

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2015 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor R J Gell)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)	
Councillor D Drage		Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor D C Lawson MBE		Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor Mrs S Mantle		Councillor C O'Rourke
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson		Councillor J Smithers
Councillor P Tomas		
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO R Brown, 1 member of the public and Steve Pearce from Highways England and Mark Roxburgh from AOne+.

15/239. **APOLOGIES**
Cllr Mrs V Newbery, Cllr D Hamblin, Cllr Mrs C Reavey and District Cllr G Harwood MBE.

15/240. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Other Interests
Cllr Mrs S Mantle, Cllr A M T Reading, Cllr B Prigmore and Cllr D Drage – Item 15- All patients at Higham Ferrers Surgery.
Cllr D Drage – Item 8.3.(iv) – Owns a property adjacent to the one under consideration.
Cllr H L Jackson – Item 8.3. 9 (iv) – Lives near the property.
Cllr R Gell– Item 12.1. chq no 300113– Mayoral Expenses.
Cllr J Smithers – Item 8.3. (iv) – Owns a hot food business in the town.

15/241. **MINUTES**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the meetings held on 29th September 2015 and 12th October 2015 be signed as being a true and correct record.

15/242. **POLICING**
PCSO R Brown gave the following report:-

	2014	2015
Burglary Dwelling	0	2
Burglary Other	13	12
Criminal Damage	8	10
Drug Offences	2	2
Other Offences	0	2
Sexual Offences	0	2
Theft from Motor Vehicles	5	5
Theft/Handling	4	10
Theft of Motor Vehicles	1	1
Violence Offences	8	4

The following issues were raised:-

- Speeding in Vine Hill Drive- This is an area that is being monitored.
- BMW wrapped around the lamp post in Kimbolton Road
- Cyber Crime
- Two mopeds on the skateboard park had been issued with s59 notices.

15/243. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

No public spoke.

15/244. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor gave the following report:-

- Rushden Civic Service.
- Thrapston Civic Service.
- Visited 6 John White Close to greet visitors to the resident who were the Burgermeister and his family from Heiloo, Holland.
- There will be a joint fundraising event on 28th December at Rushden Bowls Club.

15/245. **PLANNING.**

15/245.1 To consider responses to the following planning applications received: -

- (i) **15/01687/FUL: Retrospective planning consent for the replacement of existing timber framed, and clad rear extension with masonry construction in lieu. Removal of existing UPVC existing roofing, replacement with tile to match existing adjacent: 42 York Rd, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That no objections be made to the application. It was a welcome improvement.

- (ii) **15/01912/FUL: Adaption of existing wall and access at Atlanta House, Midland Rd, Higham Ferrers.**

Members were concerned about the impact of articulated lorries trying to manoeuvre into the access.

RESOLVED:

That the application be delegated to the Planning Committee for a decision in order that comments from the Highways Authority could be received and considered.

- (iii) **15/01803/FUL: Replacement extract flue at the Griffin Hotel, Higham Street, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council have no objections to the appearance of the replacement extract flue. They request that a condition is placed on the application to request a scheme for the control of noise and vibration of any plant or ducting system to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

- (iv) **15/1804/LBC Replacement extract flue: The Griffin Inn, High Street, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council have no objections to the appearance of the replacement extract flue. They request that a condition is placed on the application to request a scheme for the control of noise and vibration of any plant or ducting system to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

15/245.2 **To note determinations on planning applications.**

That the report on determinations of planning applications previously considered be noted.

15/246

CHOWNS MILL

Steve Pearce from Highways England and Mark Roxburgh from AOne+ were present at the meeting to talk about Chowns Mill improvements. They presented the current plans for improvements which was due to start work in 2019 and would take about a year. This was a realistic start date, but would bring it forward if there was an opportunity to do so, but are keen that false hopes are not given to the community. They had been working on the plans for 18 months – 2 years now, with extensive involvement from Northamptonshire County Highways. All cycle crossing are ‘at grade’ and most are signalised. Steve Pearce is a Regional Cycling Champion so is keen to promote cycling. They are aware of the strength of feeling around this junction, but there is a process to follow. There will be public consultation on the plans in due course.

15/247.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

15/234. Scrapyard

The planning application is being dealt with by Northamptonshire County Council. They are awaiting some outstanding information to validate the application. It will then come out for consultation. If this is not forthcoming in the next month they will be deciding what action to take.

CCTV

The monitoring centre spotted a motorcycle being used in the Skateboard Park. They contacted the police and a section 59 notice was issued to the rider.

Evidence of littering was caught on CCTV in the car park by the sports pavilion and the monitoring centre is working with East Northamptonshire Council to draw together the evidence for a prosecution.

Higham Ferrers World War One History Group

The group received a Northamptonshire Community Foundation Award for their book on the contribution made by Higham Ferrers during the Great War 1914 -1918.

Outdoor Gym Equipment

Now that the grant has been received, this will be installed on 9th November.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerks report be received and noted.

15/248.

QUESTIONS.

None.

15/249.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES.

The Mayor (Cllr R Gell) reported on his attendance at the NCALC AGM. Dr Paul Blantern, President of NCALC, spoke about problems of local government finance. A motion was put forward by Raunds around the changes to the Permitted Development Act where small shops could be changed to a residential dwelling with no planning permission required. The key note speaker was James Kingston from DCLG. The Mayor received on behalf of the Council the certificate for the Local Council Awards Scheme.

15/250.

FINANCE.

15/250.1.

To approve accounts for payment as at 27th October 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of £39476.92 be approved for payment.

15/250.2.

To approve the Bank Account reconciliation as at 31st September 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the bank reconciliation as at 31st September 2015 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

15/250.3. **To receive and note budget report as at 31st September 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 31st September be received and noted.

15/250.4. **To ratify expenditure under Clerk's delegated powers.**

That the following payments under the Clerks delegated powers be ratified:-

All figures include VAT.

Colemans	A3 Colour copy	2.98
Colemans	100 2ND Class stamps	54.00
Stephen Pell	Works carried out at Pavilion	65.00
Stephen Pell	Replace 3 rotten fence posts at Fitzwilliam	140.00
	Leys Play Area	
Stephen Pell	Relocate Bench in cemetery	10.00
Stephen Pell	Relocate & install bench School Lane	80.00
Buildbase	2 x bulk bag play bark	179.88
Stephen Pell	Repair Saffron Rd Garage	120.00
Stephen Pell	Repair gate Parker Way area	60.00
Stephen Pell	Install protective box -Switch at Bowls Club	25.00
NCALC	Councillor training	136.00
AVICA UK LTD	2 x 200 refuse sacks	18.65
Colson and Loaring	Carry out repairs to Public Toilets	468.61
Hope Methodist Church	Services supplied Civic Service 2015	200.00
Inter County Cleaning Services Ltd	2 x 12 toilet rolls for public toilet	35.64
AVICA UK LTD	2 x Graffiti off aerosols	9.02
Rushden Graphics	Dogs on lead sign	94.20

15/251. **COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13th October 2015 be received and adopted.

Recommendations:

(i)

RESOLVED:

That the provision of extra lighting near the skateboard park be included in the Forward Plan.

(ii)

RESOLVED:

That the provision of shelter near the skateboard park be included in the Forward Plan.

15/252. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

It was felt that this was an area best left for the Police and it was therefore:-

RESOLVED:

That the Council would not pursue an application to be part of Community Speedwatch.

15/253. **LEASE – HIGHAM FERRERS MEDICAL CENTRE**

RESOLVED:

That the Council consent to the assignment of the underlease and agree to seal the licence. This is subject to the undertaking for legal costs being received.

15/254. **CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

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

12/255. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 19th October 2015 be received and noted.

Clerk to obtain process for an external review of the staffing capacity of the Town Council as soon as possible, rather than waiting until next year when succession planning was being considered.

Recommendations:

(i) **Salary Review**

RESOLVED:

That salaries be increased with effect from 1st April 2016 as follows:-

- Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer – from SCP43 to SCP44.
- Administration Officer – from SCP20 to SCP21.
- Administration Officer/Finance – from SCP17 to SCP18.
- Town Hall Cleaner SCP11 to SCP12.
- Parks and Open Spaces Wardens SCP 11 to SCP 12.

(ii) **Town Centre Manager**

RESOLVED:

- That the Job Description and Job Specification as circulated be approved.
- That the Cllr D C Lawson MBE is nominated to serve on the Interview Panel.
- That a budget for Marketing and Promotion be included in the 2016/17 budgets.

15/256. **RUSHDEN EAST**

15/256.1. **To receive a verbal report on the last meeting by Cllr Mrs A Sauntson.**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson presented a report on the last Rushden East Board meeting.

15/256.2. **To consider revision of the position statement in light of new information received.**

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk amends the statement to reflect conversations that she had had with NNJPU and submit it to the Core Strategy Inspector.

That a request be made for the Clerk to represent the Town Council at the round table session on 24th November for policy 33 – Rushden East.

15/257. **RE-OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

That the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

15/258. **ITEMS TO REPORT.**

None.

Mayor

Date