

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2019 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: David Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors: Richard Lewis Andy Mercer
David Jenney Janet Pinnock
Barbara Jenney Ron Pinnock
Tracey Smith Adrian House
Philip Humphrey Gill Mercer
Paul Harley Kaye Rawlins
Robin Underwood Sarah Peacock

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

295/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

296/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Marian Hollomon, Carol Childs, Steven North, Colin Wright, Melanie Coleman and Cesare Marinaro.

297/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27th November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

298/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'It seems a long time since Full Council met during November last year and the Christmas lights have gone on and off – again well done and thanks to all involved in again providing such a fine display. On the Mayoral front, Melanie and I have had a short respite after a hectic pre-Christmas period but I'm pleased to say our diary is filling nicely with a number of varied events to look forward to.

The pre- Christmas period saw our attendance at a number of Carol Concerts both within the Town and over a wider area. In Rushden, it was uplifting to attend The Children's Society's Christingle Service at a packed St. Mary's Church, the Sing for Serve Carol Concert, Whitefriars School Christmas Concert and finally, our own "A Celebration of Christmas" – thanks to all who joined us. I am most grateful to the Heritage Chapel for supporting and hosting the event and it was good to see the excellent support, including the number of visiting Civics who indicated their enjoyment of the occasion. A special thanks for their superb contribution goes to Southend Junior School Choir and to the "It's My Life" team.

Out of Town, we enjoyed Carol Services and mince pies across a wide area including Sandy, Towcester with South Northants Council in the west to Fenland District Council in the east at Wimblington. It was also a pleasure to attend the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Province Masonic Carol Service at Peterborough Cathedral with more mince pies.

In the build up to Christmas, the waistline also came under pressure at a number of other events not least being lunches with both the Royal British Legion and the Rushden Pensioners Forum Group. We also attended an RBL Coffee Morning at the Athletic Club which included a pantomime performed by the excellent "It's My Life" team which was also attended by the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire. Other events within Rushden which demonstrated the best of our youth included the excellent Eclipse Gymnastics Show based on Cinderella at the Pemberton Centre and the 4th Rushden Scouts Gang Show at the Heritage Chapel – both thoroughly enjoyable.

We have also attended the USAF Wing Commanders reception at Alconbury and it was good to hear about their future plans and commitment to expansion at Molesworth. Since the start of the year, we journeyed to Grantham to attend their Civic Service, which was followed by a visit to Downtown at the insistence of Melanie to partake in some retail therapy.

Moving forward, I hope you can join us and bring your friends along on Saturday 9th March to our Mayor's Charity Cabaret Evening at the Rushden Masonic Hall. All are welcome to what should be an enjoyable evening and your support would be appreciated.'

299/19 POLICING ISSUES

Below is a report from the JAG meeting held on 8th January 2019

1. Update on Agreed Priorities

Drug use and dealing Priority – drugs across Rushden and Higham Ferrers

Since the last meeting in October 2018, work has continued across the two towns to target areas of concern. This has resulted in a number of warrants being executed at targeted locations, as well as proactive patrols at known locations.

In total 19 drugs offences have been dealt with, including Possession of Class A and Class B drugs for personal use as well as with intent to supply. This has been achieved by the Force Proactive Team, Response Officers, and members of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, which has had a new PC to the team in the same period.

Work has also been undertaken around an address in Midland Road, Rushden. Anti-social behaviour had been reported around the address, the majority of which was related to drug usage and dealing from the address. Residents from the area supported the police by providing anonymous statements to support the case at court

Anti Social Behaviour at Rushden War Memorial

The anti social behaviour issues at the War Memorial seems to have died down at present, however, it would appear that this issue has now dispersed to various other locations within the town. We will continue to monitor this matter as it may relocate to the War Memorial in warmer weather.

Anti-Social Behaviour/arsons at Saffron Road Recreation Ground, Higham Ferrers.

Between August 2018 and November 2018 there had been eight reported arsons in this area, including to bins, fences and buildings. Enquiries were carried out for all of the offences, including reviewing CCTV from the fire appliances which attended. Information was received naming four youths who were involved. These were all interviewed in November 2018, and the investigation is still ongoing. As part of the investigation, the youths were issued with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), giving them various conditions they voluntarily agreed to abide by, including

1. Not to act or incite others to act in an anti-social manner
2. Not to cause, threaten to cause or attempt to cause any damage
3. Not to congregate in groups of no more than three people including yourself
4. Not to have in your possession any lighter or accelerant including any aerosol
5. Not to enter any park belonging or controlled by Higham Ferrers or Rushden town Council.

Patrols of the area have been conducted. Since the four were interviewed and the ABCs issued there have been no further offences.

2. Priorities

Members considered current issues and the following priorities were set for the next three months.

- a. Drug issues in both Higham Ferrers and Rushden to be kept as a priority.
- b. Anti Social Behaviour at Saffron Road Recreation Ground.
- c. Anti Social Behaviour at all Public Toilets in Rushden.

3. Any other business

Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP)

Julie Thorneycroft confirmed Rushden Town Council's agreement to fund local retailer membership to the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP). NBCP are working to enrol businesses on Rushden High Street, key stores such as Boots, Wilkinson's, Iceland, Peacocks etc. have been approached first with an aim to getting these stores signed up and using the system as soon as possible. The ethos of the NBCP is to PREVENT, DISTRUP and DETER retail crime offenders. This is achieved by working together with member stores and the police to make shopping areas a no-go area for those persons intent on committing retail crime. All member stores are provided with free door stickers which indicate to all excluded offenders that they are not allowed to enter and that their images are held within that store.

Defibrillators

The provision of defibrillators was discussed, both Rushden Town Council and Higham Town Council considered these. Rushden Town Council to revisit this

300/19 **LEADER'S ADDRESS**

'Good evening. It is good to be back at full council. We now go into the final few months of our 2018/19 Civic Year and we still have plenty of projects to complete.

The unitary is on the horizon and we still await information on how that will affect us as a town/parish council. In the mean time we will continue to deliver our projects and prepare for additional responsibilities where possible.

We have the sports hub as a major project which is progressing and the results of recent trench diggings are being investigated by our agent. This will allow us to progress to the next stage of the project. Grants are continually being looked into to help support the various projects.

The Grounds Maintenance contract is also coming up for renewal and members and the clerk have been working on the new contract which will be going out for tender in the coming month. There is still a lot of work for the committee members to do and interviews will be taking place once a short list has been established.

The council is in the process of establishing working parties that will help to improve the High St and a Businesses working party to help Rushden Town Council strengthen its working relationships with the larger businesses and help with the promotion and growth of the town with partners such as Rushden Lakes and the Town Partnership. These working parties will allow members to be involved in a similar way to their involvement in the Neighbourhood plan. As a town council we need to continue to be more business orientated and work towards making the town a place that is economically sound and stable. These are exciting but testing times, but with the District Council being made into a unitary we need to be ready to stand alone and have an established strategy for our town. We are one of the best amongst the larger parish councils in the county and we should be ready to grow with our already high standards.

This time in our Civic Year is also one when the budgets are set. Once again these decisions as always are ones taken very seriously and discussed thoroughly so that we provide the best we can for the town. We are a very pro-active council and over the years the improvements to the town have been significant. The coming year will be no different as this council continues to improve the facilities of this town and this will be discussed once again later in the agenda when we will confirm our precept for the coming year 2019/20.

Over the coming months, along with the day to day running of this council that can be stressful enough, we have new projects that we need to keep moving and I am sure with the full support of members and officers we will once again be a very proactive and progressive council'

301/19 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS**

Planning Consultative Committee 8th January 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 8th January 2019.

Policy & Resources Committee 15th January 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 15th January 2019.

302/19 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2019/2020**

Members had been circulated with two draft budgets for 2019/2020. Members considered the proposed draft budget and precept for 2019/2020 and it was

RESOLVED

- a) That this Budget for 2019/2020 as presented to Rushden Town Council would be approved.
- b) The amount of £1,016,224 to be precepted from East Northamptonshire Council for the year 2019/2020

303/19 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RESOLVED

The Terms of reference for the Businesses Working Party and the High Street Area Improvements Working Party are as follows:-

a) High Street Area Improvements Working Party

1. Membership shall comprise all members of Rushden Town Council
2. Membership of the Working Party will be established at the annual meeting of the Council
3. The Working Party shall elect a Chairman for each civic year.
4. Co-opted members may join the Working Party during the year if authorised by the Council.
5. One third of members of the Working Part shall constitute a quorum for meetings.

Terms of Reference

1. To consider operational and strategic improvement plans for the High Street Area.
2. To monitor and report High Street Area Defects to the appropriate organisations.
3. To encourage footfall via support of High Street events.
4. To monitor effectiveness of the Retail Crime Initiative
5. To work closely with Rushden Town Partnership.
6. This Working Party to report recommendations to Full Council
7. Meetings of this Working Party to be determined as required.

c) Rushden Businesses Working Party

1. Membership shall comprise all members of Rushden Town Council
2. Membership of this Working Party will be established at the annual meeting of the Council.
3. The Working Party shall elect a Chairman for each civic year.
4. Co-opted members may join the committee during the year if authorised by the Council.
5. One third of the Working Party shall constitute a quorum for meetings.

Terms of Reference

1. To support and promote businesses in Rushden
2. To offer opportunities for local businesses to engage with each other and Rushden Town Council.
3. To use Rushden Lakes as a catalyst for growth and to achieve economic progress and stability.
4. This Working Party will report to Full Council.
5. Meetings of this Working Party to be determined as required

304/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Committee 13th November 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources held on 13th November 2018 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 20th November 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 20th November 2018 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 4th December 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 4th December 2018 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 18th December 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 18th December 2018 be received and adopted

Chairman/Town Mayor