

## RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Adrian Winkle, Town Mayor

Councillors: David Coleman      Barbara Jenney      Andy Mercer  
Adrian House      Gill Mercer      Melanie Coleman  
Janet Pinnock      Marian Hollomon      Carol Childs  
Tony Spooner      Joe Norris

Town Clerk      Vivienne Prodger

#### **347/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **348/23 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Richard Lewis, Philip Humphrey, Cameron Clarke, Steven North, Cesare Marinaro, Kaye Rawlins, Tracey Smith and Paul Harley

#### **349/23 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **350/23 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT**

*Good evening all,*

*January 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*I was invited to attend an event at Alfred Street junior school to present the Poppy cup. Each year this is awarded to the school in the town that, pro rata, raises the most money for the Poppy appeal. It was great to award the cup to my old school.*

*January 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*BBC radio Northampton called to see if I would take part in one of their shows. For one week the breakfast show featured Rushden. I was asked to go on the show and talk about my favourite foods and about being the Mayor, a lot of fun was had.*

*January 27<sup>th</sup>.*

*It was an honour to lead the Holocaust remembrance service at the war memorial. An important event in our history that must never be forgotten.*

*January 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*It was a pleasure to attend the county swimming championships in Corby. I spent the afternoon at the pool side with the Rushden swimming club who came away with nice haul of medals.*

*February 7<sup>th</sup>.*

*I was invited to the Park Road church to give a talk on my role as Mayor to the ladies fellowship. It was an unusual ask to be able to talk to a group of ladies about me without being interrupted.*

February 12<sup>th</sup>.

*I attended the Wellingborough Mayor's civic service. An unusual service where the Mayor gave a long talk.*

February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*I was invited to the Rushden Rotary charter dinner at Stanwick hotel. It was a good evening meeting up with a couple of old school pals. Good company also I have to say as I was seated next to Kaye.*

March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*I was invited to Beat Route radio to help them celebrate their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is always a pleasure to go to the radio station, and I have made some good friends. Cutting the cake was an engineering feat in itself. For those listening in I did not eat all the doughnuts.'*

Thank you, Adrian

### **351/23     POLICING ISSUES**

The Town Clerk reported that she and Cllr Holloman had attended a meeting regarding the local Joint Action Groups (JAG).

North Northamptonshire Council now want to include the work and priorities the JAG's set, under the new Local Action Partnerships. Both the Town Clerk and Cllr Hollomon voiced their concerns that this new strategy would 'water down' the concerns local Parish and Town Councils have about crime and anti-social behaviour. They both felt that a lot of valuable local knowledge would not passed onto the Police as it had been with the JAG system.

Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough Town Council Clerks suggested that we organise a group that meets regularly with the NNC community safety team to ensure our concerns about crime are considered.

### **352/23     LEADERS ADDRESS**

*'Good evening ladies and gentlemen.*

*Firstly, my apologies for not being able to present my report in person and hopefully my deputy will not find it a too onerous task.*

*We are now getting close to the by-elections which are unfortunately necessary following the passing of Councillor David Jenney. The results will be known on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> and will result in further changes to our council membership.*

*One does at times wonder if there are some hidden forces at work behind our Council with the sad events that have befallen us over the last few years*

*As mentioned last month it is necessary to look at plan B so to speak for the Manor Park developments and there are proposals later in this agenda tonight which will clarify the thinking for this project.*

*We are continuing to press Troy Planning for the High Street proposals but this has been further delayed by requiring some additional presentation for the Shirley Road development. Exactly where the appeal will be going for this development is now basically in the hands of the inspector since NNC have withdrawn their objections. A very disappointing situation after all of the work that*

*has been put into this exercise. However, strong representations have been made by our Council to the inspector.*

*Troy will be holding further consultations for the Design Code and Neighbourhood Plan In April after which point things should move forward rapidly.*

*Our submission to the Boundary Commission has now been sent off. I believe that we have very strong arguments for the formation of 3 Rushden only wards each with 2 councillors. Each ward will in fact be on the larger side of the nominal requirement and one ward is conveniently created in order to be easily expanded to 3 councillors as the population increases.*

*We are continuing to set up the Rushden to Higham bus link which has been well advertised in the recent edition of Rushden Matters and further updates will be given later in this agenda.*

*I also heard on the grape vine yesterday that it is possible that the HSBC bank will be closing. This will essentially mean that with our population with Higham of around 40 thousand we will have no bank. Something to raise urgently with our MP and find out where the community banks are at.*

*Finally, we are hopefully meeting shortly with the leader of North Northants Council, Jason Smithers, in order to discuss the general situation of our patch in the bigger picture.*

*And that brings me to the end of my report'.*

*Many thanks*

*Richard*

### **353/23 RISK REGISTER**

This document had been previously reviewed at the Policy and Resources Committee and suggested amendments had been actioned. Members considered the current Risk Register and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

To accept the current Risk Register as presented at this meeting.

### **354/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **Community Services Committee 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 31st January 2023

#### **Policy & Resources Committee 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 21st February 2023

#### **Planning Consultative Committee 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### **355/23 UNITARY COUNCIL**

**Cllr Barbara Jenney** reported that she had attended Area Planning Committee, EAP Planning Communities and Council meetings since our last Council meeting. She had also been involved in scrutiny regarding charging points, in particular the one proposed outside St Peter's Church in Midland Road, Rushden.

**Cllr Gill Mercer** reported she had attended Area Planning Committee, Council, Democracy & Standards and Scrutiny meetings and also chaired as meeting of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and attended the Police IAG. Gill has also been involved in the Boundary Review consultation.

**Cllr Andy Mercer** reported he had attended Area Planning Committee, Council, Democracy & Standards, EAP Prosperous Community and Scrutiny meetings since our last meeting. Cllr Mercer had also undertaken a lot of work with regard to the Boundary Review consultation.

### **356/23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be received and adopted.

#### Policy and Resources Committee 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be received and adopted.

#### Planning Consultative Committee 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be received and adopted.

#### Planning Consultative Committee 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be received and adopted

Town Mayor