

## RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN ON TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Councillor: Cllr David Coleman – Town Mayor

Councillors:	Sarah Peacock	Carol Childs	Richard Lewis
	Marian Hollomon	Philip Humphrey	Tracey Smith
	David Jenney	Janet Pinnock	Ron Pinnock
	Gill Mercer	Andy Mercer	Steven North
	Kaye Rawlins	Cesare Marinaro	David Coleman
	Melanie Coleman	Colin Wright	Paul Harley
	Adrian House	Robin Underwood	

#### **1/19 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Kaye Rawlins, seconded by Councillor Marian Hollomon and

#### **RESOLVED**

That David Coleman is to be elected as Town Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2018/2019.

#### **2/19 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor David Coleman signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and having done so took the Chair.

#### **3/19 MAYOR'S ADDRESS**

*'Firstly, many thanks to my fellow councillors for electing me as Town Mayor for the coming year – 2018-19. I'm truly honoured and humbled by their confidence and also, thanks to Kaye for proposing me.*

*May I also add my own personal congratulations to Barbara for a highly successful year, supported by David. They have made sterling efforts on behalf of the town, promoting its' name across a wide area. Melanie and I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting them when required and are excited by the prospect and opportunity of continuing their works. It has certainly been an interesting time, with a varied agenda promised over the coming twelve months.*

*May I also thank Melanie for her support, not least in her fashion advice which I am obliged to take. I am currently recovering from a dance injury, suffering a torn calf muscle at RAF Molesworth, sustained whilst endeavouring to do a polka at a hangar dance – hopefully my dancing will improve over the coming year.*

*A big thanks to family and friends for supporting me this evening and to local dignitaries for joining us – welcome and I look forward to catching up later. Also, special thanks to Viv., Jemma and the team for their ongoing support and guidance.*

*Born locally in Raunds, one of my earliest memories after our move to Rushden was watching the last time England won the World Cup so I've been a resident of the town for over 50 years and have certainly seen many changes. My daughter Francesca, here tonight attended Whitefriars and what is now Rushden Academy.*

*My family roots are in the town, both my father and grandfather being born in Rushden. I am perhaps fortunate to be here this evening. My grandfather, Arthur, who later had a wet fish shop on High Street South, had an unfortunate incident which may have put an end to the Coleman side of the family.*

*If I may, I'll read something I found on the excellent Rushden Research web-site. This is from The Rushden Echo dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 1909. It reads as follows –*

Considerable alarm was caused in High Street South Rushden, on Monday morning at 7 o'clock, by a terrific explosion, the whole neighbourhood being startled. The explosion in question occurred at the residence of Mr S. Chettle, No 10 High-Street South, with whom lives Mr and Mrs Arthur Coleman, the latter being Mr Chettle's niece.

It appears that the front sitting-room had been occupied on Sunday. In the room there is a central gas bracket, or chandelier, suspended from the ceiling and having 2 burners, and there is another gas bracket from the wall, with one burner. A smell of gas was perceived on Sunday, but it could not be traced. When the family retired to rest on Sunday night the gas was carefully turned off.

On Monday morning the smell of gas was very pronounced, and Mr Coleman set about to discover the leakage. As a precautionary measure, he first of all opened the front door. He then examined the gas tap but could not find anything wrong. Striking a match in the centre of the room, he tried the central gas bracket, but could not discover where the fault lay. Lighting another match, to test the side bracket, when immediately A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION occurred. Mr Coleman was hurled with great force backwards into the corner of the room, and when he attempted to rise he found the whole place on fire. It is evident that there was a large accumulation of gas round the top of the room.

So terrific was the explosion that the front room door was blown out and split into fragments. A cradle and couch were burnt; some pictures were destroyed; curtains were ablaze; and many of the window frames were smashed and the glass hurled into the street. A great deal of damage was done to other articles by the combined ravages of the explosion and the fire. Happily Mrs Coleman had the presence of mind to turn the gas off at the meter and thus averted what would undoubtedly have been a serious conflagration.

Mr Coleman was badly burnt about the face and hands, and his hair was singed. In trying to combat the flames, Mr Coleman received SERIOUS BURNS on his hind and his clothing was scorched in places. Although his face was burnt, happily his eyes escaped injury. First aid to Mr Coleman was delivered by P.C. Gotch who lives a few doors away and who ran to the house on hearing the noise of the explosion. Afterwards the services of Dr Owen were requisitioned, and the doctor carefully attended to Mr Coleman's injuries.

