

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2021 at RUSHDEN HALL, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

Present: Councillor: Tracey Smith – Vice Chairman

Councillors: Barbara Jenney Janet Pinnock
Paul Harley Kaye Rawlins
Gill Mercer David Coleman
Melanie Coleman Adrian Winkle

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

148/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

150/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Adrian House, Richard Lewis, Marian Hollomon, Carol Childs and Sarah Peacock.

151/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 8th June 2021 be approved and signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

152/22 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Christine MacKenzie – East Northants Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Administrator and Kathy Mackenzie - East Northants Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Co-ordinator attended the meeting and explained the to members the important work the Neighbourhood Watch do within the town. They work closely with the police and provide invaluable information at a very local level.

Christine explained a number of initiatives the Neighbourhood Watch administer and the main aims of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation are to:

- Reduce / prevent local crime and disorder
- Reduce fear of crime
- Address issues relating to anti social behaviour
- Create safer neighbourhoods
- Build community spirit and cohesion
- Reassure members of the public
- Enhance partnership working with other community groups
- Assist in the detection and apprehension of criminals through members providing information to the police
- Improve quality of life and the local environment

Members expressed thanks to both Christine and Kathy for their continued hard work and commitment to the Neighbourhood Watch in Rushden and the Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting.

153/22 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

Members receive a report from the following Events Working Party meeting held on 6th July 2021:-

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIR

Paul Wilcox welcomed working party members to the Events working party meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman the following resolution were made:

RESOLVED

Councillor Janet Pinnock appointed as Chairman for Council Year 2021/2022

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIR

Cllr Janet Pinnock thanked members and asked for Nominations for Vice Chairman the following resolution were made:

RESOLVED

Councillor David Coleman appointed as Vice Chairman for Council Year 2021/2022

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Marian Hollomon and Cllr Carol Childs.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2021

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Events Working Party held on 4th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER UPDATE

Members went through performers previously booked for 2020 and agreed to proceed with these bookings for Christmas 2021.

6. PARTY IN THE PARK 2022:

Members discussed Party in the Park 2022 and agreed to carry on with booking which had be carried over from 2021 subject to the availability of Performers and suppliers. Cllr Janet Pinnock and Cllr David Coleman to meet with Paul Wilcox to review bookings and update members at the next meeting.

7. MUSIC IN THE WALLED GARDEN 2022:

Members discussed Music in the Walled Garden and agreed to discuss this at the next meeting as it may overlap with Events in June and August 2022

8. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

Members discussed various ideas for the platinum jubilee, Following the guidance available from Buckingham palace the following ideas were thought of: Beacon Lighting on Thursday 2nd June, Sunday 5th June Picnic in the Park, Projecting onto a big screen in the walled garden to broadcast some of the event for residents to gather.

RESOLVED

That the minutes from the Events Working Party meetings held 6th July on were signed as a true record

154/22 CELEBRATE RUSHDEN

Cllr Janet Pinnock reported that at this time it was anticipated the Soap Box Derby would take place on 3rd October 2021. A number of entries had now been received, however, if enough were not received by 30th September, the event would not take place as it would not be viable.

Music, emergency cover and marshalling has all been put in place. The shavings bales are to be confirmed subject to the entry numbers.

155/22 POLICING AND HIGHWAYS

i) Policing – The JAG meeting of 12th August was reported as follows:-

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all and everyone in room introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from, Cllr Angela Gardener (Higham Ferrers Town Council), Sandra Mitcham (Higham Ferrers Town Clerk), Mike Greenway (NNC), Louise Morfitt (NNC).

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the JAG meeting held on 13th May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Update on Agreed Priorities

Sgt Leigh Goodwin advised the JAG members of the following activity

New staffing levels:

1 x PC and PCSO for Irthlingborough now.
1 x PC and PCSO - PC to arrive soon post tutoring.
3 x PC and 4 x PC for Rushden

Warrants – Mis-use of Drugs act in Higham Ferrers - looking at Anti-Social Behaviour legislation to surround this.

2 x arrested and investigation ongoing for Possession with intent to supply in Irthlingborough - substantial amount of drugs on person, cash and offensive weapons.

Warrant - Palace Court, Rushden – Possession with intent to supply investigation ongoing. Applied for closure order but tenancy given up on day of court hearing. Same male recently arrested for further PWITS offences.

Warrant - Risdene Court - subsequent closure order at 19. Further closure order at 29. Further work ongoing in Risdene Court.

The police survey was completed by 527 people within East Northamptonshire and the results were as follows - 49.2% for road safety and 32.5% for drug dealing.

A drug detection dog had been funded by Rushden Town Council and this had brought some good results in terms of finding and seizing drugs at various locations within Rushden.

Irthlingborough had been offered a lot of re-assurance in wake of the tragic teenage fatal stabbing in Wellingborough. This incident had connections with Irthlingborough and the police did spend considerable time working with residents and offering support.

