

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Cesare Marinaro, Town Mayor

Councillors:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| David Coleman | Melanie Coleman | Tracey Smith |
| Paul Harley | Sarah Peacock | Adrian House |
| David Jenney | Richard Lewis | Kaye Rawlins |
| Janet Pinnock | Gill Mercer | Carol Childs |
| Ron Pinnock | Andy Mercer | Colin Wright. |
| Robin Underwood | | |

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

Present: Adrian Winkle

84/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

85/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Marian Hollomon, Steven North, Philip Humphrey and Barbara Jenney

86/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

87/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

'Once again welcome to our Full Council Zoom meeting.

We all seem to be adapting to our new way of life and trying to carry on as best we can.

The High Street is now open and more and more shops are opening. My Mayoral Duties have included visiting many of the High Street shops and thanking those who have stayed open throughout the Covid crisis.

Tomorrow I will be accompanying the Deputy Mayor (who will be dressed as Aunt Sally) around the town, together with Worzel Gummidge on a tractor! This is to promote the Garden competition which is now running. You will have no doubt seen the handsome scarecrows in Church Street and at Hall Park and the Rugby Club. I hope to see you somewhere on route.

I have also had the pleasure of delivering a 60th Golden Wedding Anniversary card and a

100th birthday card to Rushden residents.

My charity skydive is still on schedule for the 13th September and I am looking forward to it – I think?

Stay safe'

Cesare

88/21 POLICING ISSUES

The JAG met on 20th July 2020 via Zoom.

Members received an update on the agreed priorities. Most of the reported incidents within the parks had been drug related. Several reports had been made regarding drug dealing in specific parks. PC Mitchell reported that several arrests had been made in connection with intent to supply drugs.

Members all agreed that the priority should remain 'anti-social behaviour' within the town parks.

Irthlingborough Town Council reported that they are still having problems with the road adjacent to the A6 near the scrapyard and travellers site. Sarah Barnwell, NCC is to look into this to see if restrictions can be put in place.

PC Mitchell informed members that intelligence work is still ongoing with regard to drug dealing and the illegal growing of cannabis. Another cannabis factory had been uncovered in Rushden and this work will continue indefinitely.

The next meeting of the JAG will take place in September 2020 via Zoom– date to be determined

89/21 LEADER'S ADDRESS

'Since our last Full Council meeting in June, changes have happened daily. We have reintroduced our Community and P & R committees and this has allowed us more time to discuss the agenda items. We are all now coping with Zoom better though the mute button can still be challenging to us all at times.

Our Annual Accounts were thoroughly discussed at P & R and appear later in tonight's agenda. Considering all the Issues with Covid this is a great achievement and my thanks go to the Town Clerk and Kerrie for all the work that went into getting them ready for the end of year on time. I know some other parishes/towns have struggled.

We continue to support the towns businesses and organizations by partnership working and making them aware of outside bodies who may be able to help them too. Signage has been delivered to all the shops in the High St and offered to those outside the main shopping area. Later in the agenda we are bringing a Covid grant for your consideration to local community groups who may fall through the cracks but provide a valuable life line.

The RTC offices have staff back at their desks with new Perspex screens, a new door entry system that takes your temperature and a track and trace register when you enter. All the desks etc have sanitizers and staff are responsible for maintaining good practice. For the time being the offices will remain closed to the public, and if

members need to contact the office telephone & email are the preferred options. The Town Clerk did sound current information last week via email.

The High St and the Business Working parties are being started again, now that we are well on the way with our planning applications. Later in the meeting those who do not sit on P & R will be asked as to which WP they wish to join. Now is an ideal time to set our stall out as to how we, as a Town Council, wish to see the shops and businesses move forward, and with Unitary not far off now we need to have plans ready to present to them. The High St will need to be a partnership project in order to deliver our goals. With some quick fixes and some more long term. Our Comms team are still meeting on a Monday and setting out news items for the week. Media coverage has been good with Facebook and RTC Website. The ET have also picked up on some of our items which is promising. We have a Rushden Matters coming out in Sept and that is being worked on as we speak.

It is important to remember that we still have a large proportion of our community who are not social media savvy and therefore the good old fashion poster and paper are still required for some events.

I understand that the virtual Dog Show pictures went down well with over 200 entries. The finalist pictures were chosen and the winner to be announced soon once the votes have been counted.

The Garden Competition is still underway and last week we had some great scarecrows from the Rugby Club. We also have a live scarecrow and his tractor Aunt Sally visiting the town tomorrow. He will be in the Hall Park at 10.30, then Skinners Hill where he will be meeting the Mayor and finally in the High St. This is being done in aid of charity. Hopefully with little things happening it shows that we are still here and supporting the community. The Mayor is no exception and is popping up all over the show within social distancing of course. Every little piece of promotion for a business is crucial currently.

Any occasion be it a special birthday or event don't forget to let the comms team know, preferably before 10am on a Monday. We have had quite a few 100-year old's in the town during Covid. A real achievement.

I am sure there will be many changes between now and our next full meeting which is our AGM but please be assured the Town Clerk is continually scanning updates and applying them if they are relevant to us and we will keep you updated on any major changes.

Please keep you masks on, wash those hands and stay safe.'

90/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS

Community Services Committee 7th July 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 7th July 2020

Policy & Resources Committee 14th July 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 14th July 2020

Planning Consultative Committee 21st July 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 21st July 2020

91/21 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members considered the Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/2020

RESOLVED

That the Internal Audit Report for the year ended 31st March 2020 be accepted

92/21 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

a) Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/2020 and the Town Clerk went through this in detail. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/2020 is approved by this Council

b) Annual Accounting Statements 2019/2020

Members had been circulated with Accounting Statements for 2019/2020 and these were considered.

After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That Accounting Statements for year ending 31st March 2020, is approved by this Council

c) Statement of Accounts 2019/2020

Members had been circulated with Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2020.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts for 2019/2020 are approved by this Council

93/21 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Members considered the recommendations from the Community Services Committee regarding the criteria and amended Terms of Reference for Community Grants during the Covid crisis and clarification for Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

RESOLVED

That the Community Grants criteria to be amended to include general running costs and expenditure and not be limited to just specific projects. The grants will be limited to £500 and The Mayor, the Leader and Deputy Leader and Chairman of Community Services to be given delegated powers to approve payment of these grants.

94/21 HIGH STREET AND BUSINESS WORKING PARTIES

Members discussed the membership of the High Street and Business working parties and it was agreed the memberships will be as follows:-

High Street Area Improvements working party

Sarah Peacock
Richard Lewis
Janet Pinnock
Gill Mercer
David Jenney
Barbara Jenney
Kaye Rawlins
Marian Hollomon
Carol Childs
Steven North
Cesare Marinaro
Melanie Coleman
Tracey Smith
Paul Harley
Michelle Lewis
Vivienne Prodger
Julie Thorneycroft

Business working party

Sarah Peacock
Richard Lewis
Andy Mercer
Barbara Jenney
Philip Humphrey
Colin Wright
Robin Underwood
David Coleman
Adrian House
Michelle Lewis
Vivienne Prodger
Julie Thorneycroft

95/21 RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL FACILITIES AND MEETINGS

Members discussed the hiring of Rushden Hall for groups and organisations with regard to the ongoing Covid 19 situation and it was

RESOLVED

That unless all Covid 19 restrictions are lifted Rushden Hall will not be available for hire until January 2021.

Members consider the use of the parks and open spaces for commercial exercise groups and for football and rugby matches and it was

RESOLVED

- a) A message to go onto Facebook requesting that all commercial exercise/dance groups contacted the Town Clerk with details of their risk assessments, Covid 19 precautions and a copy of their Public Liability insurance.
- b) Football and Rugby matches will be allowed to take place providing the current Covid 19 restrictions are adhered to. All groups to provide the Town Clerk with detailed risk assessments.

RESOLVED

That all Rushden Town Council meetings continue to be held via Zoom until 1st January 2021.

96/21 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 4th February 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4th February 2020 be received and adopted.

Policy & Resources Committee 3rd March 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 3rd March 2020 be received and adopted

Planning Consultative Committee 2nd June 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 2nd June 2020 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 30th June 2020

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 30th June 2020 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor