

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS
TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 26th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30PM
AT THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey)	
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor N Brown
Councillor B Spencer		Councillor P McCann
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor S Prosser
Councillor C P O'Rourke		Councillor G Salmon
Councillor Mrs J Bone		Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor G Kelly
Councillor P Tomas		
Miss Alicia Schofield (Town Clerk)		David Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)
Mrs Emily Arrow (Assistant Clerk)		

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public

22/68. **APOLOGIES**
Cllr A M T Reading and Cllr V K Paul.

22/69. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Other Interests
Cllr H L Jackson and Cllr Mrs J Bone, as members of the Unitary Council they will consider all matters at Unitary level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the Unitary tier. Therefore, they cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by the decisions of this Council.

22/70. **MINUTES**
RESOLVED:
Subject to the following amendments being made:

- The exclusion of the word 'statutory' from the title.
- The addition of Cllr G Salmon to the attendance list.
- The removal of Cllr A M T Reading from the attendance list.

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2022 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

22/71. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**
Prince Caesar spoke on behalf of the Valley of Hope Church group. They wish to hold a Windrush celebration on the football pitch at Saffron Road Recreation Ground on 18th June as a way to bring the community together and showcase the diversity and community present in Higham Ferrers. He expressed their hope that they can get council approval for this event.

22/72. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Mayor gave the following report: -

- 3rd April I unfortunately was unable to attend Raunds Town Civic Service due to family circumstances.
- 10th April I attended the re-arranged date for Sandra Mitcham's retirement celebration and was pleased to be able to wish her a happy retirement.
- 19th April we welcomed Lauren Houlihan to the office team and I wish her well

in her employment with Higham Ferrers Town Council.

It is unfortunate that I had to cancel my upcoming cheese and wine evening but I will be at the Farmers Market on 30th April to promote the carvings from the Three Oaks raffle and auction and take final bids.

Next Saturday 7th May is the Mayors Market and I will be having a 'Lucky Pick' stall. I am collecting pre-used gift bags and any donations would be welcomed.

22/73.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Police Report

Link to the report for December 2021 <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/crime/nn108bt>

40 Crimes for February: -

- Anti-Social Behaviour – 6
- Burglary – 3
- Criminal damage and arson -3
- Other theft - 3
- Public order -2
- Robbery – 1
- Shoplifting – 2
- Vehicle Crime -1
- Violent and sexual offences – 19

Parking Enforcement for Electric Vehicle Charging Bays

Information that follows was received from NNC following enquiry regarding enforcement at the electric vehicle charging bays.

Parking restrictions and enforcement are being introduced at the new on-street electric vehicle charging bays in North Northants.

In January 2022, on-street electric vehicle charging points were installed at seven locations across North Northants as part of the council's partnership with the Virgin Park and Charge (VPACH2) project.

Each location has four parking bays. To minimise the impact on parking availability in the short term – two bays are for electric vehicles (including hybrid) only while two bays can accommodate either electric or non-electric vehicles.

The enforcement will be for the electric only bays – marked 'Electric Vehicles Only' - and will start on:

April 18

Higham Ferrers, Newman Street

Rushden, York Road

To give residents time to adjust to the new parking arrangements, drivers who flout the parking restrictions during the first two weeks following enforcement will be issued with warning notices, rather than a Penalty Charge Notice.

For further information:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/parking-restrictions-start-street-parking-locations>

Meetings

Annual Mayor Making – Monday 9th May 2022 – 7.30pm
Planning and Development Committee – Tuesday 17th May 2022 6.45pm
Environment and Recreation Committee – Tuesday 17th May 2022 – 7.30pm
Full Council – Tuesday 31st May 2022 – 7.30pm

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk’s report be received and noted.

22/74.

QUESTIONS

Cllr Whiting raised a question about the set of traffic lights on the High Street that are not working and asked if we are aware of a timescale for repair. The clerk confirmed she would follow this enquiry up.

22/75.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

Cllr Gardner spoke as the Police Liaison. She referenced a meeting she has recently attended about the ‘SWaN’ Safer Women at Night initiative and how the governmental grants have been spent. She briefed the councillors on the action being taken in Northampton with this initiative. Enquiries have been made about rolling this out further into the parishes so they will also benefit.

The clerk gave a report briefing the councillors on the recent JAG meeting, which contained reports from the local police force on drug dealing and misuse, road safety and traffic matters, burglary, anti-social behaviour and the police priorities for the next 3 months. Highways issues were also discussed. The full minutes of the meeting were circulated amongst councillors.

22/76.

REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

A written report was circulated.

22/77.

FINANCE

22/77.1.

To approve accounts for payment as at 26th April 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment of £40,127.99 as at 26th April 2022 be approved for payment.

22/77.2.

To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 31st March 2022

RESOLVED:

That the bank account reconciliation as at 31st March 2022 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.

22/77.3.

To approve the expenditure: Urgent tree work, closed churchyard, £3780

RESOLVED:

That the expenditure for the urgent tree works in the closed churchyard be approved.

22/78.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

To receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees:

22/78.1.

Planning and Development Committee held on the 12th April 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 12th April 2022 be received and adopted.

22/78.2.

Policy and Resources Committee held on the 12th April 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 12th April 2022 be received and adopted.

Recommendations

(i) **REVIEW OF POLICIES**

RESOLVED:

That the following policies be approved without change.

Data Protection Policy

- Data Breach Policy
- Management of Records
- Subject Access Procedure
- Training Statement of Intent
- Legionnaires Management Policy.

That the Statement of Community Engagement be approved subject to the following amendments at Section 5. Involvement in Partnerships:-

- Reference to East Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council be removed and replaced with North Northamptonshire Council
- Add 'Chichele Education Foundation'
- Add 'Higham Ferrers Riverside Park Angling Association'
- Remove 'TASH'
- Amend 'Rushden East Board' to 'Rushen East Development'

22/79. **NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CONSULTATION, STRATEGIC PLAN SCOPE AND ISSUES**

Cllr Jennie Bone and Cllr Gary Salmon attended the virtual meeting and encourage as many people as possible to respond to the consultation. Slides that were shown at the meeting will be shared amongst councillors when received. The clerk outlines that any councillor or resident can respond individually but there should also be a response made as a council. Cllr Bone and Cllr Salmon will brief the clerk on the content of the meeting to help draft a response.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the response be considered at the next Planning and Development Committee Meeting.

22/80. **REQUEST FOR THE USE OF SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

Councillors expressed the sentiment that a Windrush celebration would be welcomed by the council and the local community. Concerns were raised about the BBQ encouraging further BBQ use on Saffron Road Recreation Ground, potential damage to the grass and security. It is also discussed that the hardstanding parking area and the Sports Pavilion would be unavailable that day due to existing bookings from local sports teams. A suggestion is made that Castle Fields is more suited to events of this nature, especially if the Sports Pavilion and Saffron Road Recreation Ground are already in use.

RESOLVED:

That the event is permitted to go ahead and it is suggested that Castle Fields is used instead of Saffron Road Recreation Ground. The clerk is to liaise with the applicant about this. That a refundable security deposit fee is charged in case of any damage and that the main hire fee is waived for this event.

22/81. **UKRAINE WORKING PARTY**

RESOLVED:

That the notes from the Ukraine Working Party meeting held on 5th April 2022 be received.

22/82. **JUBILEE WORKING PARTY**

That the minutes from the Jubilee Working Party meeting held on 30th March 2022 be received and noted.

22/83. **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 for the next item.

22/84. **CEMETERY FEE APPEAL**

RESOLVED:

That the appeal made against the application of non-residents fees for an interment be granted.

22/85. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 23rd February 2022 be received and adopted.

22/85.1

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 12th April 2022 be received and adopted.

22/86. **REOPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

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

22/87. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

None.

Mayor

Date