

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH JULY 2018 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: David Coleman, Town Mayor
Councillors: Richard Lewis Ron Pinnock
 David Jenney Marian Hollomon
 Janet Pinnock Robin Underwood
 Barbara Jenney Kaye Rawlins
 Melanie Coleman Tracey Smith
 Adrian House Philip Humphrey

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

98/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

99/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Steven North, Sarah Peacock, Gill Mercer, Paul Harley, Carol Childs, Andy Mercer, Colin Wright and Cesare Marinaro.

100/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th June 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

101/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'Following the hectic time during the initial weeks of my Mayoral year, which included the varied Celebrate Rushden week events, the high level of engagements continues unabated and I much appreciate the help and guidance received from varied sources, not least Jemma in the Office.

Since my previous report, Melanie and I have accepted numerous invitations and attended many events both within the Town and across the wider area. It was a great privilege to be involved with The Royal British Legion Armed Forces Day, participating in the Honour walk, taking the Salute in front of the Station and finally, presenting prizes to the winning designers of the RBL Badge competition. This was followed the following day by the Armed Forces Service at the Heritage Chapel and later in the week, the Fenland District Council Armed Forces Day Commemoration Service at Whittlesey.

We were pleased to attend the US Independence Day Celebrations and Fireworks Display at RAF Alconbury and in recent weeks, Melanie and I have attended Civic Services at Northampton, Thrapston and Milton Keynes. It is most rewarding to be able to promote Rushden across a wider area.

Highlights over recent weeks have, of course, included our “Party in the Park”. Once again, all the hard work behind the scenes both in the run up and on the day resulted in an event of which we can be proud and it was good to see the day enjoyed by so many people.

This was followed by the BBC Radio Northampton broadcast from Hall Park as part of the “Love your Park” campaign. I was pleased to formally open the Outdoor Classroom area as part of the Nature trail, followed by reading stories to pupils from South End School in the presence of Cyril the Squirrel who certainly went down well with the children.

Following this, we were invited to participate in The Prince’s Trust Team 37 Final Presentation at Park Road Baptist Church – a very rewarding and moving event.

Other events included an Exhibition of Motorsport Art at East Northamptonshire Council and a visit to Althorp where we expected a short tour of the Gardens but were pleased to be given an extended guided tour of Althorp House by Earl Spencer himself.

I am pleased to announce that I have now met my Mayor’s Cadet, Jack Muir-Howie, from Rushden’s 858 Air Squadron, in the RAF’s Centenary Year. I look forward to welcoming Jack and his colleagues, including their Band, at forthcoming events.

Arrangements are in hand for forthcoming Mayor’s fundraising events and I hope I can rely on your support. Initial dates for your diary including Proms in the Park on Saturday 1st September, The Bark in the Park Dog Show on the following day, the Civic Opening of Rushden Feast on Friday 14th September followed by my Civic Service at St. Mary’s Church on Sunday 23rd September. I look forward to seeing you there.

Once again, I’m pleased to thank Cesare and Sabina Marinaro for their support along with Melanie for her fashion guidance.’

102/19 POLICING ISSUES

Council Marian Hollomon informed member that a meeting of the Joint Action Group had taken place that morning at Rushden Hall.

Progress on the three priorities set at the April meeting was as follows:

1. Drug use and drug dealing Rushden and Higham Ferrers

A number of arrests had been made both in Rushden and Higham and a cannabis factory had been raided in Harborough Way, Rushden. The Police advised they wished to keep this matter as a priority for the next three months.

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

The Police reported that they had attended this site a number of times within the last three months, however, they now felt this should not be a priority. Higham Ferrers Town Council to continue to monitor.

3. Anti Social Behaviour at the Memorial Gardens, Rushden

Sgt Mitchinson reported that 4 warnings had been issued to individuals who frequent this site and this appears to have reduced the anti social behaviour. Footage of an incident that had occurred there had been provided and this matter is to be investigated. This priority is to stay on the list for a further three months.

Once again Cllr Hollomon advised members to be vigilant regarding car thefts and garden shed burglaries, which have been prevalent since the warm weather.

103/19 LEADER'S ADDRESS

'Following on from a fantastic start, the month of June has also ended on a high note. With the British Legion Armed Forces weekend delivering a great parade and a superb selection of badges designed by local children. This was followed by a lovely service on the Sunday for all those in the armed forces past and present.

Once again we have delivered a fantastic Party in the Park and a big thank you to all those on the Events Committee and those who played a part on a very hot day. People do not realise the effort that goes into the day many months before. From the pictures of the Mayor, high in the cherry picker, conducting the audience to residents enjoying the Complete Kinks, I am sorry I was unable to attend.

On the following Monday we managed to go live on BBC Radio Northampton with Helen Blaby and once again delivered a superb picture of the Hall Park and what it has to offer. We were able to make a special announcement that RTC had been awarded its 5th Green Flag. Thank you to all the staff involved in working so hard on our jewel in the crown and the work on all our open spaces that is carried out throughout the year. This year being exceptionally challenging with the hot weather! Once again we were supported by Southend Infant school who were treated to a special reading of Squirrel Nutkin by no other than our town Mayor Cllr David Coleman and watched by our very own "Cyril" the squirrel in our new Open air classroom. Once again thank you to all those councillors and colleagues who took part in the afternoon. We are unique as a council and our motto has never been truer.

Rushden Town Council can be proud of the various projects we continue to move forward and we are making positive steps to get new projects up and running. The Assets WP are busy putting together a grant application to finalise the improvements to Spencer Park and working with Freedom Leisure on various outdoor activities. The Explorer events are now getting off the ground and provide fun for all the family in the parks.

We are working with various bodies to deliver many great projects to improve the town and its future. These include the Nene scape project, Rushden East, The Sports Hub and the Greenway.

We have some large planning applications in and on the horizon. Some will be very emotive and as usual this council will give them full deliberation and weigh them up against the planning policies and our local neighbourhood Plan. We need to be balanced and get the best for our town moving forward. We only get one chance.

Even though August is normally a quiet month for meetings there will still be a lot of work going on. The ground maintenance contract has been read through and amended and is with our advisor before going out to tender. A large amount of work is still looming for

those on the WP. In September we will be able to bring you updates and hopefully delivery dates of some, if not all of these projects.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer break and I look forward to catching up with you all in September.'

104/19 STATION ROAD SITE

Members had been issued with a draft contract for an amended lease for land at Station Road, Rushden, from Northamptonshire County Council together with a contract to rescind the existing lease. Members considered this matter and it was

RESOLVED

Both draft documents received from the Northamptonshire County Council were acceptable and full documentation should now be drawn up.

105/19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Planning Consultative Committee 10th July 2018

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 10th July 2018

Policy & Resources Committee 17th July 2018

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 17th July 2018.

106/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Committee 22nd May 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources held on 22nd May 2018, be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 29th May 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 29th May 2018, be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 11th June 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 11th June 2018, be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 26th June 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 26th June 2018, be received and adopted