There had still be concerns about anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in the alleyway at Alfred Street Rushden. One of the new PCSO's has been assigned to this problem and will be working closely with residents to try and resolve these problems.

Vivienne Prodger, Rushden Town Council advised that PCSO's had been using Rushden Hall as a mobile office over the past few weeks. This seemed to be working well and enabled the Town Council and Officers to share information regularly.

5. Priorities for next 3 months

Top Priorities next quarter following the East Northants survey:-

Road Safety & Road Traffic Offences Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse

Moving forward - team effort working together. Situational and environmental awareness to reduce issues. Funding for VAS signs via OFPCC. Cutting down hedgerows etc, improve lighting etc. Streetwatch/NHW schemes.

Everyone to provide an update at the JAG as to what they have done toward the LIP's.

JAG meeting to specifically be around the LIP's – Any other business needs to be brought to police attention outside of the meeting via PLR or email to the team inbox/direct to local officer.

6. Other Policing Issues

Bert Jackson queried whether anything could be done regarding noisy vehicles. He asked whether drivers could face prosecution for having a vehicle that omitted noise above a certain decibel level. Sgt Good wind explained that if the vehicle had a valid MOT certificate it was very difficult to charge anyone with an offence.

7. Highways Issues

Alfred Street, Rushden – following the problems that had been experienced here, Paul Wilcox RTC requested that Sarah Barnwell, Balfour Beatty look at the possibility of installing a CCTV camera on one of the lampposts. Sarah agreed to look into this matter.

The problem of lorries manoeuvring parked cars when trying to deliver to Home Bargains, Rushden was discussed. It was suggested that yellow lines be introduced to restrict on road parking – Sarah Barnwell to look into this to see if it is feasible.

Jon Gray, ITC commented on the ongoing water leak in Irthlingborough High Street, which he felt had now become a permanent 'water feature' as it had been present for such a long time! SB to investigate this.

8. VOI Scooters

Paul Wilcox reported the method for eliminating the scooters from certain areas did not appear to be working, as RTC had requested the scooters be excluded from Hall Park and

they were now being ridden in the park on a daily basis. RTC had reported this to VOI on a number of occasions.

Both Rushden and Higham Ferrers Town Councils reported that the scooters are still being misused. People under the age of 18 are using the scooters, riding with two on a scooter and riding on the footpaths instead of using the highway. Sgt Goodwin said they are aware of this and all mis use needed to be reported to Voi. She also added that the trial period for the scooters has now been extended into 2022.

9. Any other business

Sgt Goodwin informed everyone that the new Electoral Boundaries will have an impact on how the JAG groups are considered. It is possible that Raunds may be included within this JAG instead of with Thrapston when the boundaries are confirmed. Members felt this was disappointing as the dynamics of this JAG group now worked really well.

Christine MacKenzie gave a report on the work of the Neighbourhood Watch. RTC invited them to their next Community Services meeting to allow them to report to members the invaluable work they carry out.

- ii) Highways - Work at Chowns Mill roundabout is now almost completed although there are a number of night time closures planned for the next few weeks.

Paul Valentine of Highways is continuing to send weekly reports on progress and anticipated road closures and this information is then relayed to Councillors and the general public via email and facebook.

156/22 COVID UPDATE

Restrictions on numbers in the public rooms at Rushden Hall are still in place, with the maximum number remaining at 30 for each room. Temperature control is still in place when accessing the offices and at Council meetings.

Hand sanitizing and the wearing of masks is still be encouraged at all events. Track and Trace details are still be logged.

157/22 COMMUNICATIONS

Press Releases complete - June – September 2021

- Promotion of events feature on Town App
- Roy and Janet Presland 60th wedding anniversary
- Bus Shelters
- Roundabout at Spencer Park Play Area
- Roy and Margaret Cave - Wedding Anniversary
- Bark in the Park promotion
- Vicki and Brian Kempson -Golden Wedding Anniversary
- Janet's Virtual Gardens Tours – (17 gardens and over 400 visitors)
- Soap Box promotion
- John and Ann Beal - Diamond Wedding Anniversary
- National Thank you day
- Promotion of Heritage trail on town app
- Robert & Marie Smith - Golden Wedding Anniversary
- Bikes for the England football final
- Pat and Derek Knight 65th Wedding Anniversary
- Mayor opens Happy Mondays Coffee Shop on High Street

- Promotion of Proms in the Park
- Mayor visits classics in the Park
- Promotion of Heritage Family Fun Day
- Promotion of our Instagram page
- General town App promotion
- Table Tennis at Spencer Park
- Mayor Opens Sinful Delights bakery on the high street
- Mayor visits Junior Park Run at Spencer Park
- Aggro Skate Jam promotion
- Mayor's visit to support 74k March for Falklands Veterans Foundation
- Promotion for Merchant Navy Day
- Mayor at Merchant Navy Day 2021
- Bark in the Park 2021 photos and roundup
- Community Grants - East Northants Community services, SERVE and The Elegance Lounge
- Mayor opens The King Edward Pub
- Summer Floral displays across the town
- Proms in the Park roundup
- Notice of Planning Application: 18/01284/FUL Applicant: Bedfordia Farms Ltd
- RTC's responsibilities and services - info graphic
- RTC's council meetings schedule – info graphic
- Call out for businesses to be part of the Shop local campaign to replace the voucher booklet – app based instead
- Christmas lights switch on promotion

Local authorities and Government Comms

- Covid safety messages
- North Northants news
- Recovery Through Enterprise info
- Latest Highways information

Local business and community stories

- Freedom leisure / Northamptonshire sports
- Junior Park Run
- Library
- Wildlife Trust
- Rushden Food Bank
- Northamptonshire Mind
- RHTS events
- Serve
- Evolve your future - workshops
- General sharing of business and community messages on the business and community page

Future Communications

- Heritage day roundup
- Shop Local autumn campaign - town app
- Blue badge and bus pass info - Library
- Heritage Trail board ([at the lakes](#)) promotion
- Last Push for Soap Box Derby promotion

- Soapbox roundup
- Melloway play park equipment
- Spencer Park Murals
- Remembrance Day
- Winter floral displays
- Sensory Garden update
- Ongoing promotion of town app
- Ongoing promotion of Christmas Lights
- Spencer Park interpretation board
- Latest Local authorities and Government Comms
- Latest Local business and community stories

Rushden Matters Winter Edition 2021

- The 4 page Winter Edition of Rushden Matters will be distributed from Monday 1st November
- Royal mail and councillor volunteers to cover the problem boundary areas.
- The printed copy of Rushden Matters will be on display at the following locations: Rushden Lakes boards, inside Rushden Lakes Shop – recovery through enterprise/made in northants, Rushden Noticeboards and Interpretation boards
- A digital copy will also available on RTC website and will be promoted over our social media.

Rushden Town App

- Over 500 businesses and community groups added to date
- 1.2k users to date / up from 540 in June - people have downloaded and are using the app to date
- 302 people have used the app in the last 30 days

Website and social media analytics report

Facebook

- **Total page followers to date:** 3,243 up from 2,800 since June
- June Reach: 14,630k (number of people who saw our content)
- July Reach: 14,974k
- August reach: 26,612k
- September reach: 25,983k

Reach how many people have viewed an RTC post (this could be direct on our page or a post that someone has shared).

Popular posts

- Mayor opening Sinful Delights - 3.2k reach / 3k links clicks
- Mayor opens King Edward Pub 4.3k reach / 1.3k link clicks
- Mayor opens Happy Monday's Coffee Shop: 4.4k reach / 1.3k link clicks
- Table tennis: 2.9k reach /1.2k link clicks
- Summer Floral Displays 3k reach - 173 link clicks
- Chicken farm planning - 2.5k reach / 344 link clicks

Instagram

- Total followers to date: 865 up from 761 since June
- Reach 1,115k up 18.7% since June

Twitter

- 298 followers – up from 187 followers in June

Website

June views

- News 8,576k
- Events Calendar 365

July views

- News 7,083k
- Events 22

August views

- News 6,660k
- Events 31

Virtual Gardens Tours

- 17 gardens and over 400 visitors

158/22 TREE PLANTING

A grant has been applied for with the Woodland Trust saplings to be planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee Canopy.

The Town Clerk and Assets/Contracts Manager have an appointment to visit Barcham Tree Specialists at Ely. They will be selecting a Beech tree as a memorial for Councillor Pinnock and will be ascertaining what trees are available for the RTC 21st birthday tree planting. To report back to this Committee in due course.

159/22 WARD PROJECTS

PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE WORK IN PROGRESS 8TH JUNE 2021

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Sartoris	Rushden Hall	Courtyard exterior painting	In House – on going	June 2021	
	Hall Park	Sensory Garden	various	March 2021	
	Rushden Hall	Public toilers wall rebuild	In house	June 2021	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Spencer	Spencer Park	Table Tennis Table	Playground supplies	April 2021	
	Spencer Park	Accessible Roundabout	Kettering Playsafe	June 2021	Completed
	Spencer Park	Accessible Swing	Sutcliffe	June 2021	
	Spencer	Public Art	Ady Turner	April	
	Spencer Park	Zip wire	Playground Supplies	July 2021	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Hayden	Cemetery	Improvements to footpaths	TBC	April 2021	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Spencer	Melloway Park	Toddler Play equipment	Kettering Playsafe	July 2021	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Bates	Manor Park	Master Plan	Hinton Cook	Submitted ENC December 2019	New Design June 2021
	Sports Site	Archeological Survey	KD Archeology	March 2021	Completed
	Sports site	Master Plan	Hinton Cook	Submitted to ENC December 2019	
	Manor Park	Badger Survey	Cherryfields	March 2021	Completed
	Manor Park	Reptile Survey	Cherryfields	March 2021	Completed
	Manor Park	Drainage Survey	MK Drainage	April 2021	Completed

Chairman