

## RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillor: David Coleman, Town Mayor  
Councillors: Richard Lewis            Ron Pinnock  
                  David Jenney             Marian Hollomon  
                  Janet Pinnock             Robin Underwood  
                  Barbara Jenney            Kaye Rawlins  
                  Melanie Coleman          Tracey Smith  
                  Adrian House             Philip Humphrey  
                  Sarah Peacock            Gill Mercer  
                  Paul Harley                Carol Childs  
                  Andy Mercer              Colin Wright

Town Clerk:        Vivienne Prodger

#### **139/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **140/19 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Steven North and Cesare Marinaro.

#### **141/19 MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **142/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT**

*'Despite the holiday period, Melanie and I have been delighted to attend and support numerous civic events across the area with the diary certainly filling up for coming weeks. I'm grateful for all the continuing support and guidance received and look forward to a busy time ahead.*

*Highlights have, of course, been our "Proms in the Park" where the weather was kind, with Rushden Town Band again delivering an enjoyable and stirring programme with a good attendance and enthusiastic support for the evening. I've had positive feedback from both members of the public and civic guests who thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Again, my personal thanks to all who contributed to this success in whatever way, both leading up to the event and on the day itself. Without the level of support we receive in the background, I'm not sure how we could continue to deliver such occasions for the people of Rushden. I was pleased for the attendance of 858 Squadron Air Cadets on the evening for their flag raising and short commemoration service for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAF.*

*The following day, the Walled Garden was miraculously transformed to a miniature Crafts by our Officers with "Bark in the Park" again being a wonderful event for dog lovers.*

*Highlight for me was probably Melanie performing in the agility ring. An off-duty Mayor of Kettering attended on our recommendation and gave a glowing appraisal of the event, both in its scale and organisation. Our Clerk and her team can be justifiably pleased and proud of their efforts.*

*During the last few weeks, we have been fortunate to have attended numerous memorable events. These have included the Royal British Legion Service for Korean Veterans and the raising of the Red Ensign on Merchant Navy Day at our beautifully kept War Memorial and in Huntingdon, an RAF Wyton First Mission commemoration recognising the first action of World War Two.*

*It was a pleasure to visit Peggy Strickland, probably known to many of you, on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, followed by a visit to Avenue House Care Home Summer Fete.*

*Elsewhere, we have enjoyed a visit to Coton Manor Gardens with the Chairman of Daventry District Council, attended Daventry Town Civic Service and the Mayor of Northampton's Summer Ball.*

*Following on from "Proms in the Park", I look forward to seeing as many as possible at forthcoming events including the Civic Opening of Rushden Feast on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September with my Civic Service at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September approaching fast. We have good support from civic representatives from across the area and I hope to welcome you there. I look forward to announcing a number of other events shortly as details are finalised and am sure these will appeal to varying tastes.'*

## **143/19 POLICING ISSUES**

Councillor Hollomon reported that footage of anti-social behavior recorded at the war memorial had been studied by the Police and further warnings had been issued as a result of this. The previous warnings had appeared to work and certain persons are now not frequenting the war memorial.

Report from Acting Sargent Paul Mitchinson

*'Since our last JAG meeting our main concentration has been the drugs issues in Rushden and Higham. As result of the work carried out by neighbourhood and proactive officers targeting locations and offenders, during this time three suspects were arrested and remanded in prison for various drug offences.*

*Also we have been carrying out presentations relating to drugs, we had a lot of good comments from a presentation at a boxing club in Higham Ferrers where youths attended. This presentation is to be rolled out further in youth groups during the school holidays.*

*We are having regular joint meetings with all of the local schools as there is so much information that assists us in dealing with the issues on our area.*

Operation VIPER is now a force wide approach to drugs and Gangs, this will be our main focus for the area so can this be set as one of our LIPS.

The other LIP we wish to retain is the Street drinkers, as you are aware we have now issued a number of CPNW's which ban people from the war memorial area which seems to be successful as the number of complaints have drastically reduced and also it is visible that the number of drinkers at the location has also reduced. It will be further reduced when the CCTV camera is up and running. Can I thank the person supplying me with footage of a fight at the war memorial, this evidence supports a witness to the offence of Affray that I arrested the offenders for. Both are still under investigation, no charges have been made at this stage. Also this footage revealed a street drinker urinating, he has now as a result of this been served with a CPNW.

Also we have a new Police Constable, Pc 482 CLARKE who is a very proactive officer. We have again been targeting locations and offenders with positive results, we have already targeted one address which had been cuckooed and arrested known criminals for drug offences.'

### **144/19 LEADER'S ADDRESS**

'Good evening,  
Welcome back after the summer break and what a summer it has been. Once again we can hold our heads up high with some fantastic events that have been delivered, and we still have more to come in the coming weeks with events over the DNV week at the RHTS Food Fair and other events at the lakes, in the town, as well as the Mayoral events. The annual ones all come round too quickly.

