

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 27TH JULY 2021, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Melanie Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors: David Coleman Phillip Humphrey Tracey Smith
Paul Harley Adrian House David Jenney
Richard Lewis Gill Mercer Andy Mercer
Janet Pinnock Kay Rawlins Steven North
Barbara Jenney Cameron Clarke Colin Wright
Adrian Winkle Sarah Peacock Marian Hollomon

Contracts & Assets Manager: Paul Wilcox

100/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

101/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Carol Childs, Cesare Marinaro and Town Clerk Vivienne Prodger

102/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

103/22 DEPUTY MAYOR 2021/22

Councillor Melanie Coleman, Town Mayor asked for nominations for the Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Mr R Lewis that Councillor Mrs S Peacock be appointed Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the year 2021/2022 and seconded by Councillor Mr D Coleman It was.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs S Peacock be elected Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2021/2022.

This has been a month of 'write things in the diary and scribble them out'. It seems the 'Pingdemic' is having a great effect on a lot of people.

My first event was..... another Anniversary, a diamond wedding for the lovely Mr and Mrs Beales followed by a Golden Anniversary for Robert and Marie Smith. To say she was surprised is an understatement .

We then celebrated 'Good Neighbours' when I sent out a couple of videos for people wishing to say thank you. A really thoughtful idea.

Alconbury was the next official visit, for Independence Day and a fabulous fireworks display. We were asked to attend dressed in Red white and blue , a message from Colonel Went to 'go for it'. David sported a distinguished look with his Union Jack waistcoat, I went for the understated look of a pirate complete with bright blue wig, red tricorne and the complete swashbuckler look..... my efforts were rewarded with first prize and my treasure haul was a bag of American treats.

On the 4th of July I was honoured to attend a service at St Mary's to see the presentation of the new British Legion Flag. This was followed on the 10th of July with a celebration in the Walled Garden where the 100th Birthday of the British Legion was celebrated with an afternoon tea.

On the 13th I joined the young people of the Princes Trust as they gave their final presentations of some fantastic community projects including helping the RHTS .Sadly it was via Teams and not in person.

On the 14th we met Pat and Derek Knight a larger than life couple celebrating 65 years together, they invited us into their garden which was an absolute little gem. Filled with colour , secret spaces and special memories.

8.35 On a Sunday morning saw us down at Spencer Park for the Junior run. I handed out awards for 'half and full marathons'. The circuits they complete over the weeks are totted up to make this possible. It had a great atmosphere with such friendly people. One of the volunteers was a 'Good Neighbour ' I had reported on in my video, she was thrilled with the message.

The East Northants Child Contact Service asked me to the AGM to present awards for going above and beyond during Covid , they really do an amazing job in trying circumstances.

I should have met the High Sheriff , not once but twice, hopefully that will be rectified soon and also attended the opening of the Saxon Hall at Raunds, again this has been re-scheduled. Just a few examples of how we are 'not out of the woods yet'

Finishing on a positive , I have resumed attention to my Millinery Collection. David kindly brought me a lovely sun hat. We went in the shop for a Panama for him and came out with a hat for me. On that note , I finish my report.

105/22 POLICING ISSUES

Cllr Marian Hollomon advised Members no JAG meeting had been held since the last meeting of Full council. If members had any issues they wanted raising at the next JAG meeting to raise these directly with the Town Clerk and Cllr Hollomon.

106/22 LEADERS ADDRESS

Good evening.

I am pleased to be here in person as leader and deputy Mayor and will carry out both duties to the best of my ability.

With the arrival of so called "Freedom Day" little has changed in how we intend to continue with the running of this council. There will be limited access to the offices by the public and the staff will continue to have their own workspaces etc. This will be reviewed as the country opens and requests are made by the public to use RTC facilities.

We had a Covid scare last week which has resulted in one member of staff being off with Covid and the rest being tested. Fortunately, the tests have proved negative, but we are monitoring daily. However, it did mean that staff had to revert to working from home again, and meetings being postponed. I think this is a process we are going to have to learn to live with. We will continue to request temperatures, sanitise hands and wear masks when in the building and moving around for the protection of all.

As we get used to meeting face to face again, we have had several committee meetings to get us back to some form of normality. It still seems strange to journey out of the house. Zoom had become the norm.

The Chairman and deputies of the Town Improvement WP's along with Viv, Paul and myself have met with Troy Consultants. We had an around the table chat of aspirations which was followed by a walk round the town. They are putting together a phased programme for a way forward. A date will be confirmed soon.

I think I speak on behalf of those who attended it was a very positive meeting and hopefully now we have the right people for the job to start the process of improving our town centre and connecting with businesses in the town. They have the experience to work with outside bodies and develop a strong bid for funding to deliver the communities aspirations. Now is the time to rebuild our core ready for all the extra housing and communities that are being built around us and we need to attract them to the High St to make it sustainable. We need to identify our own USP. This may be a combination of retail, leisure and heritage. Time will tell. They will be liaising with the Unitary officers and any other bodies.

We have also approached Cllr North who is on Unitary and Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration to arrange a meeting going forward so that we have joined up thinking within the organisations.

Whilst on the subject of Unitary, from September I hope that we can get regular updates from the Unitary Cllrs as to how NNC is progressing. There will be a regular agenda item for their reports. Perhaps I can request that they contact the clerk a week before the Full Council Agenda goes out so that we are able to accommodate them.

The projects in the town are being delivered with Spencer Park improvements coming to an end. The Zip wire was installed last week, and we just await the delivery of the table tennis table. Work is due to start on younger children's play area in Melloway improvements this week and Rose Avenue are in the pipeline too. Jubilee Park is next on our list.

I have received numerous comments on how lovely the flowers are again this year and that is down to the hard work of Turney's, Intercountry Cleaning and our officers. Thank you.

I hope you all have an enjoyable "Staycation" and confidence grows to venture out safely. We have the RHTS & Rushden Chicheley Rotary Car Show testing the waters with their event a week on Sunday and the Rushden Museum opens this week. I know it is still a nervous time and many volunteers are of a certain age, but I am sure the vaccines give some reassurance. Take care.

107/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Policy & Resources Committee 13th July 2021

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 13th July 2021

Planning Consultative Committee 26th July 2021

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 26th July 2021

108/22 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members discussed recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of the 13th July 2021 regarding;

- a) Play Area Risk Management/Inspections
- b) Events held on RTC land
- c) Data Protection Policy
- d) Privacy Notice for Suppliers
- e) Fire Risk Assessment

RESOLVED

- a) Play Area Risk Management/Inspections – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- b) Events Held on RTC Land – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- c) Data Protection Policy – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- d) Privacy Notice for Suppliers – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- e) Fire Risk Assessment - to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.

109/22 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee 1st June 2021

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held of the 1st June 2021 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 15th June 2021

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 15th June 2021 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 29th June 2021

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 29th June 2021 be received and adopted.

110/22 APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Members discussed the request from Tennyson Road School for Cllr A Winkle to be a Governor.

RESOLVED

That Cllr A Winkle be appointment as a Governor of Tennyson Road School.

111/22 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.

112/22 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] 1st June 2021

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 1st June 2021, be received and adopted.

Town Mayor