th April 2017, be received and adopted.

Chairman