Firstly, can I also add my congratulations for a fantastic weekend? Both events offered something different and were well supported. Well done to all those who helped in any way.

On the business front I am sure you are all aware of the impending Unitary Authorities? It took a step closer last week when 7/8 District/Borough councils voted in favour of the two tier structure. (Corby being the exception)

This is a very sad day for local government especially when ENC have worked so hard over the past few years to balance their books and cut their cloth accordingly. Many of us within this room have sat for many years as District Councillors and I am sure I can speak for you all it has always been a well-run council. Its demise is a great loss for local communities' but as they say "we are where we are" and must move forward with a positive attitude.

We now have to wait until the end of the year to see what the interim arrangements will be before the new councils start operating from 2020.  
Local elections may also be delayed until then and again we wait confirmation from the authorities.

As I am sure you all know these changes DO NOT directly affect the constitution of town /parish councils and our day to day running remains the same. That said there will no doubt be services that will be winging our way in various shapes and sizes. However, we must make sure that they come with funding and we can deliver them to our already high standards.

As the leader of ENC has pointed out that during the interim we must appreciate these are sensitive times with staff redundancies at the other local authorities. Fortunately that is not the case with RTC and until we are aware of our future needs no appointments will be made .Moving forward any future positions will be addressed by the Personnel Committee in due course. It is important that when these vacancies arise we get the right people to fill

*in with our existing structure's and add value to our already valuable existing staff and we continue to move forward until such times.*

*We will continue to monitor the situation as we get any feedback from NCC /District Councils and we will supported by NALC and other supportive bodies as we move forward. We will update the council accordingly and not make any knee jerk decisions. It is important that we **do not** take our eyes off of the services that we deliver. I have already had numerous residents approach me and ask how the Unitary will affect RTC. We need to make sure that the message is loud and clear that it is business as usual. Therefore, in the meantime we are continuing to deliver our own projects. Various grants are being applied for to improve the MUGA area at Spencer Park and the Hall Park toilets. Also our major project the Sports Hub continues to move forward and members will receive updates as they occur and as it becomes less commercially sensitive. The town has exciting times ahead and we deliver our promises accordingly.*

*Finally, on a personal note can I thank you all for your good wishes over the past few months and to all those who sponsored my head shave I hope to present a cheque for £1,000 to the Centenary wing at KGH on Monday. '*

#### **145/19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS**

##### **Planning Consultative Committee 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018

##### **Policy & Resources Committee 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

#### **146/19 PUBLIC LOANS BOARD**

Members considered the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and it was

##### **RESOLVED**

To enable Rushden Town Council to commence work on phase one of a new Sports/Community hub, the Town Clerk is given authority to investigate and prepare an application for a loan of up to 3 million pounds to the Public Loans Board, at the most advantageous terms to the Council, with consideration to an early repayment option.

#### **147/19 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Members considered the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and it was

##### **RESOLVED**

A Personnel Committee is to be formed as per the agreed Terms of Reference. The membership of this Committee is to consist of Councillors Richard Lewis, Sarah Peacock, Kaye Rawlins, Carol Childs and Barbara Jenney.

#### **148/19 STATION ROAD, RUSHDEN**

Town Mayor, David Coleman signed the following documents:

- a) Deed of Surrender, relating to 518 sq m (approx.) land at the corner of High Street and Station Road, Rushden.
- b) Lease of land at the corner of High Street and Station Road, Rushden.

#### **149/19 WALMER CLOSE**

Members considered the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

To take ownership of an area of land at Walmer Close, Rushden, together with a Developers Contribution of £18,000 to cover the cost of maintenance of the site for 15 years.

#### **150/19 TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES**

Members had been circulated with Rushden Town Council Policies. These policies were scrutinized by members and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) Data Security Incident Procedure – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- b) Employees Privacy Notice – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- c) Suppliers Privacy Notice – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.
- d) Shop Front Grant Policy – – to approve this policy and it was duly signed by the Mayor.

#### **151/19 STANDARDS BOARD**

Members considered the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

To recommend Councillor David Coleman as Rushden Town Council's candidate for the East Northamptonshire Council Standards Board.

#### **152/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Planning Consultative Committee 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018, be received and adopted.

Policy & Resources Committee 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018

**RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018, be received and adopted

**153/19 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.

**154/19 SPORTS/COMMUNITY HUB**

The Chairman of the Asset Management working party reported that revised plans of the proposed sports pavilion had been produced and these will be presented to the Rugby Club Committee in due course.

Responses had been received from East Northamptonshire Council Planning department on the Sports/Community hub application and the Manor Park application. This information had been passed onto the architect and our agents for their comments.

**155/19 REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**RESOLVED**

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, be received and adopted.

Chairman