

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL ON TUESDAY 23RD JULY 2024, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr David Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors:	Richard Lewis	Melanie Coleman	Philip Humphrey
	Adrian House	Adrian Winkle	Gill Mercer
	Andy Mercer	Cameron Clarke	Marian Hollomon
	Kaye Rawlins	Steven North	Janet Pinnock
	Carol Childs	King Lawal	Joe Norris.
	Bert Jackson	Harriet Pentland	

Town Clerk Vivienne Prodger

94/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

95/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Tony Spooner, Barbara Jenney, Tracey Smith and Paul Harley, Cesare Marinaro and Jennie Bone

96/25 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council held on 18th June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

97/25 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

“Following on from my previous Report in June, just five weeks ago, the diary has been filled with varied engagements, with a good number being in support of local organisations. I’ll keep it brief.

Our beautiful Hall Park has hosted a series of successful events, not least being the extremely enjoyable Party in the Park, with the weather being kind and the people of Rushden and beyond supporting the day in large numbers – thanks to all who contributed to the successful but long day.

The Walled Garden saw the 76th Anniversary Windrush Celebrations which proved an interesting occasion and over this weekend, Cyril the Squirrel and I were pleased to attend the Titan Fitness Boxing Academy Family Fun Run which I was grateful not to participate in – this proved a highly popular event and it was good to add my support.

Other community events attended locally included the Alfred Lord Tennyson School Family Fun Day and the annual Newton Bromswold Village Fete – always a good event despite the trauma of being asked to judge of the Children’s fancy dress competition.

Ribbon cutting was the order of the day with both the opening of Howden’s 850th Depot on Brindley Close and the extremely well supported 50th birthday celebrations and party at the Welcome Inn.

It was a great honour to be involved with Rushden Armed Forces Day, again well supported by the people of Rushden. However, it proved a trifle warm in the civic robes and I probably should have put sun cream on my head. It was also a privilege to attend the naming of the Clive Wood Room here in the Hall and it was a pleasure to reminisce about the many achievements of our dear friend Clive who we sorely miss.

We attended the Nene Valley District Scouts AGM and BBQ, which was good to support and to hear about their continuing good work with local youth. We were pleased to go along to meet up with the team behind the Phoenix Resource Centre, just establishing itself in premises on Portland Road. A truly eye-opening and humbling experience and I would encourage Councillors to accept the open invitation to go along next Tuesday (30th July at 6:00pm) to learn more about the commitment and works undertaken by this amazing organisation.

This afternoon it was a great pleasure to support the local Prince's Trust group with their Final Presentations at the Heritage Church and I wish the youngsters all the best with their future endeavours. The organisation should be commended for all the good works they do.

Away from Rushden, Melanie and I attended the North Northamptonshire Civic Service at Wellingborough, the Armed Forces Flag-raising in Peterborough, the NMPAT Festival of Music at the Royal and Derngate, Northampton.

It has been good to support local organisations and events and to chat with numerous individuals from the Town and I look forward to many more opportunities.

To conclude, again my thanks go to Cllr. Paul Harley for his continuing support where needed."

98/25 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Marian Hollomon reported that the next JAG meeting is on 11th September 2024 at Rushden Hall. If anyone has any specific items they would like raising at the meeting can they please email them to Cllr Hollomon.

Cllr Hollomon also reported that the yellow lines have finally been put down at Peck Way, near Home Bargains. Cllr Hollomon had been working on this matter for nearly two years and the Leader thanked her for her hard work and perseverance in this matter.

Members discussed the new PSPO Order on the High Street and Memorial Gardens. Whilst the order appears to be having some effect, it does seem that some anti-social behaviour is now taking place outside the exclusion zone. The Town Clerk is to discuss this matter with the Enforcement Officer from NNC to see if any further measures can be taken.

99/25 LEADER'S ADDRESS

"Good evening,

I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the Summer weather we have been experiencing recently. I must say it has been a joy to see our Parks looking so fabulous with the new summer bedding.

We have just had a photo with the Green Flag Plaque which is something as a Town we should be very proud of. To be commended and awarded this prestigious award for no less than..... years

is a testament to hard work. We must acknowledge and thank the team keeping the Parks looking their best. Challenging weather going from cold and wet to warm and dry, with trees, borders, culverts and streams to name a few things that have to be looked after make this quite an onerous task.. Congratulations to all involved.

