

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM

Present: Cllr Adrian Winkle, Town Mayor

Councillors: Richard Lewis Phillip Humphrey Marian Hollomon
Paul Harley Adrian House David Coleman
Melanie Coleman Kaye Rawlins Tracey Smith
David Jenney Cameron Clarke Barbara Jenney
Cesare Marinaro Janet Pinnock Steven North
Joe Norris Carol Childs Andy Mercer

Town Clerk Vivienne Prodger

137/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

138/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Gill Mercer.

139/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 26th July 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

140/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

“Good Evening

It has not been a very busy time as August is traditionally holiday season.

Wednesday 27th July.

I was invited to the Prince’s trust presentation. I was impressed by the work they do in the way the help young people across a wide spectrum, ones who could quite easily get lost in the system. The princes trust gives them a purpose in life. They attend a 12 week course and come out the other side much better young people.

Sunday 31st July.

I attended the Mayor of Thrapston’s civic service. It was a nice to meet up with other members of the chain gang and forge new relationships.

Sunday 7th August.

I was invited to the classic car show an event which was very well attended. I had to pick the car I would like to take home, a very difficult task indeed. At the end of the day I was invited to give out the awards.

Wednesday 10th August.

I attended the Probus club lunch. This is a monthly event where they have guest speakers. I was asked to give a talk on my role as Mayor. It was also a chance to get to know the members and spread the word about what the council does too. As what is becoming the norm practically all of the local events I go to I have found I already know a lot of people from school days etc.

Tuesday 23rd August.

We have become firm friends with the people at Beat route radio and was invited to do a 30 minute slot on one of their shows. I had to select 6 songs from the seventies and chat about being the Mayor. The show was titled as Dreams or nightmares, a play on words. A great time was had by all.

Monday 29th August.

I was invited to go to the Motorcycle event at the goods shed, where I presented the trophy's. It was a well attended event and was good to see so many bikes there.

Saturday 3rd September.

In the morning I attended the Merchant navy day raising of the flag at the war memorial.

In the evening was Proms in the park. After a week of worrying about the weather all turned out to be good. As usual Rushden town band were on good form and a great evening was had by all, I received a number of thanks from the chains saying what a lovely well organised event it was. My grateful thanks to all those who helped to make it such a success, especially the 2 demon raffle ticket sellers Sue and Donna.

Sunday 4th September.

It was Bark in the park, once again a very well attended event and the weather stayed dry. I would like to say that although I took part in the sniffer dog display the drugs found were not mine. Well done to the officers who organised the event as it was a great success.

Monday 5th September.

Was the funeral of our dear departed friend and colleague Cllr. Sarah Peacock. An extremely sad occasion and Sarah will be sorely missed by so many people. R.I.P.

Thursday 8th September.

We learned of the passing of our Queen. An extremely sad day for our country. Our Queen was a lady whose dedication to our country and commonwealth is envied throughout the world.

Friday 9th September.

I attended the Lord lieutenants memorial service at All Saints in Northampton.

Saturday 10th September.

I laid a wreath at the war memorial in remembrance of her majesty, which was attended by around 100 people.

Sunday 11th September.

I was honoured to have read the proclamation which was also well attended.

Sunday 18th September.

In the morning I attended the Lord Lieutenants service at All Saints in Northampton.

In the afternoon we held our own service of remembrance at St. Marys. A service which was conducted by Rev. Tom King. Then at 8pm, as all over the country we held our 1 minute's silence and vigil for our beloved Queen. There was around 500 people there and it was great to see so many people taking part and laying flowers too."

141/23 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2022/23

Councillor Richard Lewis proposed that Cllr Tracey Smith was appointed Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023. This was duly voted on and it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tracey Smith will be elected as Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the remainder of Council Year 2022/2023.

142/23 APPOINTMENTS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Richard Lewis proposed that Cllr Melanie Coleman was appointed as a trustee for the Rushden Parochial Charities. This was duly voted on and it was

RESOLVED

That Cllr Melanie Coleman was appointed to as a trustee for the Rushden Parochial Charities

143/23 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE

Councillor Richard Lewis proposed that Cllr Joe Norris was appointed to the Rushden Town Council Community Services Committee, this was duly voted on and it was

RESOLVED

That Cllr Joe Norris was appointed to Rushden Town Council Community Services Committee or 2022/2023

144/23 POLICING ISSUES

Cllr Hollomon gave the following report from the last JAG meeting held on 10th August 2022

Present:

Mrs Vivienne Prodger - Town Clerk, Rushden Town Council
Mrs Angie Daly - Town Clerk, Irthlingborough Town Council
Cllr Jon Gray – Irthlingborough Town Council (Chair)
Mrs Emily Arrow - Assistant Clerk, Higham Ferrers Town Council
Cllr Bert Jackson - Higham Ferrers Town Council
Paul Wilcox – Rushden Town Council
Christine MacKenzie – East Northants Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Administrator
Chris Healey – Crimesecure CCTV
Louise Morfitt – Community Safety Officer NNC
PC Stephen Robinson – Northamptonshire Police

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Cllr Marian Hollomon (Rushden Town Council), Cllr Angela Gardner (Higham Ferrers Town Council), Sgt Leigh Goodwin (Northamptonshire Police)

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the JAG meeting held on 20th April 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

4. Update on Agreed Priorities

PC Stephen Robinson provided an update;

For the last 8 weeks the police have had weeks of action for the forces matters of priorities. They've had a very busy workload and have 2 PCSO vacancies and 1 PC vacancy.

Burglary

There have been 39 residential burglaries reported, including attempts and all residential burglaries have received reassurance visits, they have been given packs and signed up to the Neighbourhood Alert system. The police have had attendance at roadshows with the Beat Bus in various locations, including burglary prevention school talks in the area. They have also conducted proactive patrols in burglary hotspots as well as high visibility patrols in areas where it has been suggested that crime is taking place.

Roads and Road Safety Matters

21 tickets, summons and sec 59 warnings have been issued. Speed enforcement operations have taken place across the county, including locations in Rushden, Oundle, Islip, Raunds, Brigstock, Thrapston, Great Addington, Kingscliff, Collyweston and Luton. Safety talks have taken place in schools in the area, 2 vehicles have been searched, 7 crimes of dangerous driving or driving under the influence of alcohol, 3 arrests have taken place for drink driving or drunk in charge and 2 double fatal accidents, one in Rushden and one in Oundle.

Vehicle Crime

Operation Tentacle has taken place. This is a dedicated operation to target vehicle crime. Targeted patrols are taking place and leaflet drops are being made to addresses where motorcycle owners reside identifying safety risks and passing advice to them. 116 recorded vehicle crimes including interference and theft, including 38 reports of theft of motor vehicles between April and July. Majority have been within the Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough area, 2 stolen motor vehicles have been recovered in Rushden and a suspect has been identified. Further investigation is ongoing. One male has been arrested for failing to appear in court in relation to vehicle offences in Rushden and another has been identified as being involved in vehicle crime in the Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough area and investigations are ongoing. Continuous work is taking place tackling antisocial behaviour along with criminal offences. Vehicle roadshows have taken place at Fermyn Woods, Raunds and Rushden with the Beat Bus having been deployed previously.

Questions were discussed regarding the above update;

Cllr Jon Gray and Cllr Bert Jackson raised concerns about the lack of speed enforcement in Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers in the last quarter. Stephen Robinson advised it may be an issue with adequate signage allowing speed enforcement in certain areas and he will follow this up and see what they can carry out within the next quarter.

Paul Wilcox asked for the detection rates of the burglaries that have been reported. Stephen Robinson advised he had not been provided with these figures. He also advised that burglaries can take a long time to be convicted and you have to consider the long term statistics.

