

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 2020 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Cesare Marinaro, Town Mayor

Councillors:

David Coleman	Melanie Coleman	Barbara Jenney
Tracey Smith	Paul Harley	Sarah Peacock
Adrian House	Marian Hollomon	David Jenney
Philip Humphrey	Richard Lewis	Kaye Rawlins

Administration Assistant: Barbara Wiggins

365/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

366/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Janet Pinnock, Gill Mercer, Robin Underwood, Carol Childs, Steven North, Ron Pinnock, Andy Mercer and Colin Wright.

367/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 21st January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

368/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

It has been a few busy months as Mayor of Rushden.

On 25th January we attended afternoon tea at the Bede House to raise money for an expedition to Borneo.

On the 26th my consort and I attended the Northamptonshire Amateur Swimming Association County Swimming Championships. It was great to see so many young people competing with their enthusiastic coaches. Although a small team, Rushden received a few medals and I was extremely proud of their achievements.

On 2nd February we attended Daventry Civic Service. We visited the depot visitor centre; it was full of military history with wartime artefacts.

On 1st March we attended another Civic Service this was for the Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council in Chelveston.

On 8th March my consort and I attended Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust Orchestra and Wind Spectacular. The children were extremely talented.

On March 9th we raised the flag for the Commonwealth.

On 10th March we attended the Mayor of Peterborough's curry night, the food was lovely.

369/20 POLICING ISSUES

A copy of the questions and answers from the open meeting held at Rushden Hall on 6th March was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The evening was considered a success and Senior Police Officers present were able to answer questions from those present.

The meeting noted the information on the planned numbers for recruiting and training new officers for Northamptonshire.

It was also noted that ANPR cameras could not be hired.

It was suggested that should residents require information about home protection, then access to a website called www.protectourhomenorthants.com was available.

A decision had been made to cancel the next JAG meeting in light of the current circumstances surrounding coronavirus.

A request was made for reports to come back to Full Council.

370/20 LEADER'S ADDRESS

Good evening.

The Council has taken the precaution of closing the Council offices and Rushden Hall to the public, but the staff have agreed to continue to work as normal and man the phones, monitor emails, etc. We need to safeguard our front line staff.

Future access is via the front of the hall for RTC (round by the kitchen entrance) and TDS will use the rear entrance. That said the public will still use the intercom for any contact with officers as will any delivery personnel. If for any reason you need to come into the office, then please ring ahead and the staff will let you in. We do have sanitizers etc. but would hope that these visits will be non-existent.

We will continue to monitor the situation and be guided by the powers that be.

Due to the cancellation of the elections in May we have another year ahead of us, which is good in some respects as we can carry on with our Business Plan. However, regarding the AGM this will go ahead on the 12th May as advertised unless we have legislation to direct otherwise. We will discuss any alterations with the mayor Cllr Marinaro and Cllr Melanie Coleman and yourselves as they arise.

The decisions are day to day and we will communicate them out to you as soon as possible.

Moving forward we plan to cancel the next Community Committee 24th March unless any urgent items arise.

Temporary emergency measures have been put in place regarding the cemetery. The purchase of pre-purchase graves has been suspended. The public will only be able to purchase a grave if it is required at this time. This is to avoid panic purchase of graves.

Planning will be carried out under delegated powers if necessary. (March 31st next one) Details of applications that need comments will be sent out to committee members and any concerns should be fed back to Paul for inclusion in our response. I believe all of you have access to the internet to view applications on line. Any problems then let me know.

Regarding comments for the Local Plan part 2 consultations they will be with us in the next few days from our consultant and will be circulated to all members before our final version is submitted before the 23rd March.

One piece of good news for this council was the Appeal Decision on the land South of Northampton Road, Rushden.

The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for 80 dwellings etc., as indicated in our Neighbourhood Plan (NP). This has put our NP through the appeal process and was referenced by the inspector on many occasions. After much criticism from certain ENC Councillors during both the planning process and the appeal it is good to see that this decision will now reduce the risk of it being challenged as a document and be taken seriously as a document of some weight.

As well as winning the appeal, costs have also been awarded. These are yet to be determined but it will be interesting to see how much this case has cost ENC by going against officer advice.

It is important that moving forward, our NP is supported in the planning process.

With reference to RTC events these will be monitored as the situation moves forward and the events get nearer. We do however have to be mindful that by moving things we do not clash with other events already in the town's calendar. That said we may be able to enhance some of the events later in the year if artists etc. are free and do not already have commitments. Paul is looking into the cancellation policies on future events/acts.

Our own planning applications are going through the planning process and we need to keep up with our delivery of this project as much as we can. There are items later in the agenda that will help us to keep moving forward, whilst monitoring any risks to this council. No major decisions will be made without this council's approval.

I thank all members in advance for their support over the coming months and technology will be used to the best of its advantage. Emergency legislation if needed will also help us with the delivery of some statutory requirements.

These are very challenging times and everybody needs to pull together and keep safe. Please keep the office up to date if you are self-isolating or have any health concerns.

371/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 4th February 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 4th February 2020

Policy & Resources Committee 3rd March 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 3rd

March 2020

Planning Consultative Committee 10th March 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 10th March 2020

372/20 RECOMMENDATION FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES

Information regarding funding for the Rushden Sports Hub was noted. The various options for funding the proposal were discussed. It was noted that the Government is putting a lot of money into the economy at the moment due to the coronavirus. The Public Loans Board have not reduced their rates as yet, and unless we need to use their services at the moment, it might be prudent to wait.

Discussion was held on a recommendation for the future and that the Asset Management Working Party would manage funding discussions going forward.

RESOLVED

That in the future we should go ahead to seek a line of funding applicable to our needs.

372/20 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning Consultative Committee 7th January 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 7th January 2020 be received and adopted

Policy & Resources Committee 14th January 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (non-confidential Section) held on 14th January 2020 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 28th January 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 28th January 2020 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 18th February 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 18th February 2020 be received and adopted

Town Mayor