

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2020 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Cesare Marinaro, Town Mayor

Councillors:

David Coleman	Melanie Coleman	Carol Childs
Barbara Jenney	Tracey Smith	Paul Harley
Sarah Peacock	Robin Underwood	Marian Hollomon
David Jenney	Janet Pinnock	Ron Pinnock
Philip Humphrey		

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

310/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

311/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Richard Lewis, Gill Mercer, Kaye Rawlins, Steven North, Adrian House, Andy Mercer and Colin Wright.

312/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 26th November 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

313/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'On Wednesday 27th November I had the pleasure of opening the new kitchen facilities at Rush2Den. It will be enable the venue to raise more funds by holding children's birthday parties. In the evening, we held an Italian night at Pizzeria Venezia, everyone enjoyed themselves and danced the night away.

On Saturday 30th November, I had the honour of switching on the Christmas lights. I couldn't believe all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make this an amazing event.

On Tuesday 3rd December we attended a sing for Serve Christmas Carol concert at Park Road Baptist Church. Awards were given out to Serve volunteers.

On Saturday 7th December we attended The Children's Society Christingle service at St Mary's Church

Sunday 8th December we attended a carol service at Peterborough Cathedral.

On Saturday 14th December I attended Eclipse gymnastics annual show where they performed a Billy Elliot Concert.

On the 15th December we attended Higham's Civic Carol Service.

Sunday 22nd December, I held my Mayor's Civic Carol Service at St Peter's Church in Rushden.

I would just like to remind you of a few upcoming events. I have my Civic luncheon on April 5th at Stanwick Hotel. More details via Jemma

I have also committed to jumping out of a plane also known as a sky dive on Sunday 26th April. I will be tapping you up for sponsorship so please give generously to the Mayor's charity which will be split evenly between Rushden Mind and Teenage Cancer Trust'

314/20 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Hollomon gave the following report on the JAG meeting held on 7th January 2020

1. Matters arising from Fire, Police and Crime Commissioners Meeting on 22nd October 2019

Chris Healey tabled notes regarding his concerns with communications via the Police radios. Sgt Sharan Wildman agreed to talk to all other towns with a CCTV provision to enquire whether they had any issues as she was not aware of any problems being reported elsewhere.

Action – Sgt Sharan Wildman

Cllrs Marian Hollomon, Bert Jackson, Angela Gardner, Jon Gray, Angie Daly (Town Clerk Irthlingborough) and Julie Thorneycroft (Town Manager RTC) attended this meeting.

They all agreed that unfortunately too much time was allocated to the presentation, which meant there was limited time for questions from members of the public. Councillors Hollomon, Jackson and Gardner did ask our JAG's agreed questions but it was felt that this section of the meeting was hurried and the questions were not given full enough consideration. (The notes from this meeting have already been circulated to members)

As a result of questions asked by our JAG the PF & CC did offer that the Northamptonshire North(NN) Chief Constable would attend our next JAG. The Chairman informed him of the date of the next meeting, but unfortunately when Rushden Town Clerk emailed to confirm his attendance she was informed that this had not been recorded in his diary and he had another engagement and would be unable to attend.

Members agreed that a further invitation would be issued to both the PF&CC and the NN Chief Constable to attend our next meeting on 24th March 2020 at Higham Ferrers.

2. Update on Agreed Priorities

Anti-Social Behaviour within Public Parks in Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough

Sgt Wildman reported that there had been only 2 reported incidents in all the parks throughout the summer months. Other anti-social behaviour had taken place in other parts of each town but the parks had been relatively quiet.

Rushden Town Council had reported anti-social behaviour at Hall Park and this had been monitored by Crimesecure Ltd and good photographic evidence had been obtained. Also the installation of a CCTV camera overlooking the Memorial Garden in Rushden had appeared to help reduce anti-social behaviour in this area.

3. Priorities

Members discussed the priority to be set for the next quarter. Sgt Wildman reported that a number of burglaries at business premises had taken place in Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough. Sgt Wildman considered these burglaries were also linked to similar crimes in Wellingborough. Therefore, members

RESOLVED

To make Business related burglaries within Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough the JAG priority for the next three months.

Louise Morfitt enquired whether it would be worthwhile inviting a speaker from the Retail Crime Initiative to a future JAG meeting. It was agreed this would be welcomed.

4. Any other business

Reports of motorbike nuisance had been made at Rushden Lakes and at both Higham Ferrers and Rushden. Two off road bikes had been reported and police are now working to identify the culprits.

There was a report of damage with an air rifle in the Pemberton Ward, this appears to be a one off incident as no further reports have been received.

Anti-social behaviour in the form of rubbish being dumped on doorsteps in Queen Street, Harborough Way and Kings Road had been reported to Waste Management at East Northamptonshire Council and they are going to look into this.

Cllr Gray commented on the problems at the A6 bridge between Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough. Due to the historic nature of the bridge and the traffic currently using this as a cut through to gain access to Chown's Mill roundabout, thus avoiding the traffic queues, both towns would like to agree a way that the bridge can be preserved. It was agreed that Cllr Gray, Cllr Gardner and the Town Clerk's from Higham and Irthlingborough will try and arrange a meeting with Sarah Barnwell from NCC Highways to see if this matter can be resolved.

Sgt Sharan Williams advised that because Higham Ferrers has lost Simon Arthur, an officer from Rushden has been seconded there. This means because at present there is no spare capacity Rushden has now only 3 PSCO's.

5. Time and date of next meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2020 at 10.30am at Higham Ferrers.

315/20 LEADER'S ADDRESS

'Good evening and a belated happy new year.

I would like to welcome Michelle Lewis to our team of officers. Michelle will be responsible for our media coverage and promotion of the town. We are a forward thinking council who do a lot for our community; however, we are poor at promoting all the good things that we do both daily and event wise. I am sure Michelle will be a great asset to the team and I am sure we all looking forward to working with her in the coming months.

We are already three quarters of the way through our civic year 2019/20 and into a new decade. This is also an exciting time for Rushden Town Council as we celebrate our 20th birthday. We have special events planned and a special Rushden Matters is being produced.

The Structural Change Order (SCO) is still with parliament waiting for a final decision. The Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments will make the decision and it is hoped that the Northants SCO will be one of the first they consider.

Once the committee has met it will publish a report and a debate can be scheduled in the House of Commons and House of Lords. This process can take between 6-8 weeks. This process needs to be completed by the end of February due to up and coming elections and the formation of the Unitary. There is a web site to keep up to date with its progress.

<https://statutoryinstruments.parliament.uk/timeline/WjY9gK16/SI-2019/>

Shadow boards continue to meet and as far as the shadow Unitary are concerned they continue to prepare for the future structures.

We continue to set out the direction of this Council's future with the RTC Business Plan which will be discussed later in the agenda. The Plan maps out our statutory duties and our aspirations for the next four years. There are some exciting times ahead both planned and unplanned depending on how the Unitary evolves.

The planning applications for Manor Park and the new Community /Rugby Facility have been submitted to the planning portal. The officers have requested a couple of pieces of information and these are being produced. The applications will then be registered with ENC and the formal process will begin.

Manor Park is an outline application whilst the Community /Rugby Club is a full application.

The Assets meeting next week will be looking at the timetable moving forward, legal requirements and that little detail of financing these projects. Reports will be brought back to members in due course.

This evening we will decide the budget/precept for RTC 2020/2021.

These are always difficult decisions but much discussion was had at the last two P & R meetings before presenting the resolution before you tonight. None of us know the future of funding for town councils when Unitary is in place or whether we will be capped.

We as a Town Council still have much we want to deliver for the residents of this town as outlined in our Business Plan and with the help of those residents we will be able to deliver.

The Budget will be discussed later in the agenda when the final % will be decided.

Finally, Cllrs Harley, Smith, the Clerk and I attended the Northampton Road appeal. (Mr Buttons site).

It was a full day and very interesting. We spoke to reiterate the soundness of the Rushden Neighbourhood Plan and to confirm it has been "made" and adopted by ENC. It was not part of the appeal to be questioned as to the procedure it had been through and this was confirmed by the inspector. It also gave us the option to be part of questions & answers throughout the process and correct quite a few incorrect details from other parties.

The main reasons for refusal were the Density, Tandem parking and Open Space. Traffic was NOT a reason for refusal so though discussed it would not be part of the outcome.

Discussions took place agreeing conditions, Section 106, common ground etc.

Davidsons have requested costs and these will be passed to ENC for their consideration.

Cllr Harley and I later attended the site visit which was very useful and was able to answer any outstanding questions for the inspector.

We now await the inspector's decision in due course.

Finally, the Business Working party will be meeting to set up its Terms of reference etc and start to work with the larger companies within the town.

We still have many things to deliver in this Civic year and I am sure we will complete them on time as we continue to Look to the Future'

316/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Planning Consultative Committee 7th January 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 7th January 2020

Policy & Resources Committee 14th January 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 14th January 2020

317/20 PERSONNEL

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee reported that after a rigorous interview process Michelle Lewis was appointed Communications and Economic Development Officers for Rushden Town Council. Michelle commenced her employment on 2nd January 2020. The Chairman wished Michelle every success in her new role and we look forward to her input on various future projects.

The Chairman also reported that Staff Appraisals will be taking place in February and these will be reported at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

318/20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2020/2021

Members had been circulated with a draft budgets for 2020/2021. Members considered the proposed draft budget and precept for 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 as presented to Rushden Town Council would be approved.
- b) The amount of £1,106,667 to be precepted from East Northamptonshire Council for the year 2020/2021

319/20 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- a) Media Policy

The Media policy had been presented to the Policy and Resources Committee and they recommended that this report be accepted, it was therefore

RESOLVED

Rushden Town Council Media Policy be adopted and signed.

- b) Business Plan 2020-2024

The Business Plan 2020 – 2024 had been presented to members of the Policy and Resources Committee and it was

RESOLVED

That subject to two minor amendments the Rushden Business Plan for 2020 – 2024 be adopted and signed.

320/20 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Committee 12th November 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (non-confidential Section) held on 12th November 2019 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 19th November 2019

RESOLVED

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

Planning Consultative Committee 3rd December 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 3rd December 2019 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 17th December 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 17th December 2019 be received and adopted

Town Mayor