

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2016 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Councillor G Harwood MBE.

- 16/210. **APOLOGIES**  
Cllr D Drage, Cllr D Hamblin and Cllr Mrs S Mantle.
- 16/211. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
**Other interests**  
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting Item 11.1. Chq no 300435 Civic Service Expenses.
- 16/212. **MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED:**  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.
- 16/213. **POLICING**  
No Police present. Cllr D C Lawson MBE reported following the TASH meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October. PCSO Simon Arthur and the department are quite stretched. Apologies to be requested if they have no representative available for council meetings.
- 16/214. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**  
District Councillor G Harwood MBE reported having no success with his direct request to the Leader of ENC for additional representation for council on the Rushden East Board.
- 16/215. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**  
The Mayor reported on the events she had attended:-
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Business Forum in the Town Hall
  - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Service Six AGM at Wetherbys
  - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Mayor of Rushden's Civic Service
  - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Rushden Historical Society's 40th Anniversary
  - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Henry Chichele School to judge a hand writing competition
  - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October - NCALC AGM at Wootton Hall
  - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Civic Service
  - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Henry Chichele School Assembly to present prizes for the hand writing competition
  - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Visit to the HQ of the Air Ambulance at Coventry Airport

- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Serve AGM in Rushden
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Snail Race Event. Over £1,000 raised, thanks given to those who helped with the event.

16/216. **PLANNING**

16/216.1 **To consider planning applications received:-**

- (i) **16/01934/VAR: Variation of condition 15 (approved drawings) to allow for revised elevations pursuant to outline planning permission EN/04/02158/OUT: dated 21/03/06: 77 Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers.**  
**RESOLVED:**  
 That no objections or comments be made.
- (ii) **16/01908/FUL: Regularisation of single storey extensions and proposed erection of first floor side extension and single storey rear extension: 64 Northampton Rd, Higham Ferrers.**  
**RESOLVED:**  
 That no objections or comments be made.
- (iii) **16/01988/TCA: T1 Sycamore: Section fell to ground level: 18 High Street, Higham Ferrers.**  
**RESOLVED**  
 That no objections or comments be made.
- (iv) **16/01950/FUL: Proposed loft conversion balcony and single storey rear extension: 4 Vine Hill Drive, Higham Ferrers.**  
**RESOLVED**  
 That no objections or comments be made.

16/216.2. **To note determinations on planning applications.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the report on determination of planning applications be noted.

16/217. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

**16/203. Poppy Man**

This will be in place by the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November and removed by the end of November. It is fixed by nuts and bolts to the benches.

**Outdoor Gym Equipment**

The fenced off piece of equipment will be reinstalled in the first week of November under warranty.

**Cemetery Land**

Permission had been requested from the Duchy to access 3 other plots of land for further tests. A negative response has been received. A map of the possible sites has been sent to the Duchy asking which plots the Council can go on, with the same request made to the Planning Consultant for the Duchy. Bidwells are aware of the issue.

**Consultation on Extension of the Greenway**

To date 91 responses have been received. 89% are in favour, 3.5% against. The remainder have no opinion.

**Chowns Mill Update**

The Highways Agency report the timescale for the scheme as:

- Site surveys for detailed design: completed March to June 2015
- Preliminary design: late 2017
- Detailed design: Summer 2019
- Award of the construction contract: late 2019
- Start of works: December 2019
- Completion of works: June 2021

The timescales are a worst case and there may be opportunity to accelerate them as the design progresses. There will be an engagement event early next year to show the layout and what the finished junction will look like.

**Christmas Sparkle**

The Clerk reported being low on volunteers to help with the event, particularly around the peak time of 5pm, more help is sought.

A query was raised regarding the CCTV footage and if any action was taken with regard to the parking infringements recorded. The Clerk advised that tickets could only be issued by the Parking Enforcement Officer if they actually witnessed the infringement themselves and that CCTV footage could not be used for this.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Town Clerks report be received and noted.

16/218. **QUESTIONS.**

None.

16/219. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES.**

Cllr Mrs V Newbery, Hachenburg Twinning Association. The last visit to Hachenburg had been well hosted. A complaint had been received regarding the ferry company. The visit had incurred a £300.10 loss. The Association are seeking an increase in membership and are considering promotional flyers and having a presence at the Farmers Market. Hachenburg residents will be visiting 6-10 July and preparations for this will begin in January.

16/220. **FINANCE.**

16/220.1 **To approve accounts for payment as at 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the accounts for payment total of £29,558.65 be approved for payment.

16/220.2 **To receive and note the budget report as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the budget report as at 30<sup>st</sup> September 2016 be received and noted.

16/220.3. **To approve the Bank Account reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>st</sup> September 2016 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

16/220.4 **To approve the following expenditure:-**

(i) **Replacement Jabots**

**RESOLVED:**

That the quote of £199 be accepted for the purchase of replacement jabots for both the Mayor and for the Deputy Mayor.

(ii) **Road Signs for Public Toilets**

**RESOLVED:**

That the quote of £539.96 be accepted for the supply and installation of directional sign posts to the public toilets. The 2 signs to be mounted back to back below the Post Office sign on the High Street.

16/221. **SPEED LIMIT CONSULTATION**

To agree a response to the consultation on the proposed speed limit, Station Road, Irthlingborough,

**RESOLVED:**

That no comments be made.

16/222. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Recreation and Amenities Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be received and adopted.

**Events Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Events Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be received and adopted.

16/223. **MUGA WALL**

The surveyor had verbally advised the wall is not in imminent danger of coming down and his written report of this is awaited. A quote of £1,450 had been received to take down the first part of the wall and a quote of £2,650 has been received to take down the remaining section of the wall with another quote awaited. The view from Recreation and Amenities Committee was that the wall should be taken down. There is no recommendation on what to replace the wall with. Following a discussion it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be deferred to allow additional quotes and further information from the surveyor to be received, including advice regarding the timescale for removal.

16/224. **LEGAL ADVICE ON RUSHDEN EAST AND HIGHAM FERRER'S**

16/224.1. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

To agree expenditure for a Barrister's Legal Opinion on the weight of Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan in connection with the masterplanning of Rushden East.

**RESOLVED:**

That the quote of £800 be accepted for a Barristers legal opinion to be obtained. A budget of £5,000 be set for Rushden East Planning, the budget to incorporate the costs for James Wilson Associates.

16/224.2. To agree the brief for the Barrister.

**RESOLVED:**

That the brief for the Barrister as circulated be agreed.

16/225. **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.

16/226. **RUSHDEN EAST**

(i) **To receive a report from the Town Clerk on the meeting held on 10th October 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the report circulated be received and noted.

(ii) **To receive a report on the meeting with Bidwells and representatives of the Consortium on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the report circulated be received and noted.

A meeting with representatives for the Duchy is scheduled for 23 November. The planning officer for Rushden East has requested attendance at this meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That an invite to attend the meeting with the Duchy not be extended to the Planning Officer for Rushden East.

(iii) **To agree a position statement on Rushden East.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the position statement as circulated be agreed.

16/227. **RE-LOCATION OF TOWN HALL OFFICES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the relocation of the Town Hall Offices item be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

16/228. **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.

16/229. **ITEMS TO REPORT.**

The Clerk advised ENC are seeking views on possible Public Spaces Protection Orders. In advance of consideration of the issue at the next council meeting it was agreed a working party would be established to consider and report back to Council. The working party to consist of Cllr D C Lawson MBE, Cllr Mrs A Saunston. Cllr Mrs T Reavey and Cllr C O'Rourke. Those councillors not in attendance at the meeting will also be given the opportunity to join the working party.

Cllr J Smithers reported witnessing a shoplifter leaving the Co-op pursued by a Co-op employee to whom the shoplifter was then verbally aggressive. Should there be a security guard under the terms of the licence.

Mayor

Date