RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2015
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Councillor: Cllr Mrs K Rawlins – Town Mayor

Councillors: Mrs S Peacock R Lewis S North
Mrs C Childs Mrs M Hollomon P Humphrey
Mrs B Jenney D Jenney Mrs J Pinnock
R Pinnock Mrs G Mercer A Mercer
R Underwood A House Ms T Smith
D Coleman Mrs M Coleman C Wright
P Harley

A minutes silence was observed before the meeting to contemplate the sad, recent deaths of Sir Peter Fry, Gwen Murdin (Past Mayor of Higham Ferrers) and Cllr George Whiting, Mayor of Higham Ferrers.

1/16 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J Pinnock, seconded by Councillor Ms T Smith and

RESOLVED

That Mrs K Rawlins Lewis be elected Town Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2015/2016.

2/16 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Mrs K Rawlins signed a declaration of acceptance of office and having done so took the Chair.

3/16 MAYOR’S ADDRESS

The Town Mayor made the following address:

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for electing me as your Mayor for 2015/2016. Thank you to my family, friends and guests for being here to share this evening with me.

It is an honour and a privilege to represent not just the Town Council, but the people of Rushden wherever civic invites take me throughout the year. I am really looking forward to this year and it is going to be a good one, but I can’t do it all on my own, so I am pleased to nominate two Consorts, my daughter Kate Knight and my sister Bettina Curson who will cover for Kate whenever work commitments prevent her from accompanying me.
There is always support from fellow Councillors and of course our wonderful Rushden Town Council staff who actually do most of the work. Please give a special thought to Jemma, as part of her duties include being the Mayor’s Secretary and this year she has the job of keeping me on track!

This evening I am very pleased to introduce you to the Mayor’s Cadet who will be with me at Civic functions through the year. I decided to go to the Army in honour of the ‘old soldier’ who suggested I became a Rushden Councillor. Ladies and Gentlemen may I formally present the Mayor’s Cadet for 2015/16 – Corporal Ryan Umney of the Rushden Detachment from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Army Cadet Force.

I am not naming any particular charity at this time because I feel that there are a number of local groups and charities that may need support during the year from any monies raised through our events.

Rushden is getting a name for its annual events so I am pleased to tell you that Party Week will include our now famous Party in the Park and runs from 3rd – 12th July (get your soap box carts ready for the great Derby on the 3rd). Proms in the Park will be on Saturday 5th September, the Dog Show is on Sunday 6th September and there is a new concert in June aimed at the younger generation.

4/16 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR AND PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR’S BADGE

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor R Lewis who had worked tirelessly during his mayoral year.

Councillor Mrs B Jenney seconded the motion and when put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor R Lewis be recorded.

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon gave the following vote of thanks:

Councillors and friends it gives me great pleasure to give the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Richard Lewis and his consort Mrs Rita Lewis.

It is my pleasure to thank you for the great job you have just completed as Mayor of this super town. I know that you have enjoyed representing us all at the numerous events you have attended throughout your Mayoral year, but Richard in very many ways you have added your own touches to the job! For instance, your Doggie Day made so many people smile with you during the events of the day and, likewise your involvement at Proms in the Park. Rita has been at your side every time supporting you and making sure that you looked right for the job in hand.

One must also note the very special friendship with our neighbouring town of Higham Ferrers and the great rapport between you and dear George, Higham’s Town Mayor, will never be forgotten.

Richard, thank you very sincerely from all your colleagues here at Rushden Town Council and on behalf of the people of Rushden for putting our lovely town well and truly on the map in the last twelve months.
The Mayor then called upon Councillor R Lewis to respond.

Councillor R Lewis responded with the following address:

I would like to begin by thanking my fellow Councillors for giving me the opportunity to be Town Mayor of Rushden for the year 2014/15. I have had a truly wonderful time carrying out my duties as Mayor and have met so many kind, fascinating and inspirational people. Rita and I have attended so many wonderful events and despite what I said at the beginning of my mayoral year, we have attended three events at Wisbech! We have been proud to represent the Town at every opportunity and have made many new friends along the way.

I would like to thank Rita for being my consort during the year, her support has been invaluable and greatly appreciated. Our Golden Wedding Anniversary which took place in September, unfortunately, got somewhat overlooked and I hope to make up for this at a ‘thank you’ event I have planned for 30th May.

I would also like to thank all the Councillors who have supported me over the year and the Town Council Staff, in particular the Town Clerk for telling me what I could and couldn’t do! and especially Jemma who has managed my diary so well and made sure I was at the right place at the right time and helped endlessly with the organisation of my own events.

I would also like to thank Cllr Mrs Pinnock for all her help with producing tickets and advertising material for my fundraising events.

My Mayoral year has been very eventful and I am pleased to say that I have raised in excess of £7,000 for my chosen charities. As you are aware some of my charity events were shared with George Whiting, Mayor of Higham and his good humour and great friendship will be sadly missed.

Finally, I would like to wish Kaye every success for her Mayor year and hope she enjoys it as much as I have enjoyed mine.

