

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL 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
	Cesare Marinaro	Carol Childs

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

46/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Julie Thorneycroft, Town Manager.

48/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4th February 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

49/21 COVID 19 UPDATE

Some Rushden Town Council staff are now fully back to work. Sean and Neil have continued to work throughout the lockdown and the Town Clerk and Contracts Manager are now back in the office full time. Further Covid safety precautions are being put in place and all staff should be returning shortly.

All our playgrounds are now open with full signage displaying Covid 19 regulations, enhanced cleaning has been implemented.

The public toilets at Hall Park and Duck Street are now open with reduced hours and again enhanced cleaning has been implemented.

The offices at Rushden Hall remain closed to the public and there are no weddings or room hire taking place until further notice.

50/21 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

The Chairman reported that all contracts for acts and entertainment for Party in the Park had now been rolled forward to July 2021. The bookings for Christmas 2020 are still in place at this time but obviously these will be reviewed on a regular basis.

A photographic gardening competition had been launched for Rushden residents and some scarecrows will be installed in locations around the town to attract attention to this.

Staff decided Bark in the Park would not go ahead this year and subsequently a 'Lockdown with your pets' competition has been arranged.

51/21 POLICING AND HIGHWAYS

Policing – Unfortunately the JAG meeting that was due to take place in March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid 19. A JAG meeting has been scheduled for 20th July 2020 and this will be via Video Conference Call.

Several arrests have been made in Rushden Parks in relation to possession of drugs and intent to supply drugs, in recent weeks. Sgt Leigh Goodwin and PC Paul Mitchinson have been focusing on a number of parks within the town, regarding drug dealing, possession of drugs and consumption of alcohol.

Two further cannabis factories have been discovered within the town and covert work is ongoing relating to the supply of drugs. Public complaints received have been predominately about drug dealing, surprisingly we have had very few complaints about anti-social behavior, which is surprising given the current climate.

If anyone has any policing matter they would like included at the next JAG can they please contact the Town Clerk.

Highways - Work at Chowns Mill roundabout is continuing with speed restrictions still in place on the A45 and A6 approaches. Mobile speed cameras are in place periodically on both approaches.

There are no other Highways issues to report at this time.

52/21 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Lockdown – COVID-19 Support & Guidance for Local Businesses

- Dedicated COVID-19 Community Advice page on the RTC website signposting the community to local/national help and advice.
- Promotion through social media of shops/services that have remained open throughout lockdown and the non-essential retail shops that reopened on 15th June and 4th July.
- Assistance to local businesses in understanding new advice and guidance through regular contact and dissemination of information. Regular promotion of webinars/information from East Northants Council and South East Midlands Local Enterprise Growth Hub.
- An offer for a free “shout out” from Beat Route Radio was circulated to businesses – so far 10 local shop/services have taken up the offer to promote their opening hours and remind shoppers of goods and services that are available locally.
- Hand delivery of business guidance packs detailing information to help local shop keepers reopen safely and to continue to operate safely.
- Dissemination of floor graphics, posters and banners to businesses throughout the town – 35 business owners visited our RTC gazebo in the High street on Wednesday 24th June, packs have also been hand delivered across the town.
- Regular meetings with ENC to make the best use of the Reopening High Street Safely Fund (RHSSF) to enable local businesses to safely re-open and trade whilst minimising the risk of COVID-19.
- Completion of a town centre walkabouts with ENC/Police and RTC to review reopening.
- 6 hand sanitising stations funded through RHSSF have been installed in the high street area.

Rushden Lakes

Regular communication with Rushden Lakes Centre Management team has been maintained throughout this difficult period. Guidance from Savills indicates there will be no events on site until December therefore local events including Heritage Family Fun Day (September 13th) have been cancelled in their current format. Following a meeting with the marketing manager on 2nd July I am working on a proposal to hold a scaled down heritage day involving one main stand, a week of digital promotion through various websites/Sm feeds, a series of podcasts/videos to meet the “local traders” plus footage showing the ease of travel from the town centre to the Lakes. More details to follow asap.

An opportunity for local businesses to promote themselves at a new dog washing facility at the Lakes has been circulated to vet related practices – there is a minimal cost (£25 per week) - so far I have no takers.

Rushden Town Guide

It is hoped work on the Guide can be resumed with KM Media asap.

Rushden Heritage trail - large image for community board at Rushden Lakes

Working with Pilot Creative Marketing Ltd to develop the current heritage trail to fit the community board.

ShopAppy

ShopAppy was floated as a proposal (P&R 14th January 2020) – Rushden Lakes Community funding I’ve recently heard from Dr Jackie Mulligan (the founder of ShopAppy), following conversations earlier this year a Rushden business has signed-up to the scheme and shopappy.com/rushden has been created. ShopAppy are keen to extend the scheme in Rushden. The scheme has seen success in 140 towns to date, would anyone be in favour of having a zoom meeting with Jackie to find out/understand more?

53/21 RUSHDEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

No meetings of the Rushden Town Partnership have taken place since our last update

54/21 COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING

Members discussed the possibility of changing the criteria of the Community Grant scheme. At present groups and organisations are only eligible for grants for specific projects. Members felt that because so many groups have been unable to fund raise this year, our grant scheme should be altered to allow funding for day-to-day running costs. Therefore, it was

RESOLVED

To recommend to Full Council that the criteria for the Community Grant scheme is amended to include day-to-day running costs and not just specific projects, within applications.

55/21 RUSHDEN COVID HEROES

Members discussed the possibility of recognising people who had made an exceptional community contribution during the Covid Crisis.

After much discussion it was agreed that at the present time it would be very difficult to single out individuals as a lot of good work was going unnoticed and unreported. Therefore, to avoid leaving anyone out, members felt it would be better to wait and organize some form of recognition once the Covid 19 Crisis is over. Nominations for the Mayor’s Awards will still take place in March 2021.

It was suggested that we follow Higham Ferrers lead and place 'ribbons of thanks' in a prominent position within the Town. This suggestion to be investigated further.

56/21 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