

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN ON TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2019 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

213/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

214/20 APOLOGIES

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

215/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 17th October 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

216/20 COCAINE ANONYMOUS

Cocaine Anonymous Rushden gave a presentation about the support they offer in Rushden.

Cocaine Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others recover from their addiction. The members of C.A. are all recovering addicts who maintain their individual sobriety by working with others. They come from various social, ethnic, economic and religious backgrounds, but all have a common addiction problem.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances. Anyone who wants to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances (including alcohol and other drugs) is welcome.

There are no fees for membership; C.A. are fully self-supporting through their own contributions. C.A. do ask for voluntary contributions at meetings to cover expenses such as coffee, rent, literature and services to help those who are still suffering. However, there is no obligation to contribute. C.A do not accept donations from organizations or individuals outside the Fellowship.

C.A. are not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution. In order to maintain integrity and avoid any possible complications, they are not affiliated with any outside organization. C.A. is a spiritual programme, but does not align itself with any religion. Individual members may have opinions of their own, but C.A. as a whole has no opinion on outside issues. They are not affiliated with any rehabs, recovery houses or hospitals, but many do refer their patients to Cocaine Anonymous to maintain their sobriety.

Councillors had the opportunity to ask questions and the Chairman thanked Cocaine Anonymous for taking the time to come and talk about the supportive work they are undertaking in Rushden.

217/20 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED

That the minutes from the Events Working Party meetings held on 17th October 2019 were signed as a true record

218/20 CELEBRATE RUSDHEN

Cllr Lewis reported on a meeting of the Celebrate Rushden group.

“Asked if there was a theme for the year he said it would be the 20th year of the existence of the Town Council and it was also the year 2020. There would be a celebration afternoon on Sunday 14th June with ‘Swing’s the Thing’ big band entertaining in the Walled Garden.

The Soap Box Derby would take place on Sunday 7th June with the help of the Princes Trust and Royal British Legion as this year. The programme would remain the same with possibly a better quality cover.

Ideas were asked for and suggestions put forward :

Poetry Trail

Pub Quiz

Barn Dance

Art/Craft Workshop (suggestion that a hanging basket could be planted)

Model Cars display

Rave for the youngster (something is needed for teenagers)

Town Band are holding a concert again (suggested Community Ladies Choir The Songbirds)

Walking Football

Cricket Match (could we do an inter-club swap i.e. footballers play cricket and cricketers play football)

Open Bus Tours

Lunaflix in Walled Garden

Trail with images of boots/shoes linked to the Lakes (Large decorated boots around the town which Julie would look into)

The Town Council would be employing a new member of staff responsible for social media activity so this would help greatly with advertising.

New ideas were needed and members were asked to go away and have a think ready for the next meeting sometime in the New Year.”

219/20 PARKING RESTRICTION

The Chairman informed members that there had been a request for support for parking restrictions in Albion Place, Rusdhen. Members considered this request and it was

RESOLVED

To offer a letter of support to residents regarding parking restrictions on Albion Place, Rushden.

220/20 POLICING AND HIGHWAYS

Policing –

Report on JAG meeting held on 8th October 2019

- 1. Update on Agreed Priorities**
Anti-Social Behaviour in all Public Parks within Rushden & Higham Ferrers.

There had been an issue in Saffron Road Recreation Ground at the end of August. The youths interviewed had been passed to the Youth Offending Service. The youths who had attempted arson in a bin had been spoken to. Cllr Gardner spoken about her interaction with the youth group in Higham Ferrers and youths at the skateboard park.

Julie Thorneycroft raised the issue of the homeless people in Rushden. Sgt Wildman said that they can't criminalise anyone for being homeless. Need to ensure there is intervention in place first.

Cllr Gray asked if anything can be done where residents are reporting issued of cannabis smells from neighbours properties. Sgt Wildman said they can't get a warrant for personal use, but it should be reported for intelligence for possible cannabis factories.

No problems at Rushden toilets. Sgt Wildman could not be specific on when patrols are deployed as it varies according to what other duties and incidents they are deployed to.

Cllr Gardner asked about intervention in schools. PCSO's go into all primary schools and there is 1 PCSO who visits all the secondary schools.

2. To consider new Priorities

The priority to remain the same - Anti Social Behaviour in all Public Parks within Rushden & Higham Ferrers & Irthlingborough with specific focus on Hall Park, Saffron Road Recreation Ground and Crow Hill.

3. PCC Meeting – 22nd October

The following would attend the meeting: -

Cllr Jon Gray and Angie Daly – Irthlingborough Town Council.

Cllr Bert Jackson and Cllr Angela Gardner – Higham Ferrers Town Council

Cllr Marian Holloman and Viv Prodger – Rushden Town Council

Marian Holloman as Chair would be the spokesperson. The attendees would talk via email before the meeting. The need for more officers was raised. The new funding would take 2 to 3 years to produce trained officers on the beat. One point to be raised is that Neighbourhood Policing should be just that and officers should not be used on other duties e.g. covert operations. Currently in the East Northants area there 4 Pc's, 1 Sgt, 12 PCSOS.

4. Highways

- Cllr Gray asked for barriers to be installed on Attley Way to stop Travellers accessing the area.
- Julie Thorneycroft raised the issue of the tarmac repairs instead of having slabs in high Street Rushden.
- Block paving starting to sink on Victoria Road, Rushden.
- Sarah Barnwell confirmed Ditchford Lane won't be close until A45 works finalised.
- Sarah would circulate programme for gully cleansing.
- Sandra Mitcham ask Sarah to look at Market Square potholes.

5. Any other business

Chris Healy raised the issue of the radio areas reducing from 4 to 2 with effect from 14th October. He was concerned that this would make it difficult to get on the airwaves.

Angie Daly asked whether an information sharing agreement could be put in place between Police, Town Councils and CCTV.

Councillor Hollomon reported on the PCC meeting held on 22nd October 2019.

This meeting was attended by Cllrs Jon Gray, Marian Hollomon, Bert Jackson, Angela Gardner and Angie Daly. Attendees were disappointed that the majority of the

meeting was taken up by a presentation which meant little time was left to discuss Parish Council's concerns.

Chairman Cllr Hollomon did manage to ask the agreed questions but it was felt this section of the meeting was hurried and not enough time was given to consideration of the questions raised. However, it was agreed at the meeting that either the PCC Steven Mold or the new Chief Inspector would attend the next meeting of our JAG.

Highways - There were no issues reported at this meeting

221/20 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Community Funding from Rushden Lakes/The Crown Estate

Community Funding (£5000) allocated for the **period March 2019 to April 2020**

£2500 spent on organisation of the Heritage Family Fun Day – 15th September 2019 (additional match funding from Nene Valley Festival equals £2800).

See below a proposal summary outlined for approval by Rushden Lakes/The Crown Estate for the remaining £2500 funding for the period up to 31st March 2020.

1. Joint Town Project - Open Top Bus Tours, Rushden Lakes, Rushden and Higham Ferrers

Following the positivity around the open top bus tour introduced at Heritage Family Fun day in September we are keen to hold a day of local heritage tours as part of **English Tourism week** (March 28th to April 5th 2020).

Proposed Costs

- Hire of Bus £350
- Tour Guides £50
- Promotion/printing £400

Total: £800

2. Joint Town Project - Community Board (Garden Square, Rushden Lakes)

Utilise the new community board in the Garden Square at Rushden Lakes to display the local heritage trails, one side to represent Rushden, one side to represent Higham Ferrers. Design & Printing of a **Rushden** Heritage Trail board to fit the exact dimensions of the community notice board. Additional wording to be added to ease access into the town. (approx. cost **£600**)

Proposed Cost for the overall project: £1000

3. Joint Project - Business & Community Meeting (Higham Ferrers & Rushden)

Introduction of regular Business and Community meetings on a quarterly basis, first one to be held in early 2020.

Proposed Cost £600

TOTAL Proposed Costs = £2500

Update on other projects

Town Guide – working with Cllrs Barbara Jenney and Janet Pinnock, we are looking for a design of a simplified Rushden Map, the map will be owned by Rushden Town Council and can be used for a number of purposes. Meeting with Ray Barnett, Pilot Marketing to work up a suitable design.

Shop Local Booklet – nearly **4000** copies of the booklet have been circulated, a few are remaining for collection from various locations across the area. A daily social media campaign promoting individual business offers is ongoing via Rushden and Higham Ferrers face book pages. Copies of the booklet are available at Rushden Lakes (Visitors Centre, Atrium and Centre Management Office). Booklets have been given out as part of the heritage family fun day and in goodie bags as part of the recent Rushden Lakes Style Safari event, further copies will be handed out by the roaming elves at the beginning of the Rushden Lakes Christmas Campaign. All “Shop on the High Street” vouchers are valid until 30th November.

Christmas Opportunities at Rushden Lakes

As part of the Rushden Lakes Christmas activities, the space between Fatface and L’Occitane will be transformed into a magical winter wonderland, Santa’s Post Office, Christmas music, lights etc.

Working with Rushden Lakes we are able to **offer local businesses** an opportunity to be a part of this event. Space underneath the cycle shelter is available to businesses in Rushden and Higham Ferrers throughout the period from 24th November, every weekend, until 22nd December 11am-4pm. The existing cycle racks can easily be transformed into stalls and will be provided free of charge. Themes must be Christmas related.

222/20 RUSHDEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

Cllr House reported the Partnership was continuing with the website, however, the management of this incurs a monthly cost. East Northants Council hold the remainder of the Portas Bid money and it may be necessary to access some of this to finance the monthly website costs.

A further meeting of the Town Partnership is to be arranged shortly.

223/20 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	TBA once tendered		
	Rushden Hall	Titan Spinner	HAGS Equipment installer – Kettering Play Safe	December 2019	
	Rushden Hall	CCTV Upgrade	CrimeSecure	October 2019	Awaiting parts

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
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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	December 2019	
		Inclusive Spring Toy	Sutcliffe Play	December 2019	
	Spencer Park	Artwork on Changing Rooms	Adrian Turner	December 2019	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Hayden	Trafford Park	Installation of Climbing Frame	Playground Supplies	October 2019	Mid November dependent on weather conditions
	Fosse Green	Installation of Climbing Frame	Playground Supplies	August 2019	Completed

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Pemberton	Rose Avenue	Inclusive Swing Seat	Sutcliffe Play	November 2019	
	Lynford Way	Inclusive Swing Seat	Sutcliffe Play	November 2019	

WARD	Location	Job Description	Contractor	Start Date	Completion Date
Bates	Manor Park	Replacement Knee Rail	John Clark	October 2019	October 2019
	Avenue Road	Street Light Replacements (11)	John Clark	11 th November 2019	
	Manor Park	Master Plan	Hinton Cook	October 2019	
	Sports Site	Geo Survey	Soiltechnics	October 2019	
	Sports Site	Topographical Survey	Bright Surv	October 2019	