

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: David Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors:	Richard Lewis	Andy Mercer
	David Jenney	Janet Pinnock
	Barbara Jenney	Ron Pinnock
	Melanie Coleman	Tracey Smith
	Adrian House	Philip Humphrey
	Gill Mercer	Paul Harley
	Kaye Rawlins	Robin Underwood

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

247/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

248/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Sarah Peacock, Marian Hollomon, Carol Childs, Steven North, Colin Wright and Cesare Marinaro.

249/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

250/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

I'm pleased to report that it continues to be a hectic time but wholly satisfying as Melanie and I attend as many events across the area as possible. Our priority, however, continues to be in supporting opportunities to meeting people and organisations in Rushden. It has, of course, been a moving period commemorating the end of the Great War and I feel privileged at being able to represent the Town both locally and further afield, attending numerous varied events acknowledging the sacrifices made a century ago.

It is good that we, as a Council, support the local branch of the Royal British Legion and I must commend their sterling efforts over recent weeks. Leading up to Remembrance Day, it was a privilege to be involved in the Service of Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance and once again, the people of Rushden turned out in a huge number for the moving Remembrance Day Parade and Service, with "Harry's Garden" and our War Memorial looking stunning but dignified. A credit to all involved. It was also good to see the number of people attending the Beacon lighting in Hall Park.

It was a pleasure to join the Legion at their Remembrance Concert at Park Road Baptist Church where our Town Band delivered an excellent evening's entertainment. It was also good to accept invitations locally to attend the Rushden Academy Remembrance Parade and the Nene Valley Community Action Heritage Exhibition entitled "1918-2018 Then and Now" Launch, where I met enthusiastic pupils from Rushden Academy who were involved in the project. Today, it was lovely to join the pupils of Whitefriars Junior School for their WW2 Tea Party.

Further afield, it was good to support other events including both the Poppy Appeal launch and the "Naming the Men" Ceremony in Peterborough and the Veterans Day Ceremony at the American War Cemetery at Madingley. We also attended the Chairman of South Northamptonshire District Council's End of WW1 Commemoration lunch at Whittlebury, a Service of Dedication of a Memorial

to Lt..Col. Bernard Vann VC at Wellingborough School and our 858 Squadron Air Cadets Annual Dinner.

We have been pleased to support other Chains at the expense of our waistlines, attending the Mayor of Kettering's Civic Ball, Pumpkin Man Talk and Warner Edwards Gin Distillery tour (which was much appreciated by Melanie) and Sandy Town Council's Tribute Evening. Other recent events of note have included the extremely moving Crazy Hats Thanksgiving Service in Wellingborough and Huntingdon's Suffragette Flag Raising. We were also pleased to support the Lord Lieutenant' St. Crispin's Day Choral Evensong, the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) Youth Presentation Evening and Concert at the Derngate Theatre and the Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council's Civic Service.

Despite our extensive travels promoting the Town over a wider area, it remains our priority to meet and support events locally and it was a pleasure to present the Summer Reading Challenge to Rushden Primary Academy. We also enjoyed an afternoon at SHAW Healthcare's Victoria House as they celebrated their "10th Anniversary" with a tea party. I also had the pleasure of formally opening the Rushden Historic Transport Society's "Branch Line at War" weekend and attended an excellent Salvation Army Concert featuring "Perfect Resonance" – good luck to them on their forthcoming tour to Prague.

To conclude, once again the Town has pulled it off with our stunning Christmas Lights Switch on on Saturday – I've never seen the High Street so full and it was wonderful to see the youngsters thoroughly enjoying themselves. Comments I have heard include that "the lights are better than Northampton's" and the atmosphere was excellent throughout the day and the weather was kind albeit cold. I just hope people appreciate all the hard work that goes into the event, not just on the day but in the weeks leading up to the big event and hopefully our team can relax for a while.

Moving forward, I hope you can join us at our "A Celebration of Christmas" Service at the Heritage Chapel on Friday 14th December featuring Southend School Choir and the "It's My Life" team, commencing at 7:00pm. Also, keep Saturday 9th March next year clear as I will be holding a Mayor's Charity Cabaret Evening at the Rushden Masonic Hall. The next time we meet for Full Council Christmas will be a distant past memory – enjoy.'

251/19 POLICING ISSUES

Report from JAG Meeting held on 22nd October 2018

1. Update on Agreed Priorities *Report from Paul Mitchinson*

Drug use and dealing

A lot of drug warrants had been issued and good results were being seen. 1 known address had closed down its activities. Large and small quantities of class A and class B drugs had been seized. The targeted activity was achieving results.

Anti Social Behaviour at Rushden War Memorial

This was not as bad. A question was raised as to how the new CCTV was going to be installed. An order from Rushden Town Council was outstanding.

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

Report under next item.

2. Feedback on issues in Higham Ferrers – Arson and anti-social behaviour.

Three juveniles had been arrested and released under investigation. There were more witnesses and suspects to interview. The CCTV has been brilliant and was very clear. The Police were waiting for the CCTV from the fire engines as further evidence. Phones had been taken from the youths for investigation. The case was ongoing.

Consideration would be given to putting a Community Protection Notice for Saffron Road Recreation Ground in place.

3. Priorities

Members considered current issues and the following priorities were set for the next three months.

- a. *Drug issues in both Higham Ferrers and Rushden to be kept as a priority.*
- b. *Anti Social Behaviour at Saffron Road Recreation Ground.*
- c. *Anti Social Behaviour at Rushden War Memorial (Town Project).*

4. Any other business

Chris Healy reported that the direct link with Wootton Hall was still not operational. The Town Councils had agreed, but the equipment at Wootton Hall would not work.

Cllr Marian Hollomon raised the following issues: -

- Off road bikes issue in Rose Avenue - PC Mitchinson reported that 2 possible offenders had been spoken to – 1 had no bike and the other had a bike in bits*
- Drug gangs are very active in Rose Avenue*
- Osbourne Toy Shop – Shoplifting incident. PC Mitchinson would go and talk to the person.*
- Incidents in Rushden High Street at night. Police called and no response.*
- Incidents of people taken to cashpoints under duress with a machete and knives in Rushden. PC Mitchinson did not know of these and would make enquiries. May well have not been reported.*
- Cars going wrong way in Coffee Tavern at around 6am. Chris Healy would make sure that the CCTV picks them up, so Police can take action.*

Louise Morfitt would look to issue some publicity around the risks of insecure vehicles and properties.

The next JAG meeting is on the 8th January 2019, would Councillors please let the Town Clerk know, if they have any matters they wish to be raised at this meeting.

252/19 LEADER'S ADDRESS

Deputy Leader Cllr Richard Lewis reported

'Current projects are moving forward with work being carried out on a number of assets within the town, including play areas and Rushden Hall. The Christmas Lights Switch on was as always, excellent and the Events Team, officers and volunteers deserved a big 'thank you' for their hard work.

With the prospect of Unitary Authorities looming 2019 looks like being a challenging year for all Town and Parish Councils. The Leader had asked me to wish all Councillors a very happy Christmas and New Year and I am sure you will all join me in wishing Sarah a speedy recovery'

253/19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 6th November 2018

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 6th November 2018.

Policy & Resources Committee 13th November 2018

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 13th November 2018.

Planning Consultative Committee 20th November 2018

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 20th November 2018.

254/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 18th September 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 18th September 2018 be received and adopted.

Policy & Resources Committee 25th September 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources held on 25th September 2018 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 2nd October 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 2nd October 2018 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 23rd October 2018

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 23rd October 2018, be received and adopted

Chairman