Councillor Lewis then presented flowers to his wife Rita, the Town Clerk and Jemma, the Mayor’s Secretary.

Councillor Mrs K Rawlins then presented Councillor R Lewis with his Past Mayor’s badge.

5/16 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Mrs K Rawlins, Town Mayor asked for nominations for the Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor C Wright that Councillor Ms T Smith be appointed Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the year 2015/2016 and seconded by Councillor A Mercer.

It was

RESOLVED
That Councillor Ms T Smith be elected Deputy Mayor of Rushden for the forthcoming Council Year 2015/2016.

6/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor C Marinaro.

7/16 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs K Rawlins asked for nominations for the Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor S North that Councillor Mrs S Peacock be appointed Leader of the Council for the year 2015/2016 and seconded by Councillor R Pinnock. It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs S Peacock be appointed Leader of Rushden Town Council for the forthcoming Council Year 2015/2016.

8/16 LEADER’S ADDRESS

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

Firstly, I would like to welcome all Councillors back and also would like to welcome our three new Councillors. With the elections behind us we can now concentrate on making the next four years effective and robust, in terms of delivering services and new projects.

May I, as Leader of Rushden Town Council, congratulate Cllr Kaye Rawlins on her appointment as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. I would also like to thank our retiring Mayor, Cllr Richard Lewis and his consort Rita for their tireless commitment throughout their very busy mayoral year.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me for a fifth term in office as Leader, I am pleased to say that Cllr Richard Lewis has agreed to be my deputy for a further year. We have, as usual, a busy and challenging year ahead and it is reassuring to know I will have Richard and fellow councillors supporting with me.

In the last year we have completed repairs to the listed stone walls on the boundary of Hall Park and the Walled Garden. We have also undertaken work on the stonework of the Hall as part of our preventative maintenance schedule.

We are continuing to make improvements to the ‘off leads’ dog area in Hall Park and it is pleasing to see more people are now using the park for recreational purposes without fear of their sandwiches or ball being stolen by a loose dog! The Dog Control Order for Hall Park created a lot of challenges and I would like to thank the staff for the hard work they put in to make this change effective and fair for both dog and non-dog users of the park.

This year we will continue to look for funding for new projects and will be exploring the possibility of installing an astro turf to provide additional much need sports facilities.
The new changing rooms at Jubilee Park have now been completed and will be ready for use for the new football/rugby seasons. The additional parking at Jubilee Park has made this facility much safer and more user friendly. We have been working hard to create designs for a new skate park and hopefully this will be completed by the end of this year.

Our Events Working Party continues to provide new and exciting entertainment, and I would like to give a big thank you to Councillor House and his hardworking team of councillors and co-opted members from the community.

Our “Get to Know Rushden” event proved to be very successful again and has now been altered to be a ‘Party Week’ for this year.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Parties have worked very hard to gather evidence and information for our Plan and this year will be busy with setting objectives, further consultation and finally writing a draft plan.

With Rushden Lakes and proposals for Rushden East, Rushden is now looking forward to very exciting and interesting times ahead. As a Town Council we must be prepared and ready to take these opportunities and continue to serve our Town well.

9/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Rushden Town Council [non confidential section] held on 24th March 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

10/16 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2015/2016

(a) Appointment of Standing Committees

RESOLVED

(a) That the Standing Committees for 2015/16 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

Mrs S Peacock, Mrs G Mercer, R Lewis, S North, Mrs K Rawlins, D Jenney, R Pinnock, Mrs J Pinnock, P Humphrey, C Wright, R Underwood, Mrs B Jenney, A House, A Mercer and D Coleman.
Planning Consultative Committee

D Coleman, C Marinaro, P Humphrey, P Harley, Mrs S Peacock, Mrs K Rawlins, R Lewis, Mrs M Hollomon, Mrs C Childs, Ms T Smith, D Jenney.

Community Services Committee

Mrs B Jenney, Mrs J Pinnock, R Lewis, Ms T Smith, A House, Mrs C Childs, Mrs M Hollomon, Mrs S Peacock, Mrs K Rawlins, Mrs G Mercer, Mrs M Coleman.

11/16 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Rushden Parochial Charities

Councillors Mrs K Rawlins to serve until 20th May 2018
Councillor Mrs B Jenney to serve until 20th May 2016
Councillor A D Mercer to serve until 20th May 2016
Councillor R Underwood to serve until 20th May 2016

Joint Action Group

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon

Northants County Association of Local Councils

Councillor R Lewis (Chairman)

Northamptonshire Larger Councils Partnership

Councillor Mrs S Peacock
Town Clerk

Rushden East Project Board

Councillor Mrs S Peacock
Councillor D Coleman
Rushden Town Partnership

Councillor Mrs M Hollomon
Councillor Mrs B Jenney

Joints Standards Complaints Committee

Councillor D Coleman

RESOLVED

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

12/16 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The proposed calendar of meetings of the Council and its Committees for 2015/16 had been previously circulated to members and it was

RESOLVED

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

13/16 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