

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2019 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: David Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors: Andy Mercer Melanie Coleman
 David Jenney Colin Wright
 Barbara Jenney Cesare Marinaro
 Tracey Smith Adrian House
 Paul Harley Kaye Rawlins
 Robin Underwood Sarah Peacock

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

358/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

359/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Richard Lewis, Marian Hollomon, Janet Pinnock, Gill Mercer, Carol Childs, Steven North, Philip Humphrey and Ron Pinnock.

360/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

361/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'Much has happened since my last Mayor's Report and I'm pleased to say the intervening period has seen a variety of interesting and enjoyable engagements. Unfortunately, as I look at the diary, my term as Mayor is rapidly coming to an end and with just eight weeks to go until I hand over the baton, my time has seemed all too short. It has been a busy time but I have no regrets.

Melanie and I have had a busy time over the last few weeks and we have travelled a fair few miles. We have had the pleasure of attending Civic Services at Wisbech to the East, Brackley to the West along with Peterborough with a number more in the diary for coming weeks.

It has been a struggle to maintain my slim waistline, having attended the Huntingdon Mayor's Civic Ball, a Burns Night Celebration Dinner in Raunds, the Mayor of Kettering's fundraising lunch at the Vivo Italian Restaurant in Burton Latimer and the ENC Chairman's Charity Curry Night in Thrapston. In Rushden, it was a pleasure for us to have attended the Rotary of Rushden 84th Charter Dinner at the Masonic Hall.

We also participated in Quiz Nights at both St. Ives and Peterborough where somehow, we were part of the winning team. We also attended the Mayor of Peterborough's Charity Greyhound Racing Evening where we were not so successful.

We have also enjoyed a bit of culture, this weekend attending both the Mayor of Northampton's "Singing for Hope" Concert with Faryl Smith and the Northampton Male voice Choir and at the Derngate Theatre, a stunning NMPAT Wind Band Spectacular Concert

We have attended Holocaust Memorial Services in Peterborough and Milton Keynes, both moving events, and we were pleased to light a candle on behalf of the Town Council at our own War Memorial. Commonwealth Day also saw the raising of the flag and thanks to all who attended.

It was good to attend the Northamptonshire Amateur Swimming Championships at Corby International Pool to support the Rushden team who performed extremely well. We enjoyed it so much we attended twice.

Despite our enjoyable travels and the opportunity to meet people from the wider area, it has given us the greatest pleasure to be involved in events in Rushden itself. I thoroughly enjoyed giving talks to both the Rushden Hall Pensioners Club and the Rushden Hall Ladies, both well attended here at the Hall. We also attended both the "Rushden Sleepout 2019" event at the Full Gospel Church (but didn't sleep out!) and the ROC Raunds and Rushden Conversation event. We were invited to formally open both new offices for Apex Appointments on Moor Road and the excellent 360Play at Rushden Lakes. Other events attended in Rushden included the Happy Feet Line Dancers fundraising Coffee Morning at the Heritage Chapel and a visit to our Rushden Fire Station to review the facilities and to meet the team.

Finally, a big thanks for all the support received in making our Charity Cabaret Evening at the Masonic Hall such a resounding success. I've had numerous favourable comments about the evening and I trust all of you who attended enjoyed the event. Special thanks to our Deputy Mayor and his team for the wonderful meal, our cabaret performers on the Evening and as always, Melanie for her support. It looks like we made just over £1,000 on the evening for my Charities. My time as Mayor is running out and I must say I feel extremely privileged to have been selected to represent the Town.

Many thanks.

362/19 POLICING ISSUES

The JAG Priorities set at the January meeting are continuing to be monitored. The problems at Duck Street toilets have lessened but we will continue to keep a close eye on them. Drug dealing is still an issue in many areas of the town although the Police have made a number of drug-related arrests in the last few weeks.

A number of burglaries have taken place within the town and everybody is reminded to lock their cars and any outbuildings they may have.

The next JAG meeting is in April, so if Councillors wish to have any matters raised at this meeting can they please let the Town Clerk know by the beginning of April.

363/19 LEADER'S ADDRESS

'Good evening.

We continue to support the town with grants for our shop fronts, and the town manager's report has shown the support for the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership LTD (NBCP) which this council funded local retail membership has been well received with ALL businesses on the High St have now signed up in one form or another to suit their needs.

The formation of the High St Area Improvement WP, which at its first meeting appointed Cllr Lewis as Chairman & Cllr House as Deputy. The working party is open to all councillors (similar to the Neighbourhood Plan WP). This allows a full input from all members. The members approved Terms of Reference and had a general discussion of options and suggested both short and long term aspirations for the High St area.

A public meeting has been organised for Tuesday 9th April, 7pm at the Wesleyan Chapel Halls in Queen St to see how the residents & businesses would like to see the area transformed. That said, they have to be deliverable options, but we have some great ideas already. It is very disappointing though that the District Council has not made a bid for the High Street Funding that is being offered by the Government.

Unfortunately, the town council is unable to apply in its own right. Once again I feel we have lost out. That said we will keep working with the district council and outside bodies to find funding for future improvements.

The town council has also agreed to buy VAS speed signs. These will initially be placed along Avenue Road as requested by the residents. They are however portable and can be fixed to lamp posts all over the town so we will be moving them around in due course to try and encourage safer driving within the town.

These signs have to be treated within strict guidelines and training will be given to officers and residents.

With the Unitary Council approaching there will be a standing item on the agenda of P & R and Full Council to keep members up to date with the formation of the Unitary Council for North Northamptonshire, if and when it has been authorised by Parliament. Already a Shadow board has drafted Terms of Reference in place. Updates may just be verbal as the process will move swiftly when (& if authorised).

The Greenway litter pick & tree planting took place on 9th March this is all part of the National Lottery Fund Heritage project. This will provide a great asset to the town once complete over the remaining 3 years. Still to come are a number of benches and the artists are looking at a number of designs provided by the children of the town to paint under the Washbrook Rd bridge to make it a welcoming walk an enjoyable along with the Artcode's project there is going to be plenty to see and do. The judging process gave us some lovely statements from the children about the town and they were all very positive. They love our parks and feel safe. Some of the statements are being carved into the benches.

We are also looking into funding for a footpath access onto the Greenway from Washbrook Rd so if you know of any company who would help to sponsor this then see me later. This is much needed for a number of reasons.

Litter pick week is coming up so if there are any areas of the town that you have a concern about let me know and we can supply you with bags etc to organise a group to clear it up. This is a good opportunity for councillors to mix with their residents.

Don't forget on Sunday the NN10 run. This is our first attempt and Julie has been working hard on this project and has all the 100 spaces filled? Please turn out somewhere along the route to cheer on the competitors. It is supporting town organisations RHTS & HF projects. More details from Julie and our website.

Finally, thank you to all the staff who have taken up the baton of dressing the two cyclists. We have already had Valentines Day, St David's Day & most recently St Patrick's Day. These are creating a

lot of interest in the town and on social media. It is great fun and we all look forward in anticipation for the next one. It is a closely guarded secret. Watch that space.!

364/19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 5th February 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 5th February 2019.

Policy & Resources Committee 5th March 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 5th March 2019.

Planning Consultative Committee 12th March 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 12th March 2019.

365/19 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE

Members considered an amendment to the Facility Agreement document for Rushden Historic Transport Society Loan and it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Mayor sign the Facility Agreement document for Rushden Historic Transport Society Loan

366/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning Consultative Committee 8th January 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 8th January 2019 be received and adopted.

Policy & Resources Committee 15th January 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 15th January 2019 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 29th January 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 29th January 2019 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 19th February 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 19th February 2019 be received and adopted

Chairman

367/19 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential and sensitive nature of the following item of business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

368/19 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

369/19 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Members of the Grounds Maintenance WP met last week. We had 10 companies who had shown an interest in the contract. This was short listed to 8. These have now been contacted to see if they would like to tender for the contract. The next stage of the process will take place in May when we will evaluate the tenders. This is a long process and has many boxes that we have to tick, so that the decision made, is made fairly, and they are all treated the same. We will keep you updated as the process evolves.

370/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] 15th January 2019

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 15th January 2019, be received and adopted.

Chairman/Town Mayor