MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN ON TUESDAY 2ND JUNE 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

Present: Councillor: Mrs B Jenney - Chairman

Councillors: Mrs J Pinnock R Lewis
Ms T Smith A House
Mrs C Childs Mrs M Hollomon
Mrs G Mercer Mrs S Peacock [ex-officio]

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

26/16 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Town Clerk asked for a proposer and seconder for the Chairman of the Community Services Committee for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs B Jenney be appointed Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the forthcoming Council Year 2015/2016.

27/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs J Pinnock be appointed Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the forthcoming Council Year 2015/2016.

28/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M Coleman and Cllr Mrs K Rawlins [ex-officio].

30/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 14th April 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

31/16 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Chairman of the Events working party, Councillor Adrian House for his hard work and commitment over the last three years, he has worked tirelessly to put on some very memorable events. Councillor House will continue to undertake the task of producing our excellent Christmas lights and will of course remain a very busy member of our Events Working Party.
The Chairman welcomed Councillor Janet Pinnock as the new Chairman of the Events working party and wished her every success.

The music event to be held in the Walled Garden is due to take place on 21st June and there will be a main stage and an acoustic stage. Steve Cave is organising all the bands and the sound system. As this is event is a fundraiser for the new skate park, the Town Council will undertake management of entrance gates during the day. Some very good signs and banners have been designed and positioned around the town and hopefully this will be a well attended inaugural event.

Preparations for Party in the Park have all been finalised and as ever, we have a packed programme for the whole day and evening, so now all we need is good weather.

Members had been circulated with a copy of the report of the Events Working Party meeting held on 29th May 2015.

RESOLVED

That the report of the Events Working Party meeting held on 29th May 2015 be appended to these minutes and any actions or recommendations contained therein, be approved.

32/16  POLICING AND HIGHWAYS

Policing

Councillor Marian Hollomon reported at the last JAG meeting matters identified were:

- Anti Social behavior in Hamblin Court, Rushden
- Fire starting of bushes and trees in Higham Ferrers
- Theft of catalytic convertors from vehicles, both in Higham Ferrers and Rushden
- Evidence of drug dealing the vicinity of Maple and Birch Roads, Rushden

Complaints had been received about speeding outside the Sainsbury store in High Street South. As speed camera was positioned near Sainsbury’s and indicated that between 87-89% of drivers were driving within the speed limit.

Following the stabbing that took place in January this year in Rushden, this incident will appear on Crimewatch later this week, as this crime has yet to be solved.

The Leader reported that herself, the deputy Leader and the Town Clerk were due to meet with Inspector Julie Mead tomorrow (3rd June) as part of a regular Community/Policing schedule of meetings.

Highways

Councillor Lewis raised the issue of roadworks and questioned whether a new schedule of works had been issued by Northamptonshire County Council. The Town Clerk is to investigate to see if an updated schedule can be obtained.

33/16  HAYDEN FLAG

Councillor Lewis reported that Hayden Flag are still continuing to meet. Membership has dwindled somewhat and as ever the group is driven by Councillors Richard Lewis, Marian Hollomon and Barbara Jenney. The group will continue to stage their usual events and look to try and increase membership.
34/16 TOWN PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman informed members that Councillor Marian Hollomon has now stepped down as Chairman for the Partnership and Jane Francis, Absolute Accounts has now taken on the role. The Partnership will be supporting ‘Independent’s Day’ on Saturday 4th July by running a £500 prize draw. This draw will run through to the end of July and the winning ticket will be drawn at the Historic Transport Museum Vintage Bike weekend on 8th/9th August 2015.

Once a contractural agreement has been arranged with IT Contractors, work will start improvements to the new website for the Partnership.

35/16 INCLUSIVE PLAY EQUIPMENT

Members considered the positioning of the new inclusive play equipment for Spencer Park and it was agreed that the best location would be near the toddler play area adjacent to Washbrook Road. The proposed equipment, subject to a site appraisal, will consist of a roundabout, springers, musical instruments and an inclusive swing.

36/16 HALL PARK

Members considered the formation of the Park Users Group, three Councillors had already expressed an interest in becoming members of this working group. Members discussed approaching a wider section of park users to give a balanced membership group. The Town Clerk is to contact park users and draft some Terms of Reference for this working party. The Terms of Reference will be presented to the Policy and Resources committee and details of interested park users will be reported back to this committee in due course.

We are still waiting for a response to our Green Flag Award submission and expect to hear something in early July.

Councillor Sarah Peacock advised that part of our Heritage Lottery bid had included a nature trail through Hall Park. Members agreed that despite our decision not to pursue the Lottery Bid, we should investigate the possibility of still providing the nature trail, as we do have a large number of school groups who use park and this would be an excellent additional facility.

37/16 SIGNAGE

The refurbished Town Signs have now been repositioned on the entrances to the Town. The additional town sign has been placed at the entrance on Wymington Road.

It had initially been thought the additional sign could have been placed on Irchester Road. After a detailed site visit, it became apparent that there was no capacity on the verge to accommodate a sign, without compromising sight lines. Therefore, after giving other site entrances consideration, the only feasible site was on Wymington Road.

Further consideration will be given to local signage through our newly formed Tourism Working Party at their next meeting.

38/16 REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

Members discussed the Royal British Legion request for a permanent area for placing crosses. Harry Graham is to submit a scheme for our perusal and members agreed there must be a holistic approach to any changes to the memorial garden as we also have to consider the laying of the VC slab in 2018.

Once a scheme has been submitted we will look at this project further.
**WEBSITE**

The Chairman advised members that she thought there needed to be more detail on the website regarding Rushden Town Council events. The Clerk explained that she is due to meet with our IT contractor to consider upgrading our website content. At present it is very time consuming to add details to the website and we hope to be able to achieve a more ‘user friendly’ method in the near future.

It was agreed that the Editorial Working Party, will from time to time, look at the website to check for inaccuracies and out of date material and will advise staff accordingly. The Clerk said that the staff were more than happy to put on any material provided by either the Editorial Working Party or the Events Team.

**AWARDS**

The Chairman advised she had made enquiries about awarding the title or Freeman or Honorary Freeman to parishioners of Rushden. However, on closer inspection, the Local Government Act 1972 states that ‘A parish or community which has the status of a city or the style of a royal town is entitled to appoint honorary freeman’. Therefore, under Rushden’s current status we are not able to make this award.

Members discussed various other ways of making awards to residents of the town and the Town Clerk is to research other parishes/towns award protocols.

**PROJECTS**

The Clerk presented the following report:

- **Footpaths in Dog Area**
  - Work has commenced on adding more linked hard footpaths

- **Changing Rooms**
  - Anglian Water to connect on 9th June – Completion by 15th June

- **Planting**
  - Re-negotiated prices with Podington (Wyvale). Planters in Station Road and High Street will be planted when hanging baskets arrive so watering can be done on both – mid June

- **Skate Park**
  - Evaluation taking place now

- **Stage Roof**
  - To be back with us w/c 9th June

- **Play Equipment**
  - Spencer Park

- **Tennyson Road/Highfield Pocket Park**
  - Needs clearing, logs need removing, some further anti vandal planting

- **Nature Trail – Hall Park**

- **Notice Board near toilets, possible change to events board?**
Possible Projects

Some refurbishment in Public Toilets – Hall, Duck Street and Newton Road

Trafford Road Park – Footpath

Rose Avenue Park – Review and assess improvements – look for any available funding

Jubilee Park Play Area – Review and assess improvements – look for any available funding

CCTV – Visits to Daventry

Additional inclusive Play Equipment – look for any available funding

Astro Turf – Spencer Park

Manor Park – Possible adventure playground?

Further maintenance Listed Wall – Hall Park

High Street - Refurbishment

Chairman