

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JUNE 2019 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: Sarah Peacock – Chairman

Councillors: Janet Pinnock David Coleman
 Adrian House Philip Humphrey
 Ron Pinnock Cesare Marinaro [Ex officio]
 Richard Lewis David Jenney
 Barbara Jenney Robin Underwood

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

14/20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

It was resolved that Cllr Sarah Peacock be appointed as Chairman for the Policy and Resources Committee for the year 2019/2020.

15/20 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

It was resolved that Cllr Philip Humphrey be appointed as Vice Chairman for the Policy and Resources Committee for the year 2019/2020.

16/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Steven North, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer and Colin Wright

18/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 16th April 2019 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 16th April 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

19/20 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members had been circulated with details of payments made since 2nd April 2019 amounting to £103967.17

RESOLVED

That payments amounting to £103967.17 be approved (as attached to these minutes).

20/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/2019 and the Town Clerk went through this in detail. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

To recommend that the Annual Governance Statement scrutinised by the Policy & Resources Committee, be approved by Full Council at meeting on 18th June 2019.

21/20 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2018/2019

a) Annual Accounting Statements 2018/2019

Members had been circulated with Accounting Statements for 2018/2019 and these were considered.

After consideration it was

RESOLVED

To recommend that the Accounting Statements, scrutinised by the Policy & Resources Committee, be approved by Full Council at meeting on 18th June 2019

b) Statement of Accounts 2018/2019

Members had been circulated with Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2019 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.

The Clerk went through the Statement of Accounts page by page and answered any questions raised by members. It was then

RESOLVED

To recommend that the Statement of Accounts for 2018/2019, scrutinised by the Policy & Resources Committee, be approved by Full Council at meeting on 18th June 2019

c) Cash and Investment Reconciliation and Earmarked Reserves

Members had been circulated with details regarding Cash and Investment Reconciliation and Earmarked Reserves as @ 31st March 2019

RESOLVED

That this information be noted

22/20 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members considered the Internal Audit Report and it was

RESOLVED

That the Microshade Internal Audit Report for the year ended 31st March 2019 be accepted.

23/20 TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting; I have a prior engagement at the Higham Ferrers Town Council meeting.

My achievements over the last 12 months include:

- 1. Continuation of vital communication links** with Rushden Lakes Centre Management Team, Savills, The Crown Estates, East Northamptonshire Council, Rushden Town Partnership and local businesses.
- 2. Secured annual funding of £5k** from The Crown Estate for local projects linking Rushden and Higham Ferrers with Rushden Lakes.
- 3. Organisation of a schedule of events** directly linking the towns with Rushden Lakes and providing opportunities for local businesses to promote themselves to a new wider audience. Events in 2018 have included:

Heritage Family Fun Day

The Heritage Family Fun Day took place on Sunday 16th September 2018 as part of the annual 10 day Nene Valley Festival and National Heritage Open Weekends. The Fun Day was supported by Rushden Lakes Centre management team and the Crown Estate and brought together a family day out together with an opportunity for visitors to learn about the heritage and history of nearby Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

Over 35 local businesses and community groups took up this opportunity and had a stall for the day, feedback has been extremely positive from all parties. Entertainment on the day included performances from Rushden Town Band, medieval fun and entertainment, heritage displays, family activities, Cyril the Squirrel and a chance to browse the local stalls. I produced a **“Shop Local in Rushden and Higham Ferrers”** booklet containing over 48 redeemable discount vouchers, over 1500 booklets were given out to visitors at the heritage day event.

The overall aim of the Heritage Family Fun Day was to raise awareness of the local heritage and to encourage new visitors to come and visit through promotional material and the **“Shop Local”** booklet.

Following the popularity of the Heritage family fun day a second heritage day is taking place at Rushden Lakes on **Sunday 15th September 2019**, local businesses and community groups are already signing up to take part.

I am working to produce a second **“Shop Local”** booklet containing autumn concessions; the booklet will be ready to hand out at summer events across the area.

YourTown NN10 Project

The YourTown NN10 Rushden to Higham Ferrers 5K Community Run went ahead on Sunday 24th March 2019, the focus of the run was local people/businesses becoming more engaged with where they live and at the same time raising money for two nominated local causes, the **Rushden Railway Heritage & Community Space** and **Higham Ferrers Community Library Group**.

The event was a great success raising over £740, 100 runners took part, 30 local people volunteered on the day and local businesses sponsored goodie bag items for the runners.

Events coming up under the YourTown banner include a Junior 2K run which takes place on Sunday 9th June in Hall Park as part of Celebrate Rushden. Planned sign up for this event was originally 100 places, due to popularity we have extended this to 150 places.

The YourTownNN10 Working Party are looking to hold future events on a larger scale. Discussions around the introduction of a YourTown App are also taking place.

4. Explore More Campaign

By meeting regularly with the Lakes management team we have brought together many ideas encouraging visitors to explore further afield. The explore more campaign has seen the introduction of additional signage, maps and fliers easing accessibility in the area. We continue to offer joint promotion area through various social media and website campaigns and joint marketing literature.

5. Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP)

The partnership between NBCP and RTC to introduce a retail crime initiative scheme across Rushden (nil cost to retailers) is beginning to pay dividends, local retailers are getting to grips with using the system to their advantage against criminal activity in the town.

6. High Street Area Improvements Working Party

Following the formation of this working party in February, public opinion on many aspects of the high street area has been received via email, telephone, social media and through the public meeting, held at the beginning of April. Common themes for change are beginning to emerge, these ideas include a general desire to introduce a Café style culture perhaps through the development of a Town Square and Community space, additional seating/planting making the centre a more pleasant and attractive place to walk/sit and socialise, additional cleansing and more events/activities have also been mentioned.

On a cleansing front a deep cleanse of the high street and war memorial area has taken place, these works will be followed by weed treatment and installation of colourful summer floral containers. The high street interpretation boards with the latest information regarding summer and winter events across the town.

7. Rushden Businesses Working Party

The date for the first meeting of this WP will be confirmed in due course.

8. Maintaining and nurturing relationships with businesses across Rushden and Higham Ferrers through regular updates and face to face meetings.

9. Tourism and Promotion

I regularly produce articles for the local press and have been invited to make presentations/talks to local community groups throughout the year. I am starting work to update the Rushden Town Guide booklet which will be distributed throughout Rushden and the surrounding area.

24/20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Chairman reported that the Unitary reform for Northamptonshire will now take place in 2021, not 2020 as previously advised. It has now been confirmed there will be local elections in May 2020 for the Town and Parish Councils.

A shadow Unitary Board is to be formed within the next few weeks and this will include members from Kettering Borough, Corby Borough, Wellingborough and East Northants District Council.

Chairman