

## RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Melanie Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors: Sarah Peacock            David Coleman            Steven North  
Phillip Humphrey            Marian Hollomon            Paul Harley  
Adrian House            Janet Pinnock            Adrian Winkle  
Andy Mercer            Kaye Rawlins            Tracey Smith  
Carol Childs

Town Clerk            Vivienne Prodger

#### **349/22    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **350/22    APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Richard Lewis, Cesare Marinaro, Colin Wright, Gill Mercer, David Jenney, Cameron Clarke and Barbara Jenney

#### **351/22    MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **352/22    MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT**

Good evening, I trust you are all well.

This report is sadly, not going to take long. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January was Holocaust remembrance, and I attended the flag raising along with a few councillors. A short but moving service.

Burns Night at Raunds was the next event with neaps, tatties and of course the haggis, piped in with traditional bagpipes at the newly refurbished Saxon Hall. I was asked to give the 'lassies response ' which I thoroughly enjoyed doing.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> we attended the Swimming championships at Corby. It was lovely to catch up with Maisie our Gold medal Paralympic winner, she was one of my orphans when I played Miss Hannigan at the Castle. She is still so down to earth and lovely. We spent some time with the Rushden club, a polite group of young people who did Rushden proud. They ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> in the County, pretty impressive for a small club.

We attended the Wellingborough Civic Service on the 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. The 17<sup>th</sup> February was to be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party of Lily but sadly she was taken ill, I did however manage to take some flowers and a card a couple of days before.

Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> we attended the Charter evening for The Rushden Rotary, at The Stanwick hotel. A most enjoyable evening.

The 20<sup>th</sup> saw us in Northampton for the Civic Service of Rufia.

Thrapston was the venue for the 'Best of British' a Brass band evening. Very entertaining. A very good raffle but whilst we didn't win the Peacock house benefited from a couple of wins.

Back to Northampton for a NMPAT performance, excellent as always but made more poignant by a speech from a young Ukrainian student thanking Northamptonshire for their support of her homeland. Her grandparents were living in Kyiv in a cellar, I pray they are safe.

Finally, I travelled long distance to Rushden Hall to give a talk to the Ladies group. Thankfully Nicola was on hand to save my Power Point presentation. The room was filled with..... hats. Which made the ladies smile. That concludes my report. Looking forward to seeing some of you at my Barn Dance this Saturday and the Panto, '*Oh yes I will*', on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **353/22      POLICING ISSUES**

Councillor Hollomon reported that the next JAG meeting is due to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022. If members have any items they wish to put forward for this meeting can they please contact the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk reported that the Rushden PCSO's are continuing to use Rushden Hall as a mobile office. This provides a good opportunity to discuss any criminal or anti- social behaviour that may be occurring within the town. A bleed box is to be installed at Hall Park within the next few weeks and a knife amnesty box is also to be installed at Spencer Park.

There were no further policing issues at this time.

### **354/22      LEADERS ADDRESS**

Good evening. Before I give my address, I would just like to put on record, on behalf of us all I am sure, our support for the Ukrainian people who are currently in an horrific position and under attack from Russia. To watch the TV is distressing for us all and Rushden has many families who still have family living in their native country. Our cyclists acknowledged their cause and were well received. All gestures no matter how small give hope to those fleeing the terrors of their homeland. Let's hope a solution for peace can be found soon.

The Town Clerk and Deputy Leader have continued to meet and keep up to date with projects and the day-to-day operations of this council.

One project that we do need to deliver by the end of this month are the Jubilee trees. If you have not finalised your tree choice and where you wish it to be planted, please can you do so by the end of this week with Paul so that the planting can take place and record our place on the Jubilee Tree map.

A meeting has been held with Bellway who are delivering the housing on the A6 site near to our proposed Community/Rugby Club. There are similar issues that affect both developments eg.Highways and hopefully discussions moving forward will allow us to work in partnership. They too are struggling with communications and timings of their application at NNC so it is not just us.

