

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Cesare Marinaro, Town Mayor

Councillors:

David Coleman	Melanie Coleman	Gill Mercer
Carol Childs	Barbara Jenney	Tracey Smith
Adrian House	Paul Harley	Sarah Peacock
Robin Underwood	Richard Lewis	Marian Hollomon
Janet Pinnock	Kaye Rawlins	Ron Pinnock

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

255/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

256/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Steven North, Philip Humphrey, David Jenney, Andy Mercer and Colin Wright

257/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th October 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

258/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'It has been another busy couple of months and I have had the privilege of attending some great events held in our town and far afield.

On Thursday 17th October I attended the East Northamptonshire Sports and Physical Activity Awards at the Goods Shed.

On Saturday 19th October, we attended the opening ceremony for the Rushden Historical Transport Society 1940's weekend.

On Sunday 20th October, we attended the Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council's Civic Service in Weston Favell.

On Saturday 2nd November, my daughter and I attended Rushden's 51st Firework Display.

This was a delight as I have never had the opportunity to attend before due work. I had the opportunity to judge the best Guy before it being placed on the fire and even had a selfie with the audience. The display was spectacular, and we thoroughly enjoyed the evening with music from Slim 47 and singer Katie Davis.

On Wednesday 6th November, my consort and I attended the war memorial for a special remembrance service involving all of the local schools. It was great to see so much support and we both learnt so much about our local cenotaph

Sunday 10th November was the Remembrance parade. It was a pleasure to lead the procession and see all of the local groups donating wreaths. We then attended the service at St Mary's Church and finished the day with refreshments supporting the local library. In the evening, we attended Youth in Concert held at the Derngate on behalf of Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust with BBC Radio Northampton. All of the groups and singers were fantastic, and it was a delight to be involved.

On Monday 11th November, we attended Madingley American Cemetery for their remembrance service, remembering the American soldiers that fought in the war.

On Thursday 14th November, we visited the Night Shelter. The work they do is amazing, in particular the Rehab that they offer to the homeless.

The Royal British Legion Rushden Branch held a concert with the Rushden Town Band at Park Road Baptist Church on Saturday 16th November.

On the 25th November 2019 I attended RAF Alconbury to celebrate thanks giving, I also had the opportunity to taxi Viv (the Town Clerk) and Jemma (Mayor's Secretary). We also invited the Mayor's Chaplain Jez Safford who used to be in the RAF. We finished the service with the opportunity to sample all their homemade pies which included savoury and Sweet pies.

It is always a pleasure to represent Rushden at all of these events and share these special times with my family. I am looking forward to our Italian night tomorrow and also Saturday, turning on the Christmas lights for my town.

Also a big thank you to Councillor Melanie Coleman my fantastic Deputy Mayor for attending events when I have been unable to attend, and congratulations to David and Melanie on the news that their daughter is expecting their first grandchild.'

259/20 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Hollomon reported on the PCC meeting held on 22nd October 2019.

This meeting was attended by Cllrs Jon Gray, Marian Hollomon, Bert Jackson, Angela Gardner and Angie Daly. Attendees were disappointed that the majority of the meeting was taken up by a presentation which meant little time was left to discuss Parish Council's concerns.

Chairman Cllr Hollomon did manage to ask the agreed questions but it was felt this section of the meeting was hurried and not enough time was given to consideration of the questions raised. However, it was agreed at the meeting that either the PCC Steven Mold or the new Chief Inspector would attend the next meeting of our JAG.

260/20 LEADER'S ADDRESS

'Good evening.

The Structural Change Order has been through the House of Lords but has stalled in Parliament due to the General Election being called. It now has until February, once parliament has been recalled, to be "Laid". So once again we are playing the waiting game. However, the shadow boards will continue to meet and move forward.

The work of RTC continues and our projects are being delivered. New street lights in Avenue Rd have been installed and we have drawn up a list of street names for the ARV sites. This is being considered by the Highways Authorities.

On the subject of transport I would like to say how proud we are of our static bikes and the attention they create. From Guy Fawkes, the servicemen and most recently "Pudsey". It is as great to have the rickshaw challenge pass through the town on its way to Bedford and see our display. Thank you to all those who help. I am sure Santa will soon be passing through soon.

Work in Spencer and Trafford Parks have been completed. With the MUGA, tennis court and play equipment being updated. CCTV in the Hall Park is also being added to our existing system with up graded cameras and digital systems.

Further improvements to our assets will continue over the coming months.

The Sports Hub moves on at a pace with a meeting organised with the rugby club membership. We will then be in a position to get the planning applications into ENC before Christmas. I would like to thank the working party for all the work they have done so far on this project and especially to the Town Clerk who is keeping us all on track. Regular updates will continue to come to members as this major project is being delivered. This is an Asset for future generations of this town and a facility that will be used by all

With Purdah in place this has curtailed some of our publicity for what the Rushden Town Council and its Councillors have delivered. Our Rushden Matters are hitting the door mats as we speak and advertising our Light Switch on, which to me is one of the highlights of our civic year. It is a truly family event that is enjoyed by all ages. Thank you in advance to all those who have worked towards this event and to those who are helping in any way on the day. For some of you it will be your last one as Councillors but you are always welcome to come and support any of our events in the future as volunteers.

On that note can I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas (apologies for it being so early) but this is our last full council before the event. Also, a Healthy and prosperous New Year.'

261/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 5th November 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 5th November 2019.

Policy & Resources Committee 12th November 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 12th November 2019

Planning Consultative Committee 19th November 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 19th November 2019.

Personnel Committee 26th November 2019

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 26th November 2019.

262/20 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

a) External Audit Report

The External Audit Report for the year 2018/19 had been presented to the Policy and Resources Committee and they recommended that this report be accepted. The report had no qualifications from the Auditors. Members discussed this report and it was

RESOLVED

To accept the External Audit Report for 2018/2019. The Chairman of Policy and Resources thanked the Town Clerk, and the Finance Officer for their hard work to produce an excellent Audit Report

b) Internal Auditors

Members of the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that the current Internal Auditors, Microshade Ltd are retained for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED

To retain Internal Auditors Microshade Limited for 2019/2020

263/20 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 17th September 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 17th September 2019 be received and adopted

Policy & Resources Committee 24th September 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (non-confidential Section) held on 24th September 2019 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 1st October 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 1st October 2019 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 22nd October 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 22nd October 2019 be received and adopted

Personnel Committee 10th July 2019

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 10th July 2019 be received and adopted

264/20 PUBLIC OPEN SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Members discussed the possibility of issuing a Public Open Spaces Protection Order within Rushden. After a lengthy discussion about the positive and negative outcomes of such an order it was

RESOLVED

That Rushden Town Council contact East Northamptonshire Council to start the process of instigating a Public Open Spaces Protection Order on the Memorial Gardens at Newton Road/High Street South, Rushden.

Chairman/Town Mayor