

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN ON TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

Present: Councillor: Adrian House - Chairman

Councillors: Gill Mercer Janet Pinnock
Paul Harley Melanie Coleman
Sarah Peacock Tracey Smith
David Coleman Barbara Jenney
Richard Lewis Marian Hollomon

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

327/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

328/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cesare Marinaro and Carol Childs.

329/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5th November 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

330/20 RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Chairman advised that consideration should be given to how the Town Council celebrate their 20th Anniversary. Members discussed this matter at length and it was

RESOLVED

The following items be taken to the next full Council meeting for approval:

- Special 20th Anniversary edition of Rushden Matters
- Installation of a water fountain in Hall Park
- Anniversary Councillor photograph
- Creation of a beach in the High Street during the school holiday

331/20 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

The Chairman of the Events Working Party reported that all the acts had now been booked for Party in the Park and the main act 'Titan' had also been booked for the Christmas event. The bands had been booked for the Music in the Park events and booking requests had started to come in for stalls at Party in the Park.

The Royal British Legion and the Historical Transport Society were well advanced with their preparations for the 75 Years VE Day celebrations. Rushden Town Council is to install the Beacon at the Memorial Gardens for the evening of this event.

332/20 CELEBRATE RUSDHEN

Cllr Richard Lewis reported that the programme for Celebrate Rushden week is starting to take shape, although he was a little disappointed in the response from local organisations. A further meeting is due to take place in the near future and is hoped more events can be added. Swing's the Thing have been booked as the main band and other musical events will be taking place.

The Soap Box Derby has already been advertised, to give participants plenty of time to get their carts built. The layout of this event will be given careful consideration this year, after the difficulties experienced last year, with members of the public not adhering to safety rules.

333/20 POLICING AND HIGHWAYS

Policing –

Councillor Hollomon gave the following report on the JAG meeting held on 7th January 2020

1. Matters arising from Fire, Police and Crime Commissioners Meeting on 22nd October 201

Chris Healey tabled notes regarding his concerns with communications via the Police radios. Sgt Sharan Wildman agreed to talk to all other towns with a CCTV provision to enquire whether they had any issues as she was not aware of any problems being reported elsewhere.

Action – Sgt Sharan Wildman

Cllrs Marian Hollomon, Bert Jackson, Angela Gardner, Jon Gray, Angie Daly (Town Clerk Irthlingborough) and Julie Thorneycroft (Town Manager RTC) attended this meeting.

They all agreed that unfortunately too much time was allocated to the presentation, which meant there was limited time for questions from members of the public. Councillors Hollomon, Jackson and Gardner did ask our JAG's agreed questions but it was felt that this section of the meeting was hurried and the questions were not given full enough consideration. (The notes from this meeting have already been circulated to members)

As a result of questions asked by our JAG the PF & CC did offer that the Northamptonshire North(NN) Chief Constable would attend our next JAG. The Chairman informed him of the date of the next meeting, but unfortunately when Rushden Town Clerk emailed to confirm his attendance she was informed that this had not been recorded in his diary and he had another engagement and would be unable to attend.

Members agreed that a further invitation would be issued to both the PF&CC and the NN Chief Constable to attend our next meeting on 24th March 2020 at Higham Ferrers.

2. Update on Agreed Priorities

Anti-Social Behaviour within Public Parks in Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough

Sgt Wildman reported that there had been only 2 reported incidents in all the parks throughout the summer months. Other anti-social behaviour had taken place in other parts of each town but the parks had been relatively quiet.

Rushden Town Council had reported anti-social behaviour at Hall Park and this had been monitored by Crimesecure Ltd and good photographic evidence had been obtained. Also the installation of a CCTV camera overlooking the Memorial Garden in Rushden had appeared to help reduce anti-social behaviour in this area.

3. Priorities

Members discussed the priority to be set for the next quarter. Sgt Wildman reported that a number of burglaries at business premises had taken place in Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough. Sgt Wildman considered these burglaries were also linked to similar crimes in Wellingborough. Therefore, members resolved to make Business related burglaries within Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough the JAG priority for the next three months.

Louise Morfitt enquired whether it would be worthwhile inviting a speaker from the Retail Crime Initiative to a future JAG meeting. It was agreed this would be welcomed.

4. Any other business

Reports of motorbike nuisance had been made at Rushden Lakes and at both Higham Ferrers and Rushden. Two off road bikes had been reported and police are now working to identify the culprits.

There was a report of damage with an air rifle in the Pemberton Ward, this appears to be a one off incident as no further reports have been received.

Anti-social behaviour in the form of rubbish being dumped on doorsteps in Queen Street, Harborough Way and Kings Road had been reported to Waste Management at East Northamptonshire Council and they are going to look into this.

Cllr Gray commented on the problems at the A6 bridge between Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough. Due to the historic nature of the bridge and the traffic currently using this as a cut through to gain access to Chown's Mill roundabout, thus avoiding the traffic queues, both towns would like to agree a way that the bridge can be preserved. It was agreed that Cllr Gray, Cllr Gardner and the Town Clerk's from Higham and Irthlingborough will try and arrange a meeting with Sarah Barnwell from NCC Highways to see if this matter can be resolved.

Sgt Sharan Williams advised that because Higham Ferrers has lost Simon Arthur, an officer from Rushden has been seconded there. This means because at present there is no spare capacity Rushden has now only 3 PSCO's.

