

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2022, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Adrian Winkle, Town Mayor

Councillors:	Richard Lewis	Phillip Humphrey	David Coleman
	Paul Harley	Adrian House	Tracey Smith
	Melanie Coleman	Kaye Rawlins	David Jenney
	Barbara Jenney	Gill Mercer	Janet Pinnock
	Joe Norris	Andy Mercer	

Town Clerk Vivienne Prodger

191/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

192/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Cameron Clarke, Marian Hollomon, Carol Childs, Steven North and Cesare Marinaro

193/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27th September 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Councillors Joe Norris and Gill Mercer abstained from approval.

194/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor's report October.

Saturday 17th September.

The country was in mourning for the queen, yet there was an event I was asked to attend but could not due civic invitations being cancelled. It was for Daning to Disney to help a young boy who is

seriously ill and is going blind. This was a fundraising event which I was unable to attend but I did send a donation.

Thursday 22nd September.

I was at the annual prize giving at Rushden Academy, and was asked to present the Mayor's shield. It was a surprise as we were only there to see my daughter get 2 awards. All passed well.

Sunday 25th September.

I attended the Mayor of Higham's civic service. On the same day was the 300th anniversary of Park Road Baptist church which Cllr. Janet Pinnock attended on my behalf.

Thursday 29th September.

Cllr. Janet Pinnock and I attended the Castle theatres launch of their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk.

Sunday 2nd October.

This was my civic service which was very well attended and all enjoyed the service presided over by reverend Tom King, and we had the pleasure of Rachel Mallows company as deputy lord lieutenant, whilst talking to her we found we had a lot in common with people we knew. Also it was a good chance to catch up with the chain gang. My thanks to all those who helped on the day.

Saturday 8th October.

I attended Northamptonshire scouting associations AGM. I was greeted by our district commissioner Michelle who took me on a tour of the Sir John Lowther county head quarters. I got to see a lot of the activities scouting offers to young people. It was Very informative, as after Covid lock downs they are bouncing back well. Their only concern is the lack of adult leaders. Straight after the AGM I then went to Beat Route Radio and joined in on one of their shows.

Friday 14th October.

I went along to the sea cadets annual awards evening where I presented some awards to an outstanding group of young people.

Saturday 15th October.

I opened the 1940's weekend at the station. The event was very well attended, and it was great to see so many people really getting in to the spirit of the theme. There is a picture of me being arrested by a policeman dressed for the occasion, obviously a case of mistaken identity. From there it was a quick dash to get ready for the air cadet's annual dinner and awards. A very formal occasion with every one dressed to the nines. Thanks to Cesare for the great food.

Saturday 22nd October.

We attended the induction of the new minister at the Wellingborough Road Mission church. This venue is just round the corner from me and I have never been inside. A warm welcome was received along with myself saying a few words of welcome on behalf of the Rushden Community.

Sunday 23rd October.

I went to All saints church in Northampton for the Lord Lieutenants service for St. Crispins day. It was a good service and quite poignant as St. Crispin is the patron saint of shoe makers, having been making shoes for quite a number of years myself. It was good also to meet with chains who have become friends along with people from the shoe making fraternity.

195/23 POLICING ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported that the next JAG meeting was to be held in December and if members had any matters they wanted raising could they please let her know. Several members expressed concerns about drug dealing and drug taking throughout the town. The Town Clerk informed members that drug dealing activities at Newton Road Cemetery had been reported several times to the police and we must continue to report activity so the scale of the matter is recorded officially.

There were no further policing issues discussed at this time.

196/23 LEADERS ADDRESS

'Good evening ladies and gentlemen

When you have to make a report every five weeks or so you realise just how quickly the time is passing.

This has been a comparatively quieter period compared to my last report and so I will make this fairly brief.

Early in the month NCALC, which is the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, celebrated its 75th birthday at the Kettering Conference Centre with an all day event. Councillor Melanie Coleman and myself attended. The event commenced with the customary bacon rolls followed by a series of guest speakers and later breakout sessions for North and West Northants parishes.

Several senior officers from county organisations were at the breakout sessions and question and answers were made. However, with the comparative embryonic state of NNC then not too many definitive responses were forthcoming.

For those not fully aware, NCALC is the Northamptonshire association for parish councils and until Northampton, Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough recently formed parish councils, Rushden was the largest parish. I have been an NCALC board member for some years now and I can certainly say that Rushden is an asset to NCALC but also that Rushden continues to use NCALC for advice on a wide range of subjects. This advice is usually obtained through the town clerk. Please talk to me if anyone needs more details of NCALC.

Meetings have now been held with firstly the 3 NNC Higham Ferrers councillors where we were able to explain our general situation and aspirations and secondly with 5 out of 6 of the Rushden NNC councillors. This latter meeting being more focussed on how best to proceed with NNC to the benefit of both parties.

I mentioned in my last report that Rushden had been invited to join with the NNC group of large parish councils ie Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. Myself and Officer Wilcox attended the meeting held at the Cube in Corby. This was in fact only the second meeting so we were pretty quickly up to speed with the format.

Rushden has a large advantage on 2 fronts whereby firstly we have been operating for 22 years now and secondly we have a wide range of assets for which we are responsible. Neither of these unfortunately are features of the other parish councils. At this stage Rushden has much to offer to the other councils and our town clerk is a very good contact for them during their difficult formative years. However, in the longer term the membership of this group and working with them should enable our voice to be heard and hopefully to see some of the so called levelling up.

I also mentioned last month working with professional planners to help with specific planning responses and this is now working well. Several typical planning applications arose at the last planning meeting where additional consultations will be made.

Finally just a brief update with Manor Park and our Community Hub where meetings continue to be held with the expected target to get to planning in January 23 still being the case. I expect to have a more detailed update at the next meeting. And that brings me to the end of my report. Any questions please.

Many thanks

197/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 4th October 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 4th October 2022

Policy & Resources Committee 11th October 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 11th October 2022

Planning Consultative Committee 18th October 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 18th October 2022

198/23 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The recommendation to full Council from the Policy and Resources Committee of 11th October 2022 is to be discussed at Warm Rooms agenda item.

199/23 UNITARY COUNCIL

Councillor Lewis reported that there had been a meeting with Rushden Unitary members and they gave an update on what issues are being worked on at this time. It is anticipated that these meetings will take place on a regular basis to ensure communication between Town Council and the North Northamptonshire Unitary Councillors that represent Rushden.

200/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 7th June 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 7th June 2022 be received and adopted

Policy and Resources Committee 30th August 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 30th August 2022 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 6th September 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 6th September 2022 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 27th September 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 27th September 2022 be received and adopted.

201/23 RUSHDEN-HIGHAM LINK

The Town Clerk advised that a further meeting with Expresslines and Higham Ferrers Town Council would be taking place later this week. Expresslines are to produce figures to indicate useage of the service before and after Covid. It is hoped that a reduced service may be possible if there is still enough customers post Covid.

202/23 WARM ROOMS

Following the meeting of Policy and Resources on 11th October, it was agreed that Rushden Hall will be open on a Friday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm to be used as a warm room. This is to be trialled until Christmas and will continue if we have enough support.

203/23 KNUSTON HALL, IRCHESTER

Due to the forthcoming local election members were unable to discuss this matter and it was deferred to the next Council meeting.

204/23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential and sensitive nature of the following item of business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

205/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] 30th August 2022

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 30th August 2022, be received and adopted.

Councillor Joe Norris abstained.

Town Mayor