It looks like our application will not now go to the NNC planning committee until May as there are no meetings in April. Therefore, we have had to agree to an extension until the end of May. The Asset WP continue to monitor existing projects and set up new ones to be delivered.

Over the coming months though we need to put out to tender the contracts for the pitches and review our financial position of the projects as a lot has changed since we first began some 3 years ago. Costs have risen and are still rising.

Troy continues to work on the various projects for us. The Levelling up Fund being submitted last week. I think we are all impressed with the outcome in such a short lead in period and we now have projects on the shelf ready to go. They can also be worked on and more meat on the bone added as we put together our Neighbourhood Plan and Town Designs.

There is a meeting tomorrow with us, NNC and Troy to discuss our ideas and ways forward. Details will be fed back in due course.

Last week Cllrs D Coleman, R Lewis and I met with The Clerk and Paul to make a start on the NNC asset Mapping project. Wow this could take forever!! We started with the main areas Car Parks etc owned by NNC. After 2 hours we had only scratched the surface.

This mapping has various layers, and they can be added as we go along so we are checking what has already been done so there is no duplication. It was decided that Viv and Paul would allocate a day to concentrate this project as there is no easy way of recording. We need to identify everything from dog bins to buildings.

The work could take up to two years we will keep you posted. It will be interesting to see how other councils get on. Some of the smaller parishes are not doing it at all. Watch this space as I am sure others will be dropping by the wayside too.

Next week sees our second Town and Parish Forum with NNC. This is a Zoom meeting but well attended. Topics have been submitted for discussion, but we have not had the agenda through yet. We can circulate the minutes once they have been agreed.

As we draw towards the lighter nights at the end of this month hopefully the world will become a brighter place too.

### **355/22      UNITARY COUNCIL**

**Cllr Andy Mercer** – Cllr Mercer reported that a Candle Light vigil had taken place at Corby in support of Ukraine. He suggested that we may undertake a similar vigil in Rushden. Members agreed and the Town Clerk is to look into holding a vigil at the War Memorial within the next few days.

Cllr Mercer said that discussions had taken place regarding NNC support for Ukrainian refugees and it is anticipated that 700 families will be supported within the district.

Cllr Mercer also reported that a lot of discussion had taken place regarding nursery school funding. With Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough receiving considerable funding Cllr Mercer had raised the question whether Rushden would receive any funding.

**Cllr Steven North** - Cllr North reported that consultation for the new Core Spatial Strategy was being worked on. It is anticipated this will be a 'lighter touch' consultation and it is due to start in the next few weeks.

Cllr North also advised that the hearings for the Local Plan will commence at NNC Thrapston officers in April. These hearings will continue until May 2022. Rushden Town Council will have representation through Troy Planning.

Cllr North commented on the situation with HMO's. Compared to Corby and Kettering, Rushden does have a fairly low number of HMO's at present. However, HMO's would still continue to be classed as permitted development and this may have a bearing on future application numbers.

**356/22      CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Community Services Committee 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

**Policy & Resources Committee 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Planning Consultative Committee 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 18th January 2022

**357/22      ALFRED STREET SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS**

Members considered funding for Alfred Street School 100 year celebrations

**RESOLVED**

Members agreed that the Council would award Alfred Street School £150.00 towards their 100 year celebrations.

**358/22      RISK REGISTER AND RISK ASSESSMENTS**

Members considered and reviewed the Risk Register and Risk Assessments for Rushden Town Council Events and Activities

**RESOLVED**

Members agreed that the Risk Register and Risk Assessments for Rushden Town Council Events and Activities be accepted.

**359/22      REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Community Services Committee 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be received and adopted.

Policy and Resources Committee 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**RESOLVED**

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

Planning Consultative Committee 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**RESOLVED**

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

Planning Consultative Committee 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**RESOLVED**

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

Town Mayor