5. Time and date of next meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2020 at 10.30am at Higham Ferrers.

Highways -

Preparation is now well underway for the proposed works at Chowns Mill roundabout. Highways have been releasing detailed schedules of works. We are now receiving a weekly update of road closures etc, and this will continue throughout the whole works period.

334/20 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Links with Rushden Lakes – Christmas trading period 2019

Traders Nicky's Crystal World, Nostalgia and the Indian Market from The Arcade, 55b High Street reported a very successful trading period at Rushden Lakes. The businesses took up a trial opportunity to convert cycle racks into temporary Christmas stalls to sell their wares throughout the festive period. The stalls were organised and decorated as part of the Rushden Lakes Christmas event. In addition to manning their own shop in the high street they traded for 11 days out of a possible 25 (wet weather limited the stalls opening every day). All traders completed the necessary licences, risk assessments etc and have been able to report a worthwhile profit as well as seeing new customers into their high street shop, they are keen to repeat the experience. The Centre Management team were pleased with the added attraction of local Christmas stalls and we are working to investigate the possibility of a regular weekend market.

Several local businesses submitted vouchers and giveaways that were handed out by the roaming elves as part of the Rushden Lakes Christmas activity. Arrangements were also made for local choirs and bands to perform as part of the Nene Wetlands Visitor centre December celebratory weekend.

YourTown NN10 – the next Rushden & Higham Ferrers community run will take place on **Sunday 29th March**, the start and finish will be from Rushden Station, 5k route, open to 130 participants – working with partners Freedom Leisure, Running Buddies, East Northants Council, UKESS and Rushden Lakes. Promotion of the event is scheduled from 10th February – joint promotion through all partners including mention of

the Greenway litter pick taking place as part of the Out of Water into History project on Saturday 28th March.

Vintage and Homemade Fayre – Rushden Lakes are holding a Vintage and Homemade Fayre on the weekend 13/14th June (as part of Celebrate Rushden Week) – there are opportunities for local businesses and charity groups to have a cabin/stall to promote themselves for the weekend, local choirs, bands have also been invited to perform. Awaiting confirmation of the availability of the Open Top Bus so we can put on heritage bus tours throughout the weekend.

Rushden Town Guide – the new Rushden map is now complete, amendments to the existing copy of the Guide have been sent to K&M Media

High Street Interpretation boards – following confirmation of the annual event calendar I have refreshed the 4 high street interpretation boards; they will be installed as soon as possible.

Rushden Lakes website – agreed with Rushden Lakes Centre Management team for additional space to promote Rushden and Higham Ferrers on the RL website – copy and images to be submitted.

Open Top Heritage Bus Tours – working with Diamond Coaches to offer heritage tours in English Tourism Week (18th to 25th April), Celebrate Rushden (14/15th June) and on Heritage Family Fun Day (13th Sep)

Heritage Family Fun Day 2020 – plans are underway for the 3rd HFFD, working as part of Nene Valley Festival (12th to 20th September) 18 local businesses have already signed up, Rushden Town Band and the Salvation Army are also on board. A licence from The Crown Estate has been applied for.

Large Cabin at Rushden Lakes – I am looking into costs to have this cabin wrapped with local images we can then utilise the cabin as a base for continued promotion of the local area.

335/20 RUSHDEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

The Town Partnership had decided not to undertake and events for St George’s Day this year.

The Annual General Meeting for the Rushden Town Partnership is due to take place in March, the date to be advised for this in the near future.

336/20 WARD PROJECTS

WARD PROJECTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Sartoris	Rushden Hall	Exterior painting of courtyard	In House – on going		
	Rushden Hall	Disabled Toilet submission of building and drainage	Plans submitted to ENC Awaiting quotations	March 2020	
	Rushden Hall	Titan Spinner	HAGS Equipment installer – Kettering Play Safe	January 2020	
	Rushden Hall	CCTV Upgrade	CrimeSecure	October 2019	Completed

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Spencer	Spencer Park	Refurbishment of MUGA	En-Tout-Cas	October 2019	Lines to be completed when weather is better
	Spencer Park	Refurbishment of Tennis Courts	En-Tout-Cas	August 2019	Lines to be completed when weather is better
	Spencer Park	Inclusive Roundabout	Sutcliffe Play	January 2020	
		Inclusive Spring Toy	Sutcliffe Play	January 2020	
	Spencer Park	Artwork on Changing Rooms	Adrian Turner	Meeting w/2 2 nd Feb	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Hayden	Trafford Park	Installation of Climbing Frame	Playground Supplies	October 2019	January 2020

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Pemberton	Rose Avenue	Inclusive Swing Seat	Sutcliffe Play	January 2020	
	Lynford Way	Inclusive Swing Seat	Sutcliffe Play	January 2020	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Bates	Avenue Road	Street Light Replacements (11)	Eon	4 th November 2019	11 th November 2019
	Manor Park	Master Plan	Hinton Cook	Submitted ENC December 2019	
	Sports Site	Geo Survey	Soiltechnics	October 2019	Completed
	Sports Site	Topographical Survey	Bright Surv	October 2019	Completed
	Sports Site	Master Plan	Hinton Cook	Submitted to ENC December 2019	
	Cemetery	Refurbishment of Cemetery	In House	November 2019	Completed

Chairman