

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

17/237. **APOLOGIES**
Cllr R Gell.

17/238. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Other Interests
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting – item 10.1, BP525, Churchwarden and the payment relates to the churchyard.
Cllr Mrs A Sauntson – item 10.3, member of Tourism.
Cllr C P O'Rourke – item 15, member of Candocare.
Cllr P Tomas – item 10.1, chq 300490, Mayoral expenses.
Cllr H L Jackson, item 10.3, member of Tourism.

17/239. **MINUTES**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2017 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

17/240. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**
Mrs Meredith set up Candocare and spoke in relation to item 15 and the budget cuts to the library service. Candocare have rented space in the library building from Northamptonshire County Council since January 2017 and they want the library to remain open, in fact desiring more space which they would pay rent for. Higham Ferrers is located in the middle of their service catchment area hence the building location is ideal for them. It took them a long time to find suitable premises and they do not wish to lose them. Candocare provide day care facilities for the elderly and vulnerable.
Mr Gilbert is the Treasurer of Higham Ferrers Bowls Club. The club has been running for 70 years and is open to all ages, although the membership comprises mainly the older generation. They have 50 members in total, with over half of the members being residents of Higham Ferrers. The lease of the premises was taken out in 2003. The grant from the Town Council was reduced to £3,000 last year, being £3,500 in 2016. Last year the club had a net loss of £7,101. The club need a new shed and mower and reported a worm cast problem on the bowling green. The club seek grant funding from the Town Council.
Mr Shaw from Thrapston addressed the Town Council in relation to item 15. His mother

is a client of Candocare and he values the facilities and the site at the library in Higham Ferrers. His mother needs 24-hour care and attends Candocare for two days each week and these two days provide well needed rest for the family. Candocare means so much to the family and it would be awful if they were not able to operate and exist due to the closure of the library.

Mr Bonsar spoke on behalf of the Cricket Club. He explained that within the Northamptonshire Cricket League there are teams disbanding and the club are having to work hard to attract new players. The club has 45 players. To encourage and retain members, the membership fee is set at £1 with a £10 match fee. The club fundraise where they can and they are grateful for the grants that have been received from the Town Council for the pitch maintenance. The club are looking at other funding streams, they do need the grant for the pitch maintenance and would also be grateful for the grant for the equipment.

17/241. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended:

- 8th December, Christmas card post box competition at Higham Ferrers Junior School.
- 8th December, The Shrubbery Christmas Fair.
- 13th December, Candocare coffee morning at Higham Ferrers Library.
- 15th December, Rushden Sea Cadets Awards Night at the Drill Hall, Rushden.
- 16th December, Rushden Mayor's Carol Service.
- 17th December, Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers.

The Deputy Mayor reported on the events he had attended:

- 9th December, unable to attend the Peterborough Carol Service due to the snow fall.
- 10th December, NN10 Community Choir at the Bede House.

At the end of the announcements the Mayor drew the winning entry for the Christmas door competition. The prizes will be presented at the Farmers Market along with the winners of the best dressed window competition.

17/242. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Police Report

- Entry gained to motor vehicle parked in Wood Street, Higham Ferrers, between 8pm on Sunday, 26 November and 7.30am on Monday, 27 November. Untidy search made of interior but nothing taken.
- Entry gained to motor vehicle parked in York Road, Higham Ferrers, between 1am on Saturday, 25 November and 6.10am on Monday, 27 November. Items stolen.
- Entry gained to motor vehicle parked in Midland Road, Higham Ferrers, between 5pm on Sunday, 26 November and 4.30am on Monday, 27 November. Item stolen.
- Entry gained to motor vehicle parked in Larkin Gardens, Higham Ferrers, between 7pm on Tuesday, 28 November and 5.18am on Wednesday, 29 November. Untidy search of vehicle but no damage caused.
- A vehicle was broken into in Elderberry Crescent, Higham Ferrers, between 7pm Sunday 3 December and 7.15am Monday 4 December untidy search but nothing taken.
- Person/s have gained entry to vehicle in Patenell Way, Higham Ferrers, between 5pm Tuesday 5 December and 6.50am Wednesday 6 December items stolen.

As all crimes were vehicle crimes, the clerk contacted the local sergeant for an update and the following response was received: -

The recent increase in vehicle crime is not isolated to Higham Ferrers but extends to other villages and further afield. Work is ongoing to identify suspects as it would appear there is more than one group of people responsible. This includes, but not limited to, intelligence work and targeted patrols. We would urge anyone with information to contact the Police on 101 or alternatively contact Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 111 555.

Land at Stanwick Road (Dogs Off Lead Area)

Following difficulties, the Council has experienced with gaining control of the land, the Clerk contacted the Highways Agency for reimbursement of legal costs and the cost of reimbursement of the tipped soil of £950. They have agreed to reimburse the Council.

The Clerk advised of the following crimes committed since the publication of her report:-

- Attempted burglary of a property in Grove Street between midnight on Sunday, 10 December and 10.30pm on Tuesday 12 December.
- Entry gained to a motor vehicle parked on the driveway of a property in Elderberry Crescent between 10pm on Friday, 15 December and 5.30am on Saturday, 16 December. Items stolen.
- Entry gained to a motor vehicle parked outside a property in Elderberry Crescent between 8pm on Friday 15 December and 3pm Sunday 17 December. Items stolen.

RESOLVED:

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

17/243. **QUESTIONS**

None.

17/244. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

None.

17/245. **PLANNING**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson has requested an entry be made in the minutes to make it clear that as a member of both the Town and District Councils, she will reconsider all matters at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the District tier. Therefore, she cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by the decisions of this Committee.

To consider a response to: -

- 17.245.1. **17/02221/FUL: Change of use and conversion of existing chip shop food outlet into residential ground floor two bedroomed flat with retention of existing first floor refurbished and modernised one bedroomed flat. Extended and converted barn within site curtilage into two storey residential one bedroom house. Retained and improved off road parking and site access, 82 High Street, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That no objection be made. That the Council make comment that there is only one parking space allocated per property and concern is expressed regarding this given the lack of parking in this area of the town.

- 17/245.2. **17/02162/FUL: Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a single storey rear extension and attached garage, 2 Westfields Avenue, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That no objections or comments be made.

17/246. **FINANCE**

17/246.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 31st December 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of £39,506.47 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.

17/246.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 30th November 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the bank reconciliation as at 30th November 2017 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

17/246.3. **To approve the following expenditure: -**

Higham Ferrers Tourism, event contribution £466.50.

Cllr H L Jackson and Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote.

Higham Ferrers Tourism had requested that expenses from Christmas Sparkle and Charters promotional boards be reimbursed by the Council from the agreed budget of £1,000 allocated to support outdoor events at Chichele College as this budget had funds remaining.

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred. That any non-council body seeking funding from the Town Council should follow the approved grant awarding process.

17/247. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

To receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees: -

17/247.1. **Planning and Development Committee held on the 5th December 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 5th December 2017 be received and adopted.

17/247.2. **Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th December 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th December 2017 be received and adopted.

Recommendations

(i) **Higham Ferrers Bowls Club**

The accounts for the club had been circulated. A motion to award a grant of £1500 to Higham Ferrers Bowls Club failed.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £3500 be given to Higham Ferrers Bowls Club towards maintenance of the green. The Clerk to write an accompanying letter to advise the club that the grant cannot continue indefinitely at that level.

(ii) **Rushden-Higham Link**

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue subsidising the Rushden Higham bus link in 2018/19 to a maximum of £5616 plus a 3% increase (£5785).

17/248. **GRANT APPLICATION, HIGHAM FERRERS CRICKET CLUB**

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £1330 be awarded to Higham Ferrers Cricket Club for maintenance of the wicket. That the matter of a grant of £5000 towards ground equipment be deferred pending request for additional information regarding the total capital cost of the ground equipment.

17/249. **URBAN HIGHWAY GRASS MOWING 2018**

RESOLVED:

That a Section 138 Agreement be entered with Northamptonshire County Council for verge mowing for 2018.

17/250. **SITE ADJACENT THE FERRERS SCHOOL**

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting held with Sharba Homes and Barton Wilmore on the 30th November 2017 be received and noted.

17/251. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS TO THE LIBRARY SERVICE**

Cllr C P O'Rourke, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote on all matters relating to the budget cuts to the library service

17/251.1. **Meeting held with County Councillor Andy Mercer on the 7th December 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting held with County Councillor Andy Mercer on 7th December 2017 be received and noted.

17/251.2. **Draft corporate response to the Northamptonshire County Council consultation on the budget cuts to the library service.**

RESOLVED:

That the corporate response as drafted be submitted to Northamptonshire County Council with copies to the Cabinet members.

17/251.3. **Submission of an Informal Expression of Interest to manage the library should Northamptonshire County Council agree to pursue option 1 for the future of the library service.**

RESOLVED:

That an Informal Expression of Interest be submitted to Northamptonshire County Council. That the covering letter refer to points 49, 50 and 52 from the 'Community Libraries Frequently Asked Questions.'

17/252. **HERITAGE TRAIL LEAFLET**

Consideration was given to a report from the Town Manager on the progress with the Heritage Trail literature.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Manager progress with the copywriting of the Heritage Trail fold out leaflet at a cost of £1000 and the Heritage Trail booklet at a cost of £750.

17/253. **GREENWAY EXTENSION**

17/253.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the Council proceed with the legal works required for a licence with the Ferrers School to enable the route to be used as a footpath/cycleway and that a budget be allocated of £2500 for the work.

- 17/253.2. To agree the contractor for the footpath and associated works.
RESOLVED:
That although not the lowest quote, the Council proceed with tender C, £65,908.64. There were no queries on their quote and they are a local company who have undertaken works on the Greenway previously.
- 17/254. **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.
- 17/255. **LAND ADJACENT GLEBE FARM**
RESOLVED:
That authorisation be given to LGSS Law Limited to act on behalf of the Council in all matters associated with the case.
- 17/256. **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.
- 17/257. **ITEMS TO REPORT**
None.

Mayor

Date