Cllr Bert Jackson brought up that Higham Ferrers Town Council discuss the statistics for crime in Higham Ferrers at their council meetings and it appears that we have quite high levels of crime and quite low rates of detection. He asks how we improve the rates of detection. Stephen Robinson advises every crime is reviewed on the evidence available but it's difficult to answer that question, the police must balance proportionality, current workload and whether it is in the public interest to move that case forwards.

Cllr Jon Gray suggests these comments are passed to Sgt Goodwin and considered. Angie Daly asks if these questions that have been raised can be taken back to the Sgt and the answers brought to the next meeting so we can have more information about burglary detection rates, speed enforcement locations and other concerns that have been raised.

5. Priorities for next 3 months

Top Priorities next quarter following the East Northants survey:-

Road Safety & Road Traffic Offences

Burglary

Drug Harm

6. Other Policing Issues

Cllr Jon Gray and Angie Daly from Irthlingborough raised the following issues:
Gate at Marsh Lane – vehicles are accessing through an unsecured gate and there are drug dealing and speeding issues. These issues have been reported to the police but are ongoing. The gate is privately owned and this presents issues with contacting the owner and trying to get the gate secured properly. Agreement is made to try and trace the owner and advise them of safety concerns and how to secure the area.
PCSO vacancy – Stephen Robinson advises that the vacancy for a PCSO in Irthlingborough is to be filled by the next cohort who are beginning training at the end of this year. The vacant positions are expected to be filled by early 2023.

Arson – Deliberate fires have been started in the area, Les O'Dell Park in Irthlingborough was mentioned as a location. Stephen Robinson advises that there have been a few deliberate fires started in a few areas but there is no direct information relating to this area and no offences have been identified. Irthlingborough TC have a crime number and will pass it on.

Electric Scooter – An individual has been causing issues riding through the town on an electric scooter, often masked up. Complaints have been made from local residents. Chris Healey advises that they have CCTV footage of an off road bike coming round a stopped double decker bus and knocking over a pedestrian. Chris is concerned there was no initial response from the police after reporting it and the instant number they were assigned appears to be for the wrong report and asks for a follow up about this. Stephen Robinson advises that if this individual is caught he can be issued with a section 59 warning, if it happens a second time the police have the power to seize it. The issue will be finding him, if the vehicle is unregistered (which is very likely) they cannot track it and must rely on catching him in person. Community intel may be useful to identify this person. In relation to the accident caught on camera, the victim must come forward for the crime to be investigated and the footage provides no information as to the identification of the individual and no means of tracking him so this limits the scope of what can be done.

Paul Wilcox asks what can be done if the public witness a crime in progress and mentions a similar incident with off road vehicles in Hall Park/Rushden High Street. Stephen Robinson clarifies these are classed as Road Traffic Act Offences and they are only recorded when a person has been found guilty of that offence. Offences that

are called through to 999 will be recorded as incidents but no crime recorded until the person has been found guilty.

Burnt out motorcycle – A staff member from Irthlingborough TC recovered a burnt out motorcycle from the central rec ground. Stephen Robinson advises that it is called through so they can try and identify if it is one that has been reported as missing.

7. Highways Issues

Irthlingborough TC raises the following;

There is a petition signed by residents of the high street and a meeting between Sarah Barnwell, Angie Daly, Cllr Jon Gray and the Mayor is requested to address this.

Zebra Crossings – there is no current update on when these will be painted.

Cllr Bert Jackson - Higham Ferrers TC raises the following;

There is a lot of resurfacing work going on Higham Ferrers in the near future, a meeting is requested between Sarah Barnwell, Cllr Bert Jackson and the clerk Alicia Schofield. The old A6 bridge site is discussed. There are still issues with fly tipping, rubbish, growth of vegetation and the amount of vehicles being moved onto the field under the main traffic bridge. Some drain pipes under the bridge are blocked and there is concern that blockages and standing water may be affecting the existing stonework and further damaging it. The length of time taken to repair is queried and it is advised this is a long process and elements are still awaiting approval.