The damage caused by the explosion was not confined to the room in which it occurred. Some of the windows in the kitchen were blown out; the side posts of one of the doors were broken; and the adjacent wall was much damaged. The walls and ceilings in the front room were greatly damaged.

It is pretty evident that the cause of the explosion was the escape of gas from the chandelier, the water of which had run out, and in this way the gas had accumulated near the ceiling, to become ignited when the match was lighted. It is very unfortunate that the household property was NOT INSURED against fire.

*So, as you see, I'm rather fortunate to be standing before you this evening. To conclude, I'm truly looking forward to the year ahead as Mayor of Rushden, undoubtedly meeting many nice and interesting people, spreading the town's name and its' attractions and probably extending the waist-line.'*

#### **4/19 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR**

Councillor Carol Childs moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Barbara Jenney who had worked tirelessly during her mayoral year.

Councillor Tracey Smith seconded the motion and when put to the vote, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Barbara Jenney be recorded.

Councillor Carol Childs gave the following vote of thanks:

*'Barbara has been a superb Mayor this year. Together with her consort David, she has attended so many local events, to make sure she has fully represented the Town.'*

*Barbara has had a very busy civic year and she has hosted some wonderful Mayoral events, including the wonderful. Royal Marines concert. Thank you for representing Rushden with such enthusiasm and commitment.'*

'Councillor Barbara Jenney responded with the following:

*'Congratulations Mr Mayor on your election to office.'*

*We have reached that bittersweet moment when the weight of civic responsibility has passed onto new shoulders. So for my Consort, David, and I, it is now a time to reflect and to rejoice.'*

*A time for us to reflect on where we have been and what we have done over our mayoral year and a time to rejoice – not rejoice that we have actually survived the year (although at certain points that could have been in doubt) but in what a great place Rushden is and what has been achieved.'*

*These are exciting times for Rushden and we have much to reflect on. The opening of Rushden Lakes last year was momentous, and who could forget the façade of Osborne's toy shop decked out in Lego. Despite the uncertainty currently surrounding local government, the town continues to move forward and there are still more exciting times ahead.'*

*It has been an honour to represent the town throughout our busy year. David and I have hugely enjoyed all the engagements we have attended, large or small, whether they were in the diary weeks in advance or at just a few hours' notice. Our reward has been to meet some lovely people all working passionately within our community'*

*for their own particular cause. It has also given us a fresher insight into Rushden life.*

*We have also been pleased to meet and greet other civic heads. We hope we have been able to strengthen longstanding ties with our neighbouring authorities as well as forge some new associations.*

*David and I will have many memories from the year which will remain very special to us. Particularly memorable for me, would have to be the Concert by the HM Band of the Royal Marines and the unforgettable It's My Life group who performed brilliantly at both my Civic Service and my Carol Concert.*

*Inevitably there are a number of 'thank you's' which need to be said and in keeping with that tradition, I would like to thank my colleagues for electing me to the role of Town Mayor. To have not one but two opportunities to represent you has been an absolute privilege.*

*Thank you for allowing me this second opportunity to represent Rushden and for all your support throughout the year.*

*Sincere thanks to those who have supported my fundraising efforts. The final figure is still to be finalised but I hope to be able to present cheques to my chosen charities very shortly.*

*Special thanks to the Town Clerk and her team. I am very grateful to all of you for your help and support throughout the year.*

*Particular thanks have to go to Jemma as Mayor's Secretary, who has been a constant. Always in control. She has steered us through our busy year and I am very grateful for her infinite patience and support. Many thanks, Jemma, for your help in ensuring that the wheels on our particular bus did not completely come off.*

*I could not of course forget David, who has been at my side as my Consort throughout the year. He has performed admirably all the duties that could be expected of a Consort-chauffeur, timekeeper, financier and at times, most onerous of all, style guru.*

*Finally, to our new Mayor and Mayoress, David and Melanie, thank you for your wholehearted support as my Deputy. You have been brilliant. I have absolutely no doubt that as our new Town Mayor you will undertake the duties before you now with your exceptional enthusiasm and commitment. Have a great year. I am sure you will serve Rushden very well indeed.'*

## **5/19 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor David Coleman, Town Mayor asked for nominations for the Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor David Coleman that Councillor Cesare Marinaro be appointed Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the year 2018/2019 and seconded by Councillor Marian Holloman

It was

## **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Cesare Marinaro will be elected as Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2018/2019.

## **6/19 APOLOGIES**

There were no Apologies for absence.

## **7/19 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor, Councillor David Coleman asked for nominations for the Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Richard Lewis that Councillor Sarah Peacock be appointed Leader of the Council for the year 2018/2019 and seconded by Councillor Ron Pinnock. It was

## **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Sarah Peacock be appointed Leader of Rushden Town Council for the forthcoming Council Year 2018/2019.

## **8/19 LEADER'S ADDRESS**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Sarah Peacock made the following address:

*Good evening.*

*'Firstly, can I thank Cllr Barbara Jenney & her consort Cllr David Jenney for once again full filling her duties as Mayor of Rushden. Barbara always goes above and beyond the call of duty and delivers that extra mile.*

*Also can I take the opportunity to wish Cllr David Coleman and his wife Melanie a successful year ahead, as they embark on his Civic Year. Once again some exciting events lie ahead and I am sure you will look good on a Women's Tour bike, David!!*

*As usual, the past year has flown by and been very busy for all concerned. Our biggest achievement has to be the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan being given the approval of the inspector and I quote:-*

*"I would particularly commend the presentation of the documents and the quality of the plan –your team has done an excellent job-well done."*

*You will all have had your chance to vote in the referendum which takes place on Thursday 24th May. Copies of the NP are available online. This is a superb document, compiled by the council in consultation with the community. This will lay the foundations for the future development of the town. A long side this, the Rushden East Urban Extension moves closer to its Master Plan which will be delivered over the coming years as it passes through the various stages of planning.*

*Thank you to everyone who has put a lot of time into bringing the plan to fruition, especially Vivienne who has spent hours compiling, formatting and reformatting copious minutes with our advisors at DLP and ENC. We should all be take pride in the end result.*

*The council continues with its committee system to deliver the day to day running of the council. Our three main committees being Policy & Resources, Community Services and Planning Consultative Committee. Between them we have handed out over 10 community grants to local organisations within the town, 6 shop front grants to help local shop keepers to improve their street appeal and commented on many planning applications. We have also distributed section 106 monies across the town to improve local parks and play areas. I am sure there is a park near you that has had a face lift recently or is in the process of. The next one is Fosse Green where money from the Gresons' site will be used to upgrade the play equipment. We are also looking at some areas where parking needs to be improved due to cars parking on our open greens spaces. Without the section 106 monies this would not always be possible.*

*Growth within the town does have its plusses, if we work with the developers to improve existing areas. Negotiation and compromise is the answer.*

*We are continually monitoring our assets and have a list of jobs "to do" that is forever growing, however, our list of completed jobs is just as impressive.*

*Our parks are one of our major assets and the refurbishment of Spencer Park pavilion, with the help of a Community Funds grant from ENC, is a triumph, though it was somewhat disappointing to have a extractor fan stolen from the disabled toilet not long after completion. However CCTV will be installed and help us to monitor the site as we move forward. We still have the tennis courts and MUGA to revamp and we are applying for a grant from ENC to help with that project so fingers crossed.*

*The Nature trail in Hall Park continues to grow. This year we have added the outdoor classroom which will be officially opened on the 25<sup>th</sup> May when local schools will bring their lunches and a story teller will be on hand to enchant them in the woods with fairy stories etc. The bug hotels have also been revamped and a new log house is also being put into position. Signage is also being increased.*

*How can I move on from the nature trail without mentioning "Cyril" the squirrel? He is the new town mascot, who has grown from the children's drawings when we started the Nature Trail. He comes complete with a selection of waistcoats for all occasions and is a hit with children and adults alike .(Thanks to Cllr Janet Pinnock and her craft skills for the waistcoats). He has had several outings to Rushden Lakes, St Georges Day and the Rushden Station and appears on many Twitter and Face book sites. I am sure as his popularity grows he will be a great asset to the town and our tourism. Sometimes he can be a naughty squirrel but is good on escalators. There are times though when it does get quite hot in the costume. I will leave that one there!*

*Within the town we still face many challenges and do our best to address them. The issues on the War Memorial have prompted the setting up of the Rushden Community Support Project. In partnership with ENC, the police and various organisations we are working together to put in place systems that will help us to channel the homeless in the right direction for support in their lives. We have to appreciate that one solution does not fit all and each individual has their own requirements whether it be mental health, alcoholism, drugs or just that life has over taken them.*

*We hope to improve access to the relevant services by more direct routes. We even had a visit from the Police Commissioner, Steven Mould, who has promised support on this project and we will hold him to that.*

*The resurrection of the JAG group is keeping issues of concern in the public eye and by working with the police and other bodies set three main priorities each meeting. These highlight the area of concern within the town. Currently there is a joint initiative against drug issues within Rushden & Higham Ferrers and support for the War Memorial Project.*

*You can also become part of the Neighbourhood Alert system that gives you up to date reports on police activity in the town. Details available on the police website or see Cllr Marian Hollomon who is the chairman of JAG.*

*We have moved forward with our Tourism Group and have purchased our own gazebo, T Shirts and giveaways to promote the town when we are out and about. Events at the House of Fraser and more recently in the High St & at the revamped Cavalcade event enabled us to show the community what we are doing and helped us to promote the events coming up.*

*New maps and information boards are working well and we are working in partnership with the Lakes, Destination Nene Valley, ENC, Rushden Town Partnership and other local organisations to promote everything that is good within the town, from our award winning parks to our historic buildings. We now have Facebook. Very 21<sup>st</sup> century!*

## **9/19 MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of Rushden Town Council held on 20th March 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## **10/19 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2018/2019**

(a) Appointment of Standing Committees

### **RESOLVED**

(a) That the Standing Committees for 2018/19 be:

- Policy & Resources Committee
- Planning Consultative Committee
- Community Services Committee

(b) Membership of committees:

### **RESOLVED**

That membership of the committees be as follows:

Policy & Resources Committee

Sarah Peacock, Philip Humphrey, Gill Mercer, Richard Lewis, Steven North, David Jenney, Ron Pinnock, Janet Pinnock, Colin Wright, Robin Underwood, Barbara Jenney, Adrian House, Andy Mercer, and David Coleman.

#### Planning Consultative Committee

Paul Harley, David Coleman, Cesare Marinaro, Philip Humphrey, Sarah Peacock, Richard Lewis, Marian Hollomon, Carol Childs, David Jenney, Kaye Rawlins and Tracey Smith.

#### Community Services Committee

Adrian House, Tracey Smith, Barbara Jenney, Janet Pinnock, Richard Lewis, Carol Childs,  
Marian Hollomon, Sarah Peacock, Gill Mercer, Melanie Coleman and Paul Harley and David Coleman.

#### **11/19 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members were circulated with details of proposed representatives to outside bodies as follows:

#### Rushden Parochial Charities

Councillor Sarah Peacock to serve until 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Councillor Kaye Rawlins to serve until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Councillor Barbara Jenney to serve until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
Councillor Andy D Mercer to serve until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
Councillor Robin Underwood to serve until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### Joint Action Group

Councillor Marian Hollomon  
Town Clerk, Vivienne Prodger

#### Northants County Association of Local Councils

Councillor R Lewis

#### Northamptonshire Larger Councils Partnership

Councillor Sarah Peacock  
Town Clerk, Vivienne Prodger

#### Rushden East Project Board

Councillor Sarah Peacock



Councillor David Coleman

Rushden Town Partnership

Councillor Barbara Jenney  
Town Manager, Julie Thorneycroft

**RESOLVED**

That the list of appointments to outside bodies as mentioned above be approved.

**12/19 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

The proposed calendar of meetings of the Council and its Committees for 2018/19 had been previously circulated to members and it was

**RESOLVED**

That the calendar of meetings as appended to these minutes be approved.

**13/19 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members were advised of the list of current signatories. It was

**RESOLVED**

That cheques and orders for payments continued to be signed by any two from the following:

Cllr Mrs S Peacock, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr Mrs G Mercer, Cllr Mrs M Hollomon,  
Cllr R Pinnock and Cllr P Humphrey.

Chairman