

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2024, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present:	Cllr David Coleman, Town Mayor		
Councillors:	Richard Lewis Adrian House Andy Mercer Tony Spooner Paul Harley	Melanie Coleman Adrian Winkle Cameron Clarke Kaye Rawlins	Tracey Smith Gill Mercer Marian Hollomon Barbara Jenney
Town Clerk	Vivienne Prodger		

58/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Steven North, Janet Pinnock, Carol Childs, Philip Humphrey and Cesare Marinaro, King Lawal and Joe Norris.

60/25 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

61/25 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

“Good Evening

Five weeks into the Civic Year already – where has the time gone. It’s been a good start with varied engagements, and we are pleased (that is Melanie and I) to have been able to meet with numerous of Mayors and Chairmen from across the area. More importantly however, we have been able to support local organisations and events and to chat with numerous individuals from the Town.

Key events have been the D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorations where Rushden again put on a show to be proud, from the morning’s reading of the Proclamation to the evening’s Beacon Lighting in Hall Park. It was good to see such numbers turn up and thanks must go to all involved with the organisation of the day’s activities.

On the Saturday we attended the Northamptonshire County RBL D-Day Commemoration Service at the Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton – an early opportunity for Melanie to get the hats out.

We were pleased to attend HM Lord Lieutenant’s Afternoon Tea at Rockingham Castle, and though the weather was not kind, it was good to meet up with a number of other Chairmen and Mayors from across Northamptonshire.

To Northampton for the new Mayor’s Civic Reception and the Oak Apple Day Ceremony, Corby for the NNC General Meeting which saw the close of Cllr Jenney’s auspicious year as Chairman,

and to Raunds for the Mayor's Show. With hats out again for the Mayor of Peterborough's Installation in Peterborough Cathedral.

Locally, it was good to be invited along to Beat Route Radio, the "Home of the Rushden Gnome", for a chat and I look forward to a further opportunity to test Cllr Winkle with finding my record requests.

We had a lovely afternoon at the Athletic Club for the Northants Military Veterans Breakfast Club BBQ chatting with many old friends, with the "Chuckle Brothers" from Beat Route Radio broadcasting live from the event – most enjoyable.

Again, in The Town, we were lucky with the weather for the Soapbox Derby and satisfying to see such a good turnout to this extremely well organised event – a cracking afternoon although I did have microphone issues at times.

To conclude, there are already many events in the diary to which we are looking forward, starting with the Windrush Generation Celebration in the Walled Garden on Saturday followed by the much-anticipated Armed Forces Day a week later.

My thanks go to Cllr. Harley for his support where needed and with the diary filling, we can anticipate a busy year ahead."

62/25 PAST MAYOR'S BADGE

Councillor David Coleman, Town Mayor, thanked Cllr Tracey Smith for her service and enthusiasm during her 23/24 Mayoral Year. He then duly presented Cllr Smith with her Past Mayor's badge.

63/25 POLICING ISSUES

- i) PSPO Presentation - Mike Greenway and Will Bolter of North Northamptonshire Council gave a presentation regarding the newly sanctioned Public Spaces Protection Order for Rushden. (Please see attached presentation).
- ii) There were no further policing issues discussed at this time.

64/25 LEADER'S ADDRESS

"Good evening all

It doesn't seem 5 minutes since I stepped into the well- heeled shoes of councillor Lewis, lots has happened in the town as far as events go.

D-Day saw a respectful and well attended start to the day as our Mayor led the proceedings and laid a wreath . The evening was pure community with the U3A singing fun singers ,fish and chips picnics and veterans, in particular from the Navy joining the Vice Lieutenant for supper in the hall. There was also the wonderful display of the 'Woolies' a fabulous craft project fronted by Councillor Janet Pinnock. I brought Its My Life to visit and they were rather impressed. It was a delight to celebrate Jack Smith's 100th birthday something his son is still getting over, raving about how wonderful Rushden Town council is.

Soap box Derby followed on the Sunday an event championed by Cllr Lewis ,and now handed over to the events team ,again a real success story this even saw the Mayor's Consort attempt a Sprint down the run!! It was an extremely good PR event too, as several people came forward to help in the future. I would like to say a big thank you at this point to all the staff, in particular Paul and Nicola for organising and Sean and Neil for their hard work. The Princes Trust were amazing and worked so hard helping set up and take down the bales. Led ably by Ryan and Michael, thank you.

We now prepare for Party in the Park. It is looking to be an exciting day let's hope the weather is kinder to us this year.

As far as what is going on in Rushden, the procurement working party has been set up for the Grounds Maintenance contract. This is an onerous task and I thank those involved for taking on the job .

We have the beautiful commemorative mosaic on the wall of the museum I was delighted to have placed the first tile at the start of this project. Please take time to have a look at this.

We have all our committees in place with new chairman and deputies I thank each and every one of you for accepting the positions. Each committee has met at least once since the set up.

ASB and drug dealing are obviously a concern and I am delighted to see Mike Greenway and our PSPO team here tonight to give us an update on the progress.

We now need to move forward to complete the tasks Troy Planning is involved with, namely the Neighbourhood Plan and the High Street vision. These should support and help us with future plans.

As this is my first address in this position I would like to reiterate my thanks for your faith in me. I look forward with all your help as a team to move forward with positive steps for our Town"

Thank you

65/25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Policy & Resources Committee 28th May 2024

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 28th May 2024

Community Services Committee 4th June 2024

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 4th June 2024

Planning Consultative Committee 11th June 2024

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 11th June 2024

66/25 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

a) . Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/2024 and the Town Clerk went through this in detail. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31st March 2024 is approved and signed by this Council

b) Annual Accounting Statements 2023/2024

Members had been circulated with Accounting Statements for 2023/2024 and these were considered. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That Accounting Statements for year ending 31st March 2024, are approved and signed by this Council

c) Detailed Balance Sheet

Members had been circulated with the Detailed Balance sheet for 2023/2024 and this was considered. After consideration it was

RESOLVED

That the Detailed Balance sheet for year ending 31st March 2024, be approved by this Council

67/25 UNITARY COUNCIL

The following reports were received from Unitary Councillors:-

Cllr Gill Mercer - After the North Northamptonshire Council AGM I still remain Executive member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing and Co-Chair of EAP Active Communities and I am appointed to the Police, Crime and Fire Panel. Since our last Council meeting I have attended Full Council, Executive and Health Wellbeing Board meetings.

Cllr Andy Mercer and Standards Committee as Chairman, EAP Prosperous Communities, Employment Committee (Reserve) and Planning Committee (South). I have also been appointed to the Anglian Northern Regional Flood Coastal Committee. I have attended Democratic and Standards, EAP Prosperous Communities, Planning Committee (South) and Full Council meetings.

Cllr Melanie Coleman – Since our last meeting I have attended EAP Sustainable Communities, Full Council, Place and Environment Scrutiny, EAP Connected Communities and Democracy and Standards committee meetings. I am no longer on Planning Committee (South) but have be appointed to the Police and Crime and Fire Panel (reserve).

Cllr Barbara Jenney – After a very busy and enjoyable year as Chairman for the next Council year I have been appointed to Democracy and Standard Committee (Reserve), EAP Prosperous Communities (Reserve), Employment Committee (Chairman) Health Scrutiny Committee, Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee (Reserve) and Planning Committee (South). Under Outside bodies I have also be appointed to the University of Northampton Court. Since our last Council meeting I have attended Full Council, Employment Committee and Planning Committee (South) meetings.

68/25 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Community Services Committee 26th March 2024

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on the 26th March 2024 be received and adopted.

Policy and Resources Committee 2nd April 2024 [non confidential]

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 2nd April 2024 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 9th April 2024

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 9th April 2024 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 30th April 2024

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 30th April 2024 be received and adopted.

Policy and Resources Committee 7th May 2024 [non confidential]

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 7th May 2024 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 21st May 2024

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 21st May 2024 be received and adopted.

69/25 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential and sensitive nature of the following item of business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

70/25 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] 2nd April 2024

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 2nd April 2024 be received and adopted.

Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] 7th May 2024

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 7th May 2024 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor