

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2022, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Adrian Winkle, Town Mayor

Councillors:	Richard Lewis	Phillip Humphrey	Marian Hollomon
	Paul Harley	Adrian House	David Coleman
	Melanie Coleman	Andy Mercer	Kaye Rawlins
	Tracey Smith	Carol Childs	David Jenney
	Cameron Clarke	Barbara Jenney	Gill Mercer

Town Clerk Vivienne Prodger

54/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Sarah Peacock, Cesare Marinaro, Janet Pinnock and Steven North

56/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

57/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

I am pleased to report I have had a very busy time in the last few weeks and have the honour of representing the Town Council at the following events:-

24th May we went on a visit to RAF Molesworth which is NATO'S intelligence gathering centre. Very interesting to see what we were allowed to see.

These past two weeks with The Queens jubilee and Rushden Celebrates have been a busy but most enjoyable time.

It all started with planting a tree at South End infant's school to mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee. A most enjoyable afternoon cucumber sandwiches and jelly with ice cream, my kind of tea.

Sunday 29th May I visited the swimming club open day and then went on to Rushden station for afternoon tea. I actually got to ride in the cab of one of the Pacers, heaven.

Wednesday 1st June I was at the Allotment associations talk. A very interesting talk was given on an alternative, yet green way of growing Pumpkins.

Thursday 2nd June, I was honoured to read the Queens proclamation at the war memorial in the afternoon, extremely proud to have done that. In the evening we held a torch light parade and then the Beacon lighting in Hall park, we were honoured to have the Deputy Lord Lieutenant with us. This was so well supported with lots of people in attendance. The lighting of the Beacon was a bit nerve racking but all went very well.

Friday 3rd June I attended a concert by the U3A choir, it was a fun evening where I got up and sang with the choir for their last number, fortunately their voices drowned out my bad singing.

Saturday 4th June I attended the Lord Lieutenant's pageant in Northampton which was very impressive, moved onto Rushden Station for yet another cream tea, in the evening watched the live streaming of the Jubilee concert in the goods shed.

Tuesday 7th June I joined the ladies of the Trefoil guild for a Jubilee tea dance. Yes I did get up and dance all be it badly. Wednesday 8th June I attended an organ recital which was very good. Thursday 9th June I attended "Swings the thing" a really enjoyable evening of jazz and blues.

Saturday 11th June, I spent some time in the High Street at the Artisan Market organised by Happy Mondays which was lovely to see so many people in the town supporting this. One of the nice things was meeting people I had not seen for a number of years. In the afternoon I went to the walled garden to hear the combined school choirs sing, once again most enjoyable. Back to the walled garden for an evening of music from Rushden Town Band.

Sunday 12 June, I was at the soap box derby, it was a lovely day and I thoroughly enjoyed myself in the role of starter.

Tuesday 14th June – It was a great honour to pay tribute to the Falkland's veterans by laying a wreath at the war memorial in honour of those who were injured or paid the ultimate sacrifice.

All of the events I have been to have been enjoyable, my proudest moment of all was to read the Queens proclamation and light the beacon. This will, probably never happen again and I feel extremely proud to be your Mayor.

58/23 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Hollomon reported the last JAG meeting held on 20th April 2022 as follows:-

RUSHDEN, HIGHAM FERRERS AND IRTHLINGBOROUGH JOINT ACTION GROUP Minutes of JAG Meeting held on 20th April 2022 on Teams, commencing at 10.30am

Present: Cllr Marian Hollomon – Chair (Rushden Town Council)
Mrs Vivienne Prodger (Town Clerk, Rushden Town Council)
Mrs Alicia Scofield (Town Clerk, Higham Ferrers Town Council)
Mrs Hanneke Soans (Assistant Clerk, Irthlingborough Town Council)
Sgt Leigh Goodwin – (East Northants Neighbourhood Team)
Christine MacKenzie – (East Northants Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Administrator)
Chris Healey – (Crimesecure CCTV)
Sarah Barnwell – (Northamptonshire Highways)
Cllr John Gray (Irthlingborough Town Council)
Louise Morfitt (NNC)

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all and everyone in room introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Angie Daly
Bert Jackson
Angela Gardner

3. Minutes of last meeting – 21st January 2022

After a date amendment was agreed the minutes were accepted as a true record.

4. Update on agreed priorities

Sgt Goodwin provided an update;

Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse:

- The team have executed 10 warrants relating to drug offences in Thrapston, Rushden and Irthlingborough. 4 resulted in Cannabis Factories being found whereby a male was arrested and charged in relation to the production of cannabis worth over £600,000 in street value. Investigations into the others are ongoing, a large zombie sword was found in another address and early indications suggest county line activity. Investigations for the majority of these warrants are still ongoing.
- 3 People have been dealt with for drug related offences during this time and been offered a diversionary course to help deal with their addiction. 3 People have been arrested for offences relating to drug supply related to the warrants that have been executed. 3 more arrests have been made unrelated to the warrants for possession with intent to supply offences. All of these investigations are ongoing.
- Officers have used Stop and Search powers on 7 occasions, resulting in 3 positive outcomes for drug offences. 1 vehicle has been searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- Over 147 intelligence logs have been submitted relating to drug offences alone.
- A drugs dog operation was conducted in the public houses in East Northants in February in conjunction with North Northants Council Licensing Department and the local Town Councils. 1 male was arrested for a Possession with Intent to Supply offence whereby 5 bags of cocaine was seized along with 9 wraps of cannabis. 5 Stop Searches were conducted under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act.

Road Safety & Traffic Matters:

- The team have issued over 43 tickets/summons to court or S59 warnings for traffic offences.
- 17 vehicles have been seized for various offences including no insurance and no tax.
- 3 people have been arrested for driving whilst over the prescribed limit of alcohol/drugs or driving whilst disqualified.
- Multiple offences of failing to stop at the scene of an RTC or disqualified driving have been recorded.
- Officers completed 11 sessions of speed enforcement throughout the area including Cotterstock, Barnwell, Rushden, Denford, Titchmarsh, Brigstock & Thrapston.
- Over 35 intelligence logs have been submitted relating to traffic offences alone.

Burglary Update:

- Crime Prevention Events on home security have been held at Raunds, Thrapston, Irthlingborough, Rushden, Nassington, Fotheringhay & Kings Cliffe
- Arrest of male suspected of committing multiple burglaries in Irthlingborough – investigation still underway.
- Over 20 intelligence logs have been submitted relating to burglary intelligence alone.
- Over 40 burglary reassurance visits have been completed to ensure an increase in home safety awareness.

5. Priorities for next 3 months

Following a survey, the next 3 months priorities as identified by the public will be

- Road safety & Traffic
- Burglary
- Vehicle Crime

6. Other Policing issues

The ASB in Irthlingborough/Higham the offenders have been identified and actions taken. Thanks were given to Crimewise for their CCTV images which had helped the investigation.

There is a new neighbourhood co-ordinator for Kingsmead Park in Rushden.

We were advised that knife amnesty bins are emptied every three months. In May there is to be a National Knife Crime week and the date will be advised.

7. Highways Issues

Sarah Barnwell gave a highways update advising that a consultation on parking restriction changes had been sent out to the Town Clerks for consideration. The objectives from last year should be in place by this May.

The Highways contract is due to be renewed in September

8. Any other business

Jon Gray requested Highways look at the lighting when you turn off the A6 onto the Finedon Road in to Irthlingborough the lighting is very bad and you cannot see the junction.

Sarah advised that roadworks can be checked on the one.network/uk so that towns know about road closures as lots of closures are not being notified in time.

On the 16th July 2022 there is going to be a Community Event at Rushden Lakes involving the emergency services.

LIP updates Higham have not purchased their VAS cameras yet. Rushden's are being installed next week.

Jon Gray requested that another meeting needs to take place between Irthlingborough and Higham Council's to discuss the A6 bridge which has been closed while the Chowns Mill works were carried out. This now needs to be reviewed and a meeting date be agreed.

9. Time and date of next meeting

Wednesday August 10th 2022 at 11.30am on Teams

59/23 LEADERS ADDRESS

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

It only seems five minutes since I made my last address at the AGM and so I will keep things fairly brief.

Firstly many thanks to all concerned in organising the Rushden Celebrates fortnight which incorporated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This includes lots of efforts from councillors, staff and members of other organisations.

A unique Jubilee event which we shall never see again and which concluded with another successful Soap Box Derby.

Unbeknown to us the Reporter which we used for printing and circulating the Jubilee Brochure was in the process of closing. This is probably why the circulation of the brochure was very unsatisfactory and any redress is now lost.

As you all know the Town Council was not successful with the Levelling Up projects. In fact the successful projects seemed to be larger existing projects as opposed to creation of new projects in other deprived areas. There is some debate at NNC on the interpretation of the term Levelling Up.

Nonetheless the proposed project work in Rushden should come in very useful further down the road.

The Manor Park project is continuing albeit slowly, with a possible redesign of the Manor Park housing in order to incorporate additional houses.

The project is very close to what should be a successful conclusion, and with hindsight several factors could have been identified earlier. The situation has also been considerably hampered due to the Covid problem. A little extra time but getting it right is the key now.

Work on the Design Code and the revised Neighbourhood Plan are now continuing in earnest, and we should also have the feedback from the well attended High Street Consultation. We are awaiting the latest Troy update.

We are very much into the growing season now with the parks all looking in very good condition. The Sensory Garden has grown at an amazing rate and is also looking very good. Well done to all concerned in bringing this project forward.

The trees have arrived for planting across the different wards in the town so there will be more permanent reminders of this Jubilee Year.

Last week I attended an NCALC Board Meeting which happened to be the Annual Away Day, conveniently for me at Stanwick Lakes. Each Board Member was asked to give 'his/her view of the next 5 years'.

At the end of my 5 minutes my summing up words were 'Challenging, Frustrating, Public Engagement, Partnerships, Events and keep Plugging Away'.

Which I suspect is pretty much how we feel but nonetheless I am pleased to say that we are actually undertaking most of the actions.

Many thanks – Richard Lewis

60/23 DISPENSATION FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED

To grant a dispensation for absence for twelve months from 21st June 2022, to Councillor Sarah Peacock due to ill health,

61/23 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

a) Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/2021 and the Town Clerk went through this in detail. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31st March 2022 is approved by this Council

b) Annual Accounting Statements 2021/2022

Members had been circulated with Accounting Statements for 2021/2022 and these were considered. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That Accounting Statements for year ending 31st March 2022, are approved by this Council

62/23 BARRINGTON ROAD PLAY AREA

RESOLVED

The Mayor to sign documents relating to a Commuted Sum and Adoption of Play Area from Persimmon Homes at Barrington Road, Rushden

63 /23 UNITARY COUNCIL

Councillor Andy Mercer

Councillor Mercer advised members that he had decided to step down from the Executive due to poor health. Councillor Mercer will continue to represent Spencer Ward, Rushden on North Northamptonshire Council. Members wished Cllr Mercer well and hoped he would be restored to full health in the near future.

Councillor Barbara Jenny

Barbara Jenney advised members that she had attended Area Planning Committee, EAP Planning Policy Committee, Employment Committee and Licence and Appeals Committee meeting in the last few weeks. Barbara was also pleased to advise that she had been appointed Vice Chairman of NNC for 2022/2023 at the North Northamptonshire AGM. Members congratulated Barbara on her appointment and wished her well for the coming year.

Councillor David Jenney

David Jenney advised he had been present at the latest Council meeting and played an active role in the latest EAP Planning Policy meeting. David will be supporting Barbara Jenney as Consort in her new role as Vice Chairman of NNC.

Councillor Gill Mercer

Gill Mercer advised that she had attended meetings of the Area Planning Committee, Democracy and Standards Committee and Scrutiny Commission in the last few weeks.

Councillor Bone:

Alongside answering emails from residents, I have chaired the Area Planning Committee, attended two meetings of the Licensing Panel, officer and exec briefing, dealing with resident concerns and set up the first meeting for Ukrainian refugees and their hosts in the Town Hall, Higham, which will be taking place weekly; please get in touch for more information.

Councillor Jackson:

I have continued to attend a number of council meetings, such as planning. I have been corresponding with officers on issues brought to my attention as well. I really enjoyed attending the litter pick which was very well organised.

Councillor Pentland:

It has been another busy month in respect of council meeting, including meetings of NNC's Executive Committee, and the Climate Change, Environment & Growth EAP. Alongside this, I have been corresponding with a number of residents in respect of queries and cases,

64/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Policy & Resources Committee 31st May 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 31st May 2022

Community Services Committee 7th June 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 7th June 2022

Planning Consultative Committee 14th June 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 14th June 2022

65/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 29th March 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 29th March 2022 be received and adopted.

Policy and Resources Committee 5th April 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th April 2022 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 12th April 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 12th April 2022 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 3rd May 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 3rd May 2022 be received and adopted.

Policy and Resources Committee 10th May 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 10th May 2022 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 24th May 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 24th May 2022 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor