

## RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Adrian Winkle, Town Mayor

Councillors:	Richard Lewis	Phillip Humphrey	David Coleman
	Paul Harley	Adrian House	Tracey Smith
	Melanie Coleman	Barbara Jenney	Gill Mercer
	Janet Pinnock	Cameron Clarke	Tony Spooner
	Joe Norris	Andy Mercer	

Town Clerk Vivienne Prodger

#### **243/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **244/23 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Marian Hollomon, Carol Childs, Steven North Cesare Marinaro, Kaye Rawlins and David Jenney

#### **245/23 MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **246/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT**

*Good Evening*

*Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October.*

*We attended the Thrapston Mayor's musical evening. This was a most enjoyable evening with the music being provided by the Thrapston town band.*

*Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November.*

*This was Nene Valley scouts 53<sup>rd</sup> annual firework display. I had great pleasure in judging the guy competition long with doing the countdown. The weather was not kind that night but that did not deter around 6 – 8,000 people crowding in to hall park. As per usual the fireworks were exceptionally good.*

*Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.*

*In the morning I attended the dedication of the garden of remembrance. It was good to see 90 children there from the schools in Rushden who played their part in planting crosses for the fallen.*

*Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November*

*I attended the air cadets awards evening. I was greeted by 3 cadets who very smartly stood to attention and saluted. I was very impressed with the way the awards went with all the cadet's receiving awards marched up, saluted received their awards, saluted and marched back off, obviously a well disciplined unit. They were all smart in their uniforms with highly polished shoes an absolute credit to their commanding officer.*

*Friday 11th November.*

*I attended the Armistice day service at the war memorial.*

*Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November.*

*We attended the remembrance day service at the war memorial. After a shaky start helping the DLL get his uniform correct, we all lined up for the parade to the war memorial. It was so good to see so many organisations taking part, marching through the streets to church parade where the service was conducted at the war memorial. It was overwhelming to see so many people turn out for this act of remembrance, we then proceeded to the church to continue the service. Afterwards I was invited to the library. That evening we received an email from Brigadier Parsons, the DLL, that thanked us for inviting him and also saying what a fantastic parade and service it was. He also said he would be mentioning us to the LL and all the other DLL'S.*

*Thanks to all the team who made this event possible.*

*Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November.*

*We attended the service and pie social at RAF Alconbury. As usual a warm welcome was received. After a short thanksgiving service we then enjoyed some rather delicious sweet pies, made up in some quite unusual flavour combinations. I resisted the temptation to try them all.*

*Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.*

*I attended the Rushden Rotary Chichele annual charter dinner and was well looked after. I learned a lot about Rotary whilst I was there not realising it is an open to all organisation. The work they do not only in this country but worldwide is quite an eye opener.*

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November.*

*A group of us went to Wellingborough Mayor's charity quiz night.*

*It was a speed quiz which I had never taken part in before where it was all done electronically. We did quite well really. Unfortunately, we did not beat Raunds who seem to dominate these quizzes, maybe next time.*

*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November.*

*The big one Christmas light switch on. It was a fantastic day which was supported by hundreds of children and adults alike. The highlight for me was the switch on itself. The lights are very impressive. A massive thank you to everyone involved and for all the hard work that goes in to the event.*

*Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.*

*We attended the gala opening of the pantomime at the castle Wellingborough. It was a very good evening and I can recommend you go and see it.*

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December.*

*I paid for 2 families who are a lot less fortunate than ourselves, who are looked after by East Northants childcare services, to go to the pantomime. The first family was on Sunday and I went*

to meet them and gave the children a selection box each. The second family will go later in the month.

### **247/23     POLICING ISSUES**

The Town Clerk reported that the next JAG meeting was to be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 and if members had any matters they wanted raising could they please let her know.

Several members again expressed concerns about witnessing drug dealing and drug taking within the town. Drug dealing will remain a priority and RTC will ensure this is discussed fully at the JAG meeting. Burglary was also a concern and again this will be raised as a priority at the JAG.

There were no further policing issues discussed at this time.

### **248/23     LEADERS ADDRESS**

*Good evening ladies and gentlemen.*

*I suppose the first question is what happened to 2023 but I guess it has certainly been an interesting year to live through.*

*However down here at the grass roots level I think the highlights since my last report have been the very good organisation of the Remembrance events in November which were very well organised by the Council officers plus assorted helpers. We also had very good support from the public over the few days.*

*More recently we had a very successful switching on of the lights, with a large public turnout , and our thanks to Councillor Coleman and the events team plus the great support by the council's staff. A good team effort and even the weather was kind.*

*On other fronts things are not so easy to control. I guess we are now seeing the combined effects of further problems caused by Covid combined with an increase in inflation, the degree of which we have not seen for many years. The latter also highlighting the lack of a UK energy policy which this country has failed to develop forever. Maybe some clear thinking will now come into those at the helm. I think we will now have to struggle with inflation and its effects on the Council finances for several years to come.*

*None of this will help our major activities since the finances of the new community facilities and Manor Park development will certainly be affected and also the organising of North Northants Council could be considerably affected by having to take high inflation into account on top of the overall reorganizational difficulties.*

*However, there are signs that some developments being considered by NNC could assist the general situation of Rushden and against the odds we have to try and remain positive and continue to support our NNC big brothers.*

*There are several consultations already out from NNC which we should respond to since they affect Rushden. In particular just published is a consultation on boundary changes which includes reducing NNC councillors from 78 to 70 and an opportunity to contribute to revised ward boundary considerations. Hopefully some of the anomalies of our wards can be sorted out.*

*I believe that we should be very concerned with the potential developments in the High Street, which now also has to cope with inflation and the loss of people's disposable income. We have had a spate of bank closures and very recently Travis Perkins stopped trading virtually overnight. Several large sites already have planning applications for multiple flats and one can only see more empty sites going this way.*

*We need to clearly communicate to NNC the urgent need for planning regulations which will give more control over the mix of our town centre properties.*

*I hope we can press Troy to move the Neighbourhood Plan update forward more quickly to try and bring in more control. Whilst each site continues to be looked at in isolation then there will be very little control over numbers of flats as we have already seen.*

*Finally we now approach the Festive Season and the end of the calendar year. I would thus like to express our thanks to the officers for their excellent work over the year and of course the hard work that you, my fellow councillors, have also done. Team work is still the key.*

*And so I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Fingers crossed.*

*And that brings me to the end of my report. Any questions please?*

*Many thanks*

## **249/23     MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Leader welcomed Tony Spooner onto the Council after his success in the election for the Spencer Ward seat.

### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Tony Spooner join the Planning Consultative Committee for 2022/2023

## **250/23     CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Community Services Committee 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### **Policy & Resources Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

### **Planning Consultative Committee 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## **251/23     UNITARY COUNCIL**

**Andy Mercer** – Andy informed members about the consultation for box junctions on the roads within Rushden and he urged members to complete the consultation. Councillor Mercer had attended Area Planning Committee, Council, Democratic Standards and Scrutiny Committee meetings since our last Council meeting.

**Gill Mercer** – Gill informed members she had attended Area Planning Committee, Council, Democratic Standards and Scrutiny Committee meetings since our last Council meeting.

**Barbara Jenney** – Barbara said the closure of Spinneyfields was of great concern. This site is in the ownership of West Northants Council and the closure had not been discussed with North Northants Council at any time. Barbara also said that efforts had been made to ensure that Rushden is firmly on 'the map' and there is now more reference to 'the 4 towns' which includes Rushden. Councillor Jenney had attended Area Planning Committee, EAP Planning Policy, Employment Committee, Licensing and Appeals and Licensing Panel meetings since our last Council meeting.

## **252/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### Community Services Committee 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be received and adopted

### Policy and Resources Committee 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be received and adopted.

### Planning Consultative Committee 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be received and adopted.

### Planning Consultative Committee 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor