

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Councillor: Cllr Adrian Winkle – Town Mayor

Councillors: Carol Childs Richard Lewis Barbara Jenney
Marian Hollomon Philip Humphrey Tracey Smith
David Jenney Janet Pinnock Cameron Clarke
Cesare Marinaro Andy Mercer Steven North
David Coleman Paul Harley Adrian House
Melanie Coleman Michael Tye

1/23 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor David Coleman, seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Adrian Winkle is to be elected as Town Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2022/2023.

2/23 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Adrian Winkle signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and having done so took the Chair.

3/23 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Council Adrian Winkle thanked members for electing him as Mayor of Rushden. He said that having grown up in the Town he considered it to be a great honour to represent his town in a Mayoral capacity.

Council Winkle advised that his wife Tracey would be supporting him as consort throughout his Mayoral year and his daughter Louise would also be supporting him at many events.

He considered that this was going to be a very busy year as Jubilee celebrations would be underway very shortly, but was looking forward to it immensely.

Councillor Winkle conveyed his best wishes to Councillor Sarah Peacock and once again thanked all members for supporting him in taking on this role.

4/23 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

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

Councillor Marian Hollomon seconded the motion and when put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Melanie Coleman be recorded.

Councillor Barbara Jenney gave the following vote of thanks:

' Melanie began her term of office in September 2020 at a time when we all thought the pandemic was behind us. That was not to be the case.

Even though Covid severely curtailed social contact, what Melanie has actually achieved despite the restrictions has been exceptional.

*Melanie's theatrical background has shone through. Her positive 'the show **must** go on' attitude has meant she has fulfilled the role of Mayor of Rushden with absolute passion and commitment – no surprise there.*

Despite the part the pandemic played, Melanie found ways to get out and about safely into the community, attending as many engagements as possible and carrying the good standing of Rushden forward. She has been an outstanding ambassador for the town and for the office of Mayor. In that she has of course been very ably supported by her Consort, David, who was even required to do the washing up at the Mayor's concert on Saturday evening as well as selling raffle tickets and sorting out the prizes.

Sadly all good performance must eventually come to an end.

The curtain may now come down on Melanie's term of office as Mayor but not on her commitment to this Council and to the people of Rushden. It is my privilege to propose a resounding Vote of Thanks to Cllr Melanie Coleman for her term of office as Mayor of Rushden'.

Retiring Mayor Melanie Coleman's response

Thank you

This has been the most difficult piece I have had to write, because it means my term in office has come to an end. It has been a total honour to be Mayor of Rushden and represent our wonderful town both locally and afar, and we certainly have travelled far.

What started off as a delayed Mayor making on Zoom (due to a certain Pandemic that didn't disappear after the expected 'couple of months'), turned into an extended but different term working in the confines of Covid. The second Mayor Making, yes, I had two, was in the walled Garden and the officers really made the best out of a difficult situation, I thank you all. David became very proficient at videoing the many recordings we put on social media from Christmas messages, Remembrance Readings from the front garden to general 'keep smiling' wishes. Michelle even recorded virtual lights Switch ons

Events appeared on the calendar and disappeared as quickly making fundraising challenging. Rushden Events we are known for were cancelled but are thankfully back this year and our new Mayor I'm sure will enjoy them to the full. We managed a controlled Remembrance service which was lovely but selfishly I missed being able to take part in the full parade with all the children and organisations. No doubt I would have cried, a lot.

My charities as you know are the Rushden Royal British Legion and I've been able to visit them at their events and coffee mornings as well as Rowan Gate School who I eventually got to see and meet the children

One chance meeting with Paul McKay led to me meeting the Falklands Vets who were marking 40 years and David and myself getting involved and visiting Plymouth. The furthest we travelled on Mayoral duties! What a privilege and honour to meet The Lord mayor of Plymouth the Attaché to the Falklands and most importantly some of the veterans.

A summary of the year is difficult but in my own way.

*I've attended events some large and some small
On doorsteps in Churches in fields and school halls
Teams and Zoom were a common destination
Under constraints of the virus until...vaccination!
Then the world slowly opened up and we were allowed to meet
What a joy to see real people and new friends to greet
We visited the base and our Alconbury friends
Pies, fireworks parties and great socials to attend
Birthdays and anniversaries locally were a joy to help mark*

*Meeting Rushden folk on the doorstep was a pleasure and may I remark,
There were several centenary birthdays celebrated this year
It seems Rushden is the place to live for long life and good cheer.
The 'Chain Gang' events have been both varied and great fun
From Irish and Burns Night and curry', to name some,
There were quizzes and concerts, Civic meals and fetes
So many memories so many 'greats.'
For me there was Proms and the Feast and my meal
The Carols Service, a Barn Dance to kick up your heels
A concert, My Panto. Dame Stitches OOOArghhhh
To those that supported, my thanks you are stars.*

*So now is the time to step down and have a short rest
Then another grandchild is on the way, we really are blessed.
To my fellow councillors thank you for believing in me
It's been a joy, pleasure and honour I hope that you can see.*

Thank you and before I sit down a huge thank you to a few special people, Viv for guidance Kerry for sorting the monies. Jemma the wonderful Mayor's secretary who has been amazing, sorting out the constantly changing diary. Finally, my other half David, thank you for all your support.

Therefore it gives me great pleasure to wish Adrian every success in his term as Mayor, ENJOY as we are sure you will 'do Rushden proud'

5/23 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Adrian Winkle, Town Mayor asked for nominations for the Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Janet Pinnock that Councillor Sarah Peacock be appointed Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the year 2022/2023 and seconded by Councillor Tracey Smith

RESOLVED

That Councillor Sarah Peacock will be elected as Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2022/2023

6/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf Councillors Sarah Peacock, Gill Mercer and Kaye Rawlins.

7/23 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor, Councillor Adrian Winkle asked for nominations for the Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor David Coleman that Councillor Richard Lewis be appointed Leader of the Council for the year 2022/2023 and seconded by Councillor Melanie Coleman. It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Richard Lewis be appointed Leader of Rushden Town Council for the forthcoming Council Year 2022/2023.

8/23 LEADER'S ADDRESS

' Good evening Mr Mayor, ladies and gentlemen.

*Many thanks for electing me to the position of leader of Rushden Town Council.
It is an honour and privilege to be elected to this position.*

I suppose in reality I have been the deputy bridesmaid for some 15 years and so I hope that it will be fairly easy to take on the mantle of leader and effectively become the bride. Quite a long engagement I guess.

I do not intend to make a long address since I am sure you are all thinking about the refreshments to come.

Rushden Town Council has operated a rather special arrangement since around 2007 when Colin Wright became leader. It was decided that with Colin working out of town, then it would be beneficial to have a deputy leader who was locally based. Thus the position of deputy leader was introduced and I became the deputy. The deputy leader was selected by the leader in order to be a small team at the head of the Council.

I believe that this somewhat unusual arrangement has worked successfully over the years and I am pleased to say that Councillor Melanie Coleman will be my deputy.

I would like to pay tribute to my mentors back in 2007 who were Councillors Ron Pinnock and Colin Wright. Sadly neither are no longer with us, but their contributions to the Town Council will not be forgotten.

I would also like to pay tribute to our retiring leader, Councillor Sarah Peacock, with whom it has been a pleasure to work with for the last 10 years.

Sadly, Sarah is not very well and is unable to attend this evening, but I am sure, on behalf of everyone here tonight, we extend our sincere thanks for her service to the Council, and our best wishes for a successful recovery.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our retiring mayor Councillor Melanie Coleman and her consort David for carrying the mayoral banner through the difficult times over the last two years due to the outbreak of Covid.

A very difficult time but well done for keeping the mayoral activities alive.

My thanks also to Councillor Adrian Winkle for moving up to the position of Mayor a year early since Sarah has not been able to commit to being Mayor this year. This is very disappointing for Sarah since I have seen firsthand how much she was looking forward to becoming Mayor. I have always seen the relationship between councillors and officers as a partnership and I would thus like to thank both councillors and staff for all of their hard work and achievements over the last year.