Sadly, we have had quite a lot of vandalism throughout the town. Jubilee Park in particular has seen several arson crimes and sadly when all combustibles were removed, they, the culprits, brought their own in. With the arrival of the school holidays we are aware of the possible escalation of these crimes. Will and his team at Safer Communities will continue to monitor what is happening and engaging and educating to prevent further crime. On that front we are aware of the begging etc and they are dealing with it as they are able to. We have also seen a rise in Police presence.

A meeting is being arranged with the new MP to see how she can help and a round table talk about youth. Watch this space.

On Tuesday 30th August at 6.30pm you have all been invited to the Phoenix Project on Portland Road , please come along and see what Andrew and his team are doing locally and afar. It really is quite impressive.

Assets etc; we are meeting with Troy on the 24th to hopefully sign off on the Design code and start moving forward with some actions.

We are in the process of marketing some potential land and we are at last almost at the final hurdle of the purchase of the amenity land. Everything seems to take so long and I know how frustrating it can seem but it must be done correctly.

The Assets working Party are taking a tour of the Towns assets to assess the state of them all. The roof has been completed on the garages. The grounds maintenance work is moving forward with the Clerks having a meeting to agree terms. Our Clerk is also looking at a new Business Plan as we move forward.

Events - what a busy time. Soap Box Derby a great event always well received and positively we had quite a few offers of help for next time but we will still run and control the event. It is wonderful to see the families involved.

Windrush, an external event held in the Walled Garden saw a fun and happy day with new visitors to our park. Party in the Park our big event was a fantastic day. Personally, I think we achieved making it a true 'family day out'. Charities making lots of money. Lots of new stalls, Congratulations to, Nicola on getting so many involved, and a new layout because of this (great use of the Park Paul) The entertainment was well received and the Police were really pleased with the organisation. That in itself is an achievement with licencing throwing a curved ball over BOPA's in the run up to the day. A huge thank you to everyone who helped, we need bodies prepared to step in where needed but sometimes at events, as you all know, we don't exactly know when that is. I think we can safely say those involved were shattered but proud.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a glorious August and hope you get time to relax a little and enjoy life. We have a lot of things planned and need everyone full of enthusiasm and energy as we move forward."

100/25 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Due to Council Lewal's commitments at North Northants Council, he was not able to remain on Rushden Town Council Consultative Planning Committee, therefore it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Melanie Coleman replace King Lewal on the Consultative Planning Committee for 2024/25

101/25 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING

RESOLVED

That Cllr David Coleman, Town Mayor and Vivienne Prodger, Town Clerk sign the Land Transfer document for shrub bed at 24 Lime Street, Rushden

102/25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Policy & Resources Committee 9th July 2024

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 9th July 2024

Planning Consultative Committee 16th July 2024

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 16th July 2024

103/25 UNITARY COUNCIL

Councillor Jennie Bone - I was recently elected as Vice-Chair of the Council, which is a role I look forward to supporting the Chair of the Council through, in addition to my work as a ward councillor.

Councillor Bert Jackson - I have continued to attend a number of council meetings, such as planning. I have been corresponding with officers on issues brought to my attention as well. Over recent weeks, I have continued regular walkabouts throughout the ward and have reported any concerns.

Councillor Harriet Pentland - over the past month, I have continued to attend meetings, such as Executive Committee meetings and liaising with local residents. I have chaired the Sustainable Communities EAP and have met with local organisations leading the way on sustainability. As ever, I have been keeping in touch with local residents via email and other means of communication.

Councillor Andy Mercer – Since our last meeting I have chaired a meeting of the Democracy and Standards Committee and have attended Full Council, Corporate Security Committee, EAP Prosperous Communities and Planning (South) meetings.

Councillor Gill Mercer – I have chaired a Health and Wellbeing meeting, attended two Executive Board meetings, Full Council and Health and Scrutiny meetings. I have also attended an LCWHIP meeting and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner meeting.

Councillor Melanie Coleman – Since our last meeting I have attended Full Council, EAP Sustainable Communities, Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee and an LCWHIP meeting.

Councillor Steven North – In recent weeks I have attended Full Council, Planning (South), Corporate Scrutiny, EAP Planning Communities and Scrutiny Management Board meetings.

104/25 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee 28th May 2024 [non confidential]

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 28th May 2024 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 11th June 2024

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 11th June 2024 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 25th June 2024

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 25th June 2024 be received and adopted.

105/25 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.

106/25 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] 28th May 2024

RESOLVED

That the confidential section of the report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee [confidential section] held on 28th May 2024 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor