

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

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor G Whiting)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor R J Gell)	
Councillor A Dunn		Councillor Mrs K Dunn
Councillor Mrs C Ingram		Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor Mrs S Mantle		Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor A M T Reading		Councillor Mrs A Sauntson
Councillor P Tomas		Councillor Mrs M Tuffnail
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor S Wiles
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Mr D Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr G Harwood MBE and PC D Brown.

15/01. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr D C Lawson MBE and Cllr M Beesley.

15/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr Mrs M Tuffnail Item 11.1. BP 42 Daughter-in Laws Salary.

Cllr Mrs C Ingram- Item 7.3. – Lives in Vine Hill Drive.

Cllr A M T Reading – Item 7.1. (iii) Planning application adj 5 Chichele St.
Knows the applicant.

Cllr H L Jackson Item 7.1. (ii) – Lives adjacent to 9 High Street.

Cllr G Whiting Item 11.1. Chq no 501150- Church Warden

15/03. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2014 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

15/04. **POLICING**

PC D Brown reported that Julia Mead was now the new Inspector and would attend a future meeting. In December the Police had manned a shop in Rushden and talked about crime prevention. 1500 people had visited them. Feedback had been good. 2/3 profile shoplifters had been arrested. There had been a county wide drugs operation.

	2015	2014
Criminal Damage	4	20
Burglary Other	6	4
Burglary Dwelling	6	1
Violent Offences	6	2
Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	4

15/05. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

No public present.

15/06. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Wednesday 17th December Raunds Carol Service

Thursday 18 th	December	St Ives - Huntingdonshire Chairman's Band Concert
Friday 19 th	December	Rushden Carol Service
Sunday 21 st	December	Higham's Town Carol Service
Saturday 27 th	December	Queen Tribute Night – organised by Swivel Club Profits shared between myself, East Northamptonshire Council Chairman and Rushden Mayor
Saturday 17 th	January	Oundle Musical Concert
Thursday 22 nd	January	Attended the Memorial Service for Lady Juliet Townsend
Sunday 25 th	January	Wellingborough Hindu Next Generation Celebrations
<i>REMINDER</i>		
Friday	February 13 th	Civic Dinner with 2 guest speakers Tickets £25 at The Bowls Club
Sunday	March 29 th	Afternoon Tea at Rushden Hall
Friday	April 24 th	RAF Band Concert

15/07. **PLANNING.**

15/07.1 To consider responses to the following planning applications received: -

- (i) **14/02369/FUL: 33kv substation and ancillary equipment with new vehicle access at Compound 1 Newton Road, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That no objection or comment be made.

- (ii) **15/00039/TCA: Walnut Tree- fell at 9 High St, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That no objection or comment be made.

- (iii) **15/00047/FUL: Sub division of existing site to create new four bedroom detached dwelling at 5 Chichele Street, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That the Council objects to the application with the following comment:-

‘The proposed development will exacerbate on road parking problems, as there is insufficient off-road parking provided. Applications appear to indicate 3 spaces, but there is only 1 space in the garage and 1 on the drive.’

- 15/7.2. **To note determinations on planning applications.**

RESOLVED:

That the report on determinations of planning applications be noted.

- 15/7.3. **To consider revised proposals for traffic calming in connection with the Wharf Road development.**

Following an approach from Linden Homes Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Cllr Mrs P Whiting, and the Town Clerk had met with Alex Clark from Linden Homes. Carolyn Tait, The Planning Officer, and Terry Chapman the Highways Officer were also at the meeting.

Linden Homes offered to install 4 flashing ‘Slow Down’ signs near the school in lieu of the speed cushions in Vine Hill Drive, Bryant Way and Roland Way. It was felt that the speed cushions were needed in Vine Hill Drive. Linden Homes were

not prepared to offer a mixture of the two schemes. Highways indicated that if you have speed cushions in Vine Hill Drive you had to have them in Roland Way and Bryant Way as this was all part of the same scheme.

After discussion it was felt that there was no option but to continue with the existing scheme as speed cushions were needed in Vine Hill Drive. As part of the process there will be public consultation on the scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the above report be noted and that the Council accept that the traffic calming will be speed cushions as per the already submitted design.

15/8. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

Street naming – Wharf Road Development

Attached is a plan showing the new street names in the Wharf Road development which are the suggestions of the Town Council.

Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Attached is the new timetable wef 1st February following cuts in the service. Rushden will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

New Police Inspector

There is a new Police Inspector at Rushden – Julie Mead. She will be attending the March meeting of the Council.

Parish Special Constables

There was no interest in joining the scheme from the recruitment event held in the area. The Police are hoping that a current special constable will transfer over to Higham Ferrers.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerks report be received and noted.

15/9. **QUESTIONS.**

None.

15/10. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES.**

None.

15/11. **FINANCE.**

15/11.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 27th January 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment totalling £40,033.31 be paid.

15/11.2. **To approve the Bank Account reconciliation as at 31st December 2014.**

This item was deferred as Cllr D C Lawson MBE was not present to check the bank reconciliation.

15/11.3. **RESOLVED:**

To receive and note the budget report as at 30st December 2014

RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 30th December be received and noted.

15/11.4. **To consider following items of expenditure:**

(i) **Monthly advert in Rushden Reporter**

RESOLVED:

That the Council agree to a half page advert in the Rushden Reporter at a cost of

£180 per month for 9 months. The circulation to be clarified.

(ii) **Renewal of annual subscription to Northamptonshire ACRE.**

RESOLVED:

That the annual subscription to Northamptonshire ACRE be approved at cost of £35 pa.

15/11.5. **To ratify expenditure under Clerk's delegated powers.**

RESOLVED:

That the following payments made under the Clerk's delegated powers be ratified:-
All figures include VAT.

Colemans – Stationery- £123.36 & A3 Photocopying £4.67

East Northamptonshire Council – Printing posters and A1 plan - £11.71

Stephen Pell- Re-attach hand basin in Pavilion - £35

Turney Landscapes – Weed killing Saffron Rad Recreation Ground – £72

Land Registry – Land ownership Search £7

15/12. **INVESTMENTS**

The Fixed Income Bond Dec 2009 with Barclays Wealth for £250,025 was due to mature on 2nd February. All the Councils investments were due to be reviewed at Policy and Resources in February.

RESOLVED:

That the maturity value of £250, 025 less £50,000 be split between the Instant Access Accounts held at Nationwide and Cambridge Building Society pending the review. This would assist with cash flow whilst the skateboard park is ongoing as payment will need to be made before the grant funds are received.

15/13. **COMMITTEES**

15/13.1. **Planning Committee held on 13th January 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13th January 2015 be received and adopted.

15/13.2. **Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13th January 2015.**

RESOLVED:

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

15/13.3 **Environment Committee held on 20th January 2015.**

(i) **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 20th January 2015 be received and adopted.

Recommendations.

(i) **Kings Meadow Lane Storm Water Drainage**

RESOLVED:

That expenditure of up to £250 in this financial year from the Park Maintenance budget to enable works in connections with the Storm Water Drainage on Kings Meadow Lane to be carried out

(ii) **Riverside Park Lease**

RESOLVED:

That in principal the Council agrees to a new lease including the liability for the bridges at a peppercorn rent (£10), on the proviso that there is no requirement to put the bridges in a better state of repair than the current condition.

(iii) **Request to locate steel container at Riverside Park**

RESOLVED:

That Higham Ferrers Riverside Park Anglers be permitted to site a small steel site container in which to store a small boat and tools for maintenance purposes subject

to planning permission being obtained if required.

(iv) **Weed Clearance Riverside Park**

RESOLVED:

That Higham Ferrers Riverside Park Anglers be granted permission to carry out weed clearance at fishing platforms along the lakeside and the side of the Old River Nene, as agreed with Nicola Orchard and Chris Haines, subject to Barry Spencer informing the Town Clerk and Cllr Gell with dates when the work will be done.

15/13.4 **Events Committee held on 20th January 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Events Committee held on 20th January 2015 be received and adopted.

15/14. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

15/14.1 The Town Clerk reported that amendments had been undertaken following the NPIERS review. A Heritage policy has been added on advice of the Conservation Officer. The delay in proceeding to Regulation 14 consultation was being caused by obtaining confirmation from Natural England that a full Habitats Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required. This had entailed many phone calls and emails and strengthening of policies to mitigate impacts on the Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site.

15/15. **CONSULTATIONS**

Northamptonshire County Council Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be delegated the authority to make a response on behalf of the Council.

15/16. **CCTV**

RESOLVED:

That the Council not enter into a 2 year fixed price agreement with BT Redcare for the fibre optic lines for CCTV, as it was not certain that the supply will be required for the next 2 years.

15/17. **URBAN HIGHWAY GRASS MOWING 2015**

RESOLVED:

That the Council to enter an s136 agreement with Northamptonshire County Council for verge mowing for 2015.

15/18. **ITEMS TO REPORT.**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson requested that the Higham Surgery be an agenda item for a future agenda.

Mayor

Date