

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Melanie Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors:

David Coleman	Philip Humphrey	Tracey Smith
Paul Harley	Sarah Peacock	Adrian House
David Jenney	Richard Lewis	Gill Mercer
Andy Mercer	Colin Wright	Robin Underwood
Marian Hollomon	Carol Childs	Janet Pinnock
Kaye Rawlins	Barbara Jenney	

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

259/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

260/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Steven North and Cesare Marinaro.

261/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th October 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

262/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'The Mayors Report.....short and sweet

Gill and Roy Burrige celebrated their Diamond, 60 years, Anniversary and David and myself dropped by with a bouquet and card to wish them a very happy day. It was lovely to see their family spread out and socially distanced to help them enjoy the special day.

With the use of technology we managed a light switch on, be it a virtual one. Once again with the coordination of Councillors, staff and volunteers Rushden has a display to be proud of. Michelle has managed to do a few fabulous videos which have been drip fed onto social media showing the preparations and final results. There will be a couple more Christmas videos to follow.

I also have to mention the residents of our town who have lit up their houses with pride. Something cheerful to see.

Last Monday I gave a talk at the Inner wheel which was great fun to attend. I was very appreciative of their gift of a "Lockdown Recipe Book" which I'm very much looking forward to trying some of the recipes. One thing I would say, when attending a Zoom meeting, it is not a good idea to attempt singing it was different I think

Kaye would agree.

I have sent out my Civic Christmas Cards which I was delighted with. Drew from It's My Llife had drawn them and they looked great

Friday was the day Father Christmas made a very quiet arrival to the Hall to leave a message for the Town.

A final note for now, as the weather has changed I needed a new addition to my millinery wardrobe so David has purchased for me a warm woolly bobble hat. I will now stay cosy when on our frequent walks

Thank you.

Finally as we attend this final Full Council of 2020 may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and Happy Christmas and may the New Year bring us the chance to use a diary.

Stay safe, sending my best wishes to you all at this Christmas time.'

263/21 POLICING ISSUES

Members had been invited to a Police and Crime Commissioner meeting via Zoom and several members attended including Cllr Hollomon the Chairman of our JAG.

The PCC spoke about the undercover intelligence work that is ongoing in the fight against drug crime, which unfortunately is prevalent in all towns across the county. With its proximity to Bedford and London, Northamptonshire is now plagued with the 'County Lines' drug problem and cross border partnership and co-operation is essential in dealing with this matter.

A letter had now been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting that he attends our next JAG meeting and we have received a response from their customer services officer informing us that Nathan Murray, our local Inspector, will be attending our next JAG meeting.

264/21 LEADER'S ADDRESS

'Good evening members to our final Full Council of 2020.

The loss of Cllr Ron Pinnock in October has left a large gap in the knowledge and support that he gave to this council, and his passion for his ward constituents and the town. Ron was always somebody I could turn to for advice and support and did on numerous occasions.

I would like to offer all our condolences to Janet and his family at this difficult time.

It has been a very strange year in many ways and has given us many new challenges to address which I am sure you will agree we have met face on.

The extra pressures on the Town Clerk and staff to keep us all Covid safe have been approached with professionalism and sensitivity.

We have worked with various agencies, mainly ENC and continue to have weekly

meetings. With the vaccines now being rolled out there is light at the end of the tunnel though we still have a long way to go and must remember to follow the national guidelines. HANDS, FACE, SPACE still apply as we approach the festive season.

Virtual meetings are now an everyday occurrence. Some of us rarely leave our office chairs some days. However, it is keeping us all up to date with events. We have met up with the Larger Councils, The Police and Crime Commissioner and other outside bodies as well as our own working parties and committees. Decisions are still being made and services delivered.

On a festive note I would like also to thank all those involved in the putting up and switching on of the lights. This year has been totally out of our normal routine and everybody whether Councillors, Staff or volunteers have stepped up to the mark in order to give the town its Christmas lights under Covid conditions. The Christmas lighting elves were well prepared as usual, and the results are amazing. The days leading up to the virtual switch resulted in great footage of the elves at work and thanks to all those involved in the recordings. There will be no stopping them now!

I know many of us felt strange watching from the sidelines and missed the hustle and bustle of the switch on day itself. That said hopefully next year will be back to normal and this year will become a distant memory.

As we work and look towards a better 2021, we will continue to keep our projects on track. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year'.

265/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 17th November 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 17th November 2020

Policy & Resources Committee 24th November 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 24th November 2020

Planning Consultative Committee 1st December 2020 and 8th December 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 1st December and 8th December 2020

266/21 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members discussed a recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 24th November 2020 regarding

- i) Business Working Party title
- ii) Remembrance Day
- iii) Events 2021

and following resolution was

RESOLVED

- i) The Business Working Party title is amended to Business and Economic Growth Working Party
- ii) A letter is sent to the Royal British Legion to express Rushden Town Council's disappointment at the matters that resulted in the cancellation of Rushden's Remembrance Sunday 2020.
- iii) That the Events programme for 2021 would remain as stands, subject to Covid restrictions in place at the time of each event.

267/21 EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHAIRMAN'S CHAINS OF OFFICE

The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority regarding the East Northamptonshire Chairman's chains of office. The chains currently in use by ENC had been inherited from the former Rushden Urban District Council and the Shadow Authority wished to retain these chains for use for the North Northamptonshire Chairman. Members considered this matter at length and it was

RESOLVED

That Rushden Town Council request that the current ENC Chairman's Chains (formerly the Rushden Urban District chains), are returned to Rushden Town Council to be retained as part of Rushden's civic heritage.

268/21 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 22nd September 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 22nd September 2020 be received and adopted.

Policy & Resources Committee 13th October 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 13th October 2020 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 20th October 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 20th October 2020 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 10th November 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 10th November 2020 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor