RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2015 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor Mrs K Rawlins, Town Mayor

Councillors: Mrs S Peacock Mrs C Childs R Lewis
P Humphrey Mrs B Jenney D Jenney
Mrs J Pinnock R Pinnock Mrs G Mercer
A Mercer R Underwood A House
Ms T Smith D Coleman Mrs M Coleman
C Wright P Harley

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

156/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

157/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors S North, Mrs M Hollomon and C Marinaro.

158/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council Meeting [non confidential section] held on 30th June 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

159/16 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

Since our Council meeting, it was supposed to be the ‘quiet’ season, but even so I have attended a number of events and functions both in Rushden and further afield.

I have attended Civic and Church Services at Kettering; Milton Keynes; St Neots; Higham Ferrers; Service for V.J. Day at Northampton; Induction of Rev. Anthony Youngman as the Vicar of Whitefriars Church.

Other Civic social events attended are:

- Tapas Evening held by The Mayor of Raunds
- Hog Roast at the home of the Mayor of Peterborough
- Reception hosted by the Chairman of NCC
- Reception hosted by the Mayor of Kempston
- A very historical event in Huntingdon Town Square where there was a reading of the proclamation for the Queen’s ascent to the throne to celebrate her bringing the longest reigning Monarch
- Dragon Boat Races at St Neots which were unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to a tragic accident in the river
Out of Town attendances include:

- Celebration of American Independence Day at Alconbury
- Open Day for Civic Leader at Alconbury where we were introduced to the new Commanders and were able to say our goodbye to the staff who were leaving.
- Judges at the Extra Care Craft Festival held at the Extra Care Village, Northampton
- A Ball in Higham Ferrers organized by a young girl in honour of her father who had died from cancer. Over £1,000 was raised for Cancer Research UK

Events in Rushden:

- The ‘It’s My Life’ group came to look around Rushden Hall and Museum and had lunch with The Mayor
- Presentation of certificates for the Princes Trust – all the young people stood up and spoke to the audience about the experience they had gained, which was not an easy thing to do for some of them. This is a very effective 12 weeks for unemployed young people and some of them had jobs through it
- Kid’s Club 20th Birthday Tea – little ones everywhere and some older ones who had returned for the occasion
- Judged the Decorated Bicycles at the Station for the Bicycle Festival
- Had my photograph taken at the Rugby Club with the World Cup Trophy and a past England Rugby Player!
- A demonstration of Martial Arts at the Phoenix Club
- A special event I was honoured to attend was the opening of the Pavilion in Jubilee Park and to name it after Jim Osborne, who was a great friend of my parents

During Rushden’s Party Week, I attended the St Cecilia Singers Concert and sang in the 6 Week Choir Concert, entertained at the Soap Box Derby and managed to visit 29 other events during the week. The finale to a very busy and successful Party Week was Party in the Park.

I had an extremely enjoyable evening at ‘Proms in the Park’, attended a very successful, and sunny, ‘Bark in the Park’ and the opening of Rushden Feast …… and it didn’t rain!!

I would like to thank all the Councillors who have supported me through the past months, with particular thanks to my Deputy Tracey, who has been to events I couldn’t attend.

Dates for the diary:

4th October 2015  
Civic Service, St Peters Church, Midland Road
and afterwards at Rushden Hall

8th November 2015  
Remembrance Day Parade

28th November 2015  
Christmas Lights switch on

4th December 2015  
Christmas at The Hall

18th December 2015  
Town Carol Service at The Heritage Church

29th December 2015  
Abba Night
PC Dougie Brown gave a report. He informed members that at the last JAG meeting the following priorities had been set:

Arson attacks in Higham Ferrers, Operation Sambrook was in place and work was being carried out by both the Police and the Fire Service.

Skate Park in Higham Ferrers, more patrols had been put in place and the Police were considering ‘Bearcam’ as a deterrent.

Speeding – Higham Road, Rushden. Following complaints about speeding in Higham Road it was agreed the Police would address these concerns however, any enforcement would be spread across the area and specific Enforcement Days to include speeding and the other ‘fatal four’ issues would be conducted on the run up to Christmas.

Spencer Court – this had now been discharged as there were no more significant issues.

Crime figures had generally decreased on last year’s figures. The recent ‘gang’ related crimes that had occurred in the town were now a priority.

The Mayor thanked PC Brown for his attendance.

The Leader informed members that the Skate Park is progressing at a good rate and hopefully with good weather completion should take place by the end of October.

A new project list had been compiled and these included short and medium term projects and works. We are continuing to push forward and make improvements in all areas.

The Neighbourhood Plan is still taking a lot of everybody’s time and hopefully we have now got the larger part of the workload behind us.

As always, all events this year had been superb and a big thank you to the events working party for their hard work. Also thanks to Cllr Lewis and Cllr Mrs Pinnock for their work on the Party Week events.

With the building of the Rushden Lakes development and Rushden East we have very busy and exciting times ahead.

Council considered the following policies previously scrutinized and recommended by Policy and Resources Committee.

a) Councillors Code of Conduct

RESOLVED

To approve the Councillors Code of Conduct as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee
b) Complaints Procedure

RESOLVED

To approve the Complaints Procedure as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee

c) Equal Opportunities Policy

RESOLVED

To approve the Equal Opportunities Policy as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee

163/16 BUSINESS PLAN 2015-2019

Members had been circulated with a copy of the proposed updated Business Plan and all comments and recommendations received by the Town Clerk had been actioned it was therefore

RESOLVED

To approve the Rushden Town Council Business Plan 2015-2019

164/16 CHAIRMAN’S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

i) Community Services Committee 21st July 2015
   The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting on 21st July 2015.

ii) Planning Consultative Committee 8th September 2015
    The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 8th September 2015

iii) Policy & Resources Committee 15th September 2015
     The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 15th September 2015

165/16 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Community Services Committee 2nd June 2015

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 2nd June 2015 be received and adopted.

b) Planning Consultative Committee 16th June 2015

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 16th June 2015 be received and adopted.

c) Policy & Resources Committee [non confidential section] 23rd June 2015

RESOLVED
That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee [non confidential section] held on 23rd June 2015, be received and adopted.

d) Planning Consultative Committee 7th July 2015

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 7th July 2015 be received and adopted.

e) Planning Consultative Committee 28th July 2015

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 28th July 2015 be received and adopted.

f) Policy & Resources Committee [non confidential section] 4th August 2015

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee [non confidential section] held on 4th August 2015, be received and adopted.

g) Planning Consultative Committee 18th August 2015

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 18th August 2015 be received and adopted.

Chairman