9. Any other business

Christine MacKenzie – The Neighbourhood Watch have set up 2 new schemes recently. NW have also launched a national community safety charter enabling local businesses and individuals to stand up against crime. The pledges are to promote a culture that does not tolerate harmful language, antisocial behaviour and hostility towards others, and enables others to identify and take an active stance to prevent harassment, antisocial behaviour, hate crimes and intimidation within their community. This scheme also actively reports and encourages others to report harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation and share intelligence about these crimes with the relevant authorities. It is also designed to support those who have experienced these offences and refers victims to the appropriate agency. People can sign up to this scheme and it has been successful so far with a lot of interest. More info is at ourwatch.org.uk/charter.

10. Time and date of next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be held at Rushden Hall on 7th December 2022 at 10.30am.

145/23 LEADERS ADDRESS

To recorded on the minutes of 25th October 2022.

146/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Policy & Resources Committee 30th August 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 30th August 2022

Planning Consultative Committee 6th September 2022

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 21st July 2022

147/23 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members discussed recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on the 30th August 2022 regarding

- a) Recording of Meeting
- b) Equal Opportunities Policies

RESOLVED

- a) Recording of Meeting – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor
- b) Equal Opportunities Policies – to approve these policies and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

148/23 UNITARY COUNCIL

Councillor Bone:

I have attended a meeting of Kettering General Hospital Governors online, as well as a taxi licensing briefing. Recently, I also visited the food bank at Church Street in Rushden. In addition, I had a meeting with PCSO Bacon at Spencer Park to discuss local policing matters. I have attended the older people's forum in Rushden and will be meeting, alongside my colleagues, with local residents regarding traffic enforcement.

Councillor Jackson:

I have continued to attend a number of council meetings, such as planning. I have been corresponding with officers on issues brought to my attention as well. I am pleased to see the resurfacing works to the High Street completed and am keen to see further works locally, in the future.

Councillor Pentland:

Since the last report, I have attended a number of meetings relating to my role on NNC Executive, including the Executive Committee meeting earlier today. I have attended meetings with local businesses to discuss the work the council is doing and continued to work with residents in respect of enquiries and concerns they have. I will be joining my colleagues to meet with residents to discuss traffic enforcement.

Councillor Barbara Jenney:

Since the last report I have been involved with the Planning Department review, attended training for Towns and Parishes and various committee meetings.

Councillor David Jenney:

Agreement had been reached regarding Garden Waste disposal. Taxi Fares had been harmonised. It had been agreed that Knuston Hall would be put up for sale, the adjoining land is to be retained.

Councillor Steven North:

Cllr North advised there is to be a special plan with the Local Plan Part 2 for Rushden East SUE. This will be delayed until next year. NNC are to consult on a SPD

Councillor Andy Mercer:

Cllr Mercer advised that he has now been appointed onto NNC Area Planning Committee for East Northamptonshire. Members agreed this was a very welcome appointment and that Council Mercer would no doubt make a valuable contribution to any debate on Rushden planning applications.

149/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee 12th July 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 12th July 2022 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 21st July 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 21st July 2022 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 16th August 2022

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 16th August 2022 be received and adopted.

150/23 RUSHDEN-HIGHAM LINK

The Town Clerk informed members that a meeting had been arranged with Cllr Graham Lawman, Cllr Jennie Bone, Higham Ferrers Town Clerk and Expresslines to see if alternative arrangements could be made for a reduced Rushden-Higham Link.

Expresslines are to provide usage data so it can be determined how a reduced service could be achieved successfully. Members will be updated once this meeting has taken place.

151/23 WINTER COMMUNITY PROVISION (WARM ROOMS)

The use of Rushden Hall as a warm room and the provision of a room for English language study was deferred to the next Community Service meeting on 4th October 2022.

152/23 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.

153/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] 12th July 2022

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 12th July 2022, be received and adopted.

Town Mayor