The Town Council has continued to deliver many projects across the town including enhancing the parks and open space, organising many events for the town and providing grants for organisations and High Street businesses to mention just a few.

However, it never ceases to surprise me just how much the local government scene can change over fairly short periods of time.

I believe that we are now faced with some of the largest challenges for a long time, but also probably some of the best opportunities.

We now have to deal with the North Northants Unitary Council. Whereas for some 45 years Rushden Town Council was a big fish in the East Northants Council pond, we are now a smaller fish in the North Northants Council pond alongside Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough.

But I believe that we must appreciate the problems of our overall masters and work closely with them to achieve the best for NNC and hence our own council.

We are still working hard to promote the Sustainable Urban Extension which has become rather like a never ending saga. We also have to resolve the Manor Park and new Sports Hub

planning problems as soon as possible. Not to mention the improvements to the High Street and working with local businesses.

It is essential that we continue working with our specialist consultants to conclude this work. But also to assist the council with new concepts and ideas for our town.

One of the newer terms to recently hit the scene is Levelling Up. Having worked in Corby in my formative years, a long time ago, I have never envied Corby for the facilities that they have achieved.

I see levelling up as a real opportunity to bring better facilities into Rushden similar to those obtained by our larger colleagues.

Interestingly, Kettering Corby and Wellingborough have lost their independence, as has East Northants Council, and have set up their own parish councils. Rushden Town Council with some 22 years of experience can offer unique help to these new parishes which will encourage us working together as a team in NNC.

In order to achieve our goals we have to work very closely with our partners, but never take our eyes off the goals that we wish to achieve.

It is not going to be easy going forward but I remain optimistic that we will be successful. Interestingly I recently attended a meeting at Thrapston where the new Local Plan for the East Northants area was being discussed and in particular the developments of High Streets. I was very impressed with the Examiner who was both astute and pragmatic. The examiner was able to identify that the new North Northants Council now owns a very large connected area in our town centre, and that this offers unique opportunities for Rushden to develop the town centre. Hopefully a good signpost to the successful future developments in Rushden.

I encourage all councillors and staff to work as a team and to extend this to our key partners. As our leader Sarah ended last year and which I fully endorse, 'Rushden Town Council will keep Looking to the Future'

Many thanks – Richard Lewis

9/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Rushden Town Council held on 19th April 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

9/23 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2022/2023

- (a) Appointment of Standing Committees

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Standing Committees for 2022/23 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

David Jenney, Philip Humphrey, Gill Mercer, Richard Lewis, Steven North, Sarah Peacock, Janet Pinnock, Barbara Jenney, Adrian House, Andy Mercer, David Coleman, Cameron Clarke, Melanie Coleman, Paul Harley, Tracey Smith, Kaye Rawlins and Adrian Winkle

Planning Consultative Committee

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

Community Services Committee

Tracey Smith, Melanie Coleman, Adrian House, Barbara Jenney, Janet Pinnock, Richard Lewis, Carol Childs, Marian Hollomon, Sarah Peacock, Gill Mercer, Paul Harley, David Coleman, Kaye Rawlins, Cesare Marinaro, Cameron Clarke and Adrian Winkle

10/23 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Rushden Parochial Charities

Councillor Kaye Rawlins to serve until 20th May 2025

Councillor Barbara Jenney to serve until 20th May 2025

Councillor Andy D Mercer to serve until 20th May 2025

Councillor Paul Harley to serve until 20th May 2026

Councillor Sarah Peacock to serve until 26th May 2022

Joint Action Group

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon
Town Clerk, Vivienne Prodger
Contracts Manager, Paul Wilcox

Northants County Association of Local Councils

Councillor R Lewis

Northamptonshire Larger Councils Partnership

Councillor Mrs S Peacock
Town Clerk, Vivienne Prodger

NNC Health and Wellbeing Forum

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon

Northamptonshire Police Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon

RESOLVED

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

11/23 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The proposed calendar of meetings of the Council and its Committees for 2022/2023 had been previously circulated to members and it was

RESOLVED

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

12/23 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,
and Cllr P Humphrey.

Chairman