

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2021 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	Cesare Marinaro

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

303/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

304/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Steven North.

305/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th December 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

306/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

Good evening,

Once again, I can only see you on the screen and it seems very strange, but the necessary 'normal' to wish you all a Happy Safe and Healthy New Year from the safety of our home.

As you can imagine I have an extremely limited report. A virtual Christmas greeting went out on Social Media from both myself and Father Christmas who managed a Covid safe trip to the Hall. COVID-19 is very real and has made it essential that we rethink the running of our daily lives. It would be extremely easy to become submerged in negativity, I certainly was for a time, but we can, as a Town do something positive to mark this. I have chatted with our clerk about making a formal record of anecdotes, stories, video/diary blogs. Daily happenings, how you've made banana bread for the umpteenth time, walked the length and breadth of our town. Stories of home-schooling Zoom quizzes and chats. The list is endless and personal to each person.

It would be wonderful if Schools, Care homes, families and individuals added to this and it became almost an Historical Record of lockdown/Covid Rushden. 'It's My Life' have started doing this and I noticed we were having quite a laugh at some of the silly things they have got up to. Obviously, there are sad times as well.

Notice of this will go out in Rushden Matters as it would be wonderful to contact as many people as possible.

Finally, to update on the 'millinery' front..... my Secret Santa brought me a very pretty pink fascinator.

Thank you for listening.

307/21 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Marian Hollomon reported that a JAG meeting is to take place on 21st January 2021 and any members who have concerns about policing issues need to contact the Town Clerk, so these matters can be discussed at this forthcoming meeting meeting.

The appointment of Councillor Marian Hollomon as Police Liaison Representative is to be discussed at Agenda 8 item of this meeting.

308/21 LEADER'S ADDRESS

Good evening and a belated Happy and Healthy New Year.

I do believe we have a light at the end of the tunnel with the roll out of the vaccinations, but we must not become complacent and let our guards down. We still need to stay safe and follow the rules.

With the 3^d Lockdown coming into play the office staff safety was reviewed and agreed as to the way forward. The two-team system is still in operation. The office is manned during the week but not open to the public.

The staff are continuing to deliver the statutory services and beyond as we try to keep projects running.

We are still answering questions and providing more information for our planning applications and it looks like we will need an extension. This is due to NCC and the traffic survey information we are waiting for. Due to Covid traffic figures have not been the norm. Hopefully, this will be available the beginning of February. We also have an extra trench dig to do and a couple of wildlife surveys. The Asset WP meet most weeks for updates.

As the end of ENC draws ever closer it is beginning to hit home as to where and who our main points of contact, that we now take for granted will be. We are having meetings with various groups and officers in order to maintain continuity.

That said the day to day running of this council will not be affected, though getting some answers to basic questions may take a little longer.

The question of the May elections is still be debated and an early answer would be much appreciated by us all.

Once again, we will continue to keep you up to date of any changes that affects us due to Covid or any other issue.

Take care and stay safe.

309/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Policy & Resources Committee 5th January 2021

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 5th January 2021

Planning Consultative Committee 12th January 2021

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 12th January 2021

310/21 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members discussed a recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 5th January 2021 regarding

- i) Police Liaison Representation
- ii) Fees and Charges

and following resolutions were

RESOLVED

- i) That Cllr Marian Hollomon is nominated as Rushden Town Council representative for the Police Liaison group.
- ii) That an increase of 3% is applied to all Rushden Town Council fees and charges in line with overall inflation figures.

311/21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022

Members had been circulated with a draft budgets for 2021/2022. Members considered the proposed draft budget and precept for 2021/2022 and the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee to approve these figures. This recommendation and figures were considered and it was

RESOLVED

- a) That this Budget for 2021/2022 as presented to Rushden Town Council would be approved.
- b) The amount of £1,139,314 to be precepted from East Northamptonshire Council for the year 2021/2022

312/21 CASUAL VACANCY

Due to the sad death of Councillor Ron Pinnock on 30th October 2020, a Casual Vacancy was declared to East Northants Council and a Notice of Vacancy was produced by ENC on 17th December 2020 (Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972). This vacancy was duly advertised by Rushden Town Council on their notice boards and website and was also advertised by ENC on their website. No poll was claimed with the 14 working days of the public notification of

the vacancy and therefore Rushden Town Council were required to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as practicable (Local Elections (Parish and Communities) Rules 1986/2215, r8(3)).

The Mayor called for any nominations for to fill the Casual Vacancy and Councillor David Coleman proposed Mr Cameron Clarke, Councillor Sarah Peacock seconded this motion.

The Mayor asked for any other nominations. No other nominations were forthcoming and the Mayor asked Cameron Clarke if he was prepared to accept the nomination to be a Councillor for Rushden Town Council for the years 2020/2021. Cameron Clarke declared that he was prepared to accept the nomination and the Mayor asked members to vote, with a show of hands, on the nomination of Cameron Clarke. The Town Clerk counted the vote and nineteen members had voted in favour of the nomination. The Mayor then asked for any objections, by a show of hands, and there were none. In the co-option process a successful candidate must have received an absolute majority of those present and voting (Section 12, para 39 of the Local Government Act 1972) and therefore it was

RESOLVED

That Cameron Clarke be co-opted as a member of Rushden Town Council for the remainder of the term, until May 2021.

313/21 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Committee 24th November 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 24th November 2020 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 1st December 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 1st December 2020 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 8th December 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 8th December 2020 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor