

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2019 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: Sarah Peacock – Chairman
Philip Humphrey – Vice Chairman

Councillors: Richard Lewis Colin Wright
David Jenney Barbara Jenney
Gill Mercer Janet Pinnock
Adrian House David Coleman [Ex officio]
Andy Mercer Ron Pinnock
Robin Underwood

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

277/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sarah Peacock declared a 'bias' interest in the consideration of Agenda item 9, Rushden Museum, and left the room when this item was discussed and took no part in discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Philip Humphrey declared a 'bias' interest on Agenda item 4 Approval of Payments and left the room when this item was discussed and took no part in discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Barbara Jenney declared an 'other interest' in the consideration of Agenda item 9 Rushden Museum.

Councillors Richard Lewis, Adrian House and David Coleman declared an 'other interest' in the consideration of the loan to Historic Transport Society.

278/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Steven North.

279/19 MINUTES

The minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 13th November 2018 had been previously circulated to members and it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 13th November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

280/19 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members had been circulated with details of payments made since 1st November 2018 amounting to £134,007.22

RESOLVED

That payments amounting to £134,007.22 be approved (as attached to these minutes).

281/19 SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Members considered the following Shop Front Grant applications:

- a) Hannah Solicitors
- b) Hockridges Mortgages

RESOLVED

- a) Hannah Solicitors - Members deferred this application, subject to a response from the Conservation Officer at East Northants Council, regarding the installation of UPVC windows.
- b) Hockridges Mortgages was awarded a Shop Front Grant of £750

282/19 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Members had been previously circulated with a detailed copy of the Income and Expenditure report to 30th November 2018. There had been no queries from members prior to the meeting.

The Town Clerk went through the report and answered any questions raised at the time of the meeting and it was

RESOLVED

That the Income and Expenditure Report to 30th November 2018 be accepted.

283/19 TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Working with Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership Ltd (NBCP)

Further to agreement at Full Council (27th November 18) to fund local retailer membership to the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP) work has commenced to enrol businesses on the High Street. Key stores such as Boots, Wilko's, Iceland, Peacocks etc. have been approached first with an aim to getting these stores signed up and using the system by Christmas. The smaller stores in the High Street plus the outlying small and medium stores around Rushden will be approached from January. Larger supermarkets have not been included in the offer.

NBCP work closely with member stores, if retailers experience problems with anti-social behaviour or theft a link to the police community teams and ASB Units are provided, this regularly assists in securing evidence for police or councils to serve Community Protection Warning (CPW's), Community Protection Notices (CPN's) and then escalating to Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO's). NBCP have a lot of examples of this in many of the towns and it has proved very effective with persistent offenders receiving substantial custody terms.

All member stores are provided with free door stickers which indicate to all excluded offenders that they are not allowed to enter and that their images are held within that store.

The ethos of the NBCP is to PREVENT, DISTRUP and DETER retail crime offenders. This is achieved by working together with member stores and the police to make shopping areas a no-go area for those persons intent on committing retail crime.

Press releases, social media and website updates relating to this project were released in early December.

2. NN10 YourTown Get Together

Plans for the NN10 YourTown Get Together are proceeding well.

- The date of the Get- Together is confirmed as **Sunday 24th March 2019 at 9am**
- The preferred route starts and finishes from Rushden Historical Transport Museum
- The social 5k run is limited to 100 people who donate £5/£10/£50 to a nominated local charity or cause. The 2 local causes that have been identified to benefit from the initial phase of the YourTown project are the RHTS Victorian Goods Shed and the Higham Ferrers Community Library Group.
- There are no prizes for winning the social run, the event is focussed around local people/businesses getting more engaged with where they live and to grow a sense of pride for the area
- Promotion of the Get Together will begin from mid January
- The Get Together has been supported financially by Rushden Lakes as a 2 year project to link Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Rushden Lakes
- Future events under the NN10 YourTown licence could be a 2K run for children in Hall Park as part of Celebrate Rushden or a 1940's style run as part of the RHTS 1940's themed weekend in October.

3. Other Community Events, Rushden Lakes

I am beginning plans to a community event with a similar theme/feel to the successful Heritage Family Fun Day held in September 18. Rushden Lakes Centre Management team are pleased with the outcomes from the Heritage day and have pledged their support for an annual event to take place. I am looking to hold another community day on **Sunday 22nd September 2019 (date tbc)**; the day will be promoted as part of the Nene Valley Festival (14th and 22nd September).

4. I have been approached by Spurgeons (Rushden based Children's Charity) to offer local businesses the chance to be a part of the annual Splash & Dash Challenge event that is proposed for September next year at Rushden Lakes.

5. Rushden Lakes – Phase 2

On Tuesday 27th November as part of the Rushden Lakes tenants meeting I was able to have a tour of Phase 2. Phase 2 featuring a 14 screen cinema, a trampoline centre, rock climbing wall and other leisure facilities is currently scheduled to open in June 19. 11 restaurants were included in this planning application, Five Guys and Nandos have recently opened, other restaurant units are to be confirmed. The existing car park to the rear of the Travel Lodge was utilised for additional car parking for temporary Christmas staff throughout the Christmas period.

As part of the Christmas marketing plan at the Lakes many local choirs/bands were invited to perform throughout December. Both Mrs B (Rushden) and Coffee Barne (Higham Ferrers) supplied dozens of mince pies that were given away as part of the Festive events.

6. High Street Working Party

Terms of Reference (see separate sheet) to be considered at the meeting

7. Rushden Businesses Working Party

Terms of Reference and membership (see separate sheet) to be considered at the meeting

8. Other Local Projects

All Aboard for Rushden

A new project bringing together technology history and art has launched in Rushden along the Greenway, Crown Way to Asda section. The project is inspired by a 1911 railway incident involving lost letters and forms an exciting trail offering rewards in local shops. For further information visit www.nenescape.org

Raising Aspirations Programme – Ferrers School

On 26th November I attended a Business Breakfast Meeting as part of the Raising Aspiration Programme at Ferrers School – I am looking at ways in which we can link students with local business opportunities. I have been invited to the Ferrers Careers Fair on March 8th.

284/19 HIGH STREET AND RUSHDEN BUSINESSES WORKING PARTIES

Members considered draft Terms of Reference for High Street Working Party and considered membership and Terms of Reference for Rushden Businesses Working Party

RESOLVED

The following Terms of Reference to be recommended to Full Council

a) High Street Area Working Party

Members:

1. Membership shall comprise all members of Rushden Town Council
2. Membership of the Working Party will be established at the annual meeting of the Council.
3. The Working Party shall elect a Chairman for each civic year.
4. Co-opted members may join the Working Party during the year if authorised by the Council.
5. One third of members of the Working Party shall constitute a quorum for meetings.

Terms of Reference

1. To consider operational and strategic improvement plans for the High Street Area.
2. To monitor and report High Street Area defects to the appropriate organisations.
3. To encourage footfall via support of High Street events.
4. To monitor effectiveness of the Retail Crime Initiative.
5. To work closely with Rushden Town Partnership.
6. This Working Party to report recommendations to Full Council
7. Meetings of this working party to be determined as required

b) Rushden Businesses Working Party

Members:

1. Membership shall comprise all members of Rushden Town Council

2. Membership of this Working Party will be established at the annual meeting of the Council.
3. The Working Party shall elect a Chairman for each civic year.
4. Co-opted members may join the committee during the year if authorised by the Council.
5. One third of the Working Party shall constitute a quorum for meetings.

Terms of Reference

1. To support and promote businesses in Rushden.
2. To offer opportunities for local businesses to engage with each other and Rushden Town Council.
3. To use Rushden Lakes as a catalyst for growth and to achieve economic progress and stability.
4. This Working Party will report to Full Council
5. Meetings of this Working Party to be determined as required

285/19 RUSHDEN MUSEUM

Members considered recommendation from Community Services Committee regarding Lease for Rushden Museum

RESOLVED

That a lease be granted to Rushden Museum with the same terms as the current lease. To be a 5 year lease with an option to extend for a further 5 years. The new lease to commence 1st April 2019.

286/19 CCLA

The Town Clerk informed members that she had met with an advisor from CCLA.

CCLA stand for Churches, Charities and Local Authorities and is an organisation that invests funds on behalf of the three sectors. It is experienced in running funds, complying with FSA and other regulations and investing money safely and productively in a variety of cash and equity funds.

Members agreed that a presentation from CCLA would be beneficial and they have been asked to attend the next Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 5th March 2019.

Chairman