

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Miss Harriet Pentland, 4 members of the public.

18/629. **APOLOGIES**

None.

18/630. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr H L Jackson, item 5.3, member of the Tourism Partnership.

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting, item 12, District Councillor serving on Planning Committee.

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, item 5.3, Member of the Tourism Partnership.

Cllr P Tomas, item 14, Member of the 'Cluck Off' Campaign Group.

Cllr R Gell, item 12, District Councillor serving on Planning Committee.

18/631. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November 2018 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

18/632. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

Mr R Barnes introduced himself as the Chairman of the 'Cluck Off' campaign and referred to the deemed hostile email received from the Town Clerk. Mr Barnes referenced and read out part of Article 10 of the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Expression and Article 11, Freedom of Assembly and Association. He complained that it was outrageous that 1 complaint received overrides over 1,000 comments for the campaign. Permission was given by Mr Sidey to allow the 'Cluck Off' campaign to set up on the land and the group had a public right to do this. He advised of the high percentage of people that don't want the chicken farm.

18/633. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended.

- 3rd December, 501st Combat Wing Commanders Annual Reception, RAF Alconbury
- 5th December, Pressland Pensioners Christmas gathering at Wilson Browne solicitors, Higham Ferrers.
- 9th December, Peterborough Cathedral 21st Annual Carol Service.

- 13th December, South Northamptonshire District Council Carol Service in the Council Chamber.
- 16th December, St Mary's Church Carol Service, Higham Ferrers.

The Deputy Mayor reported on the events he had attended on behalf of the Mayor.

- 4th December, SERVE Carol Concert at the Park Road Baptist Church in Rushden.
- 7th December, Shrubbery Christmas Fayre, Higham Ferrers.

18/634. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

Police Report

- Burglary, Northampton Road, 27th November.
- Persons unknown gained entry to a garden at the rear of a property in Chichele Street between 3pm and 4.30pm Sunday 2 December, a pit bike was removed.
- Attempted burglary of a property in Edward Close through conservatory but entry to main house unsuccessful between 3pm Saturday 1 December and 10.33am Tuesday 4 December.
- A vehicle was broken into in Wood Street between midnight and 4.08pm Wednesday 5 December, items removed.
- Entry gained to an insecure vehicle parked in Lancaster Street between 6.15pm and 7.45pm Wednesday 5 December, items taken.

Unauthorised Traveller Encampments

Copies of information on action the Police can take with regard to unauthorised traveller encampments circulated with the agenda.

CCTV Report from Crimesecure

The report detailing the role CCTV played over the last 3 months circulated with the agenda.

In addition to the Police Report circulated the Clerk updated at the meeting the following crimes:

- Entry gained by force to a motor vehicle parked in Tenter Close between 6pm 13 December to 8.40pm on the 14 December, the bicycle was stolen from within.
- Entry gained to a motor vehicle parked in Castlefields Close between 6pm 13 December and 8.40pm on the 14 December, items stolen from within.
- Break-in of a garage attached to a property in Hecham Way between midnight and 6am 15 December, items stolen from the garage, no entry gained to the house.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerks report be received and noted.

18/635. **QUESTIONS**

None.

18/636. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

None.

18/637. **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

None.

18/638. **FINANCE**

- 18/638.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 18th December 2018.**
RESOLVED:
 That the accounts for payment total of £43,295.88 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.
- 18/638.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 30th November 2018.**
RESOLVED:
 That approval of the bank account reconciliation as at 30th November 2018 be deferred to the next meeting to address the query raised regarding the pennies discrepancy.
- 18/639. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
 To receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees: -
- 18/639.1. Planning and Development Committee held on the 11th December 2018.
RESOLVED:
 That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 11th December 2018 be received and adopted.
- 18/639.2. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th December 2018.
RESOLVED:
 That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th December 2018 be received and adopted.
- Recommendations*
- (i) **GRANT APPLICATIONS**
Higham Ferrers Bowls Club
RESOLVED:
 That the Council approve a grant of £3500 for 2019/20.
- Higham Ferrers Cricket Club**
RESOLVED:
 That the Council defer a decision pending merger of the club with Rushden and submission of revised documents.
- Higham Ferrers Tourism**
RESOLVED:
 That the Council agree to a grant of £1000 for 2019/20.
- (ii) **RUSHDEN-HIGHAM LINK**
RESOLVED:
 That the Council agree to continue the subsidy in 2019/20 with a budget of £5832.
- (iii) **BUDGETS 2019/20**
RESOLVED:
 That the Council approve the draft budgets for 2019/20. (copy attached to the minutes)
- (iv) **PRECEPT 2019/20**
RESOLVED:
 That the precept be set at £420,000 for 2019/20.
- (v) **5 & 5A COLLEGE STREET**
RESOLVED:
 That the Council incur expenditure on an updated valuation of the property.
- 18/640. **PLANNING**
 Cllr Mrs P H Whiting and Cllr R Gell, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote. As members of both the Town and District Councils they will consider all matters at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the district tier. Therefore, they cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by the decisions of this Council.

To consider a response to planning application:-

18/01933/FUL: Construction of single storey annexe to the rear of the existing building together with refurbishment of church building and insertion of new first floor with stairs and lifting platform at the Methodist Church, High Street, Higham Ferrers.

RESOLVED:

That the Council make no objections or comments. That the Council contact the applicant to seek clarification regarding the following points:

- Whether alcohol will not be permitted to be served in the community hall.
- Whether the car park will be available for general use by residents of the town or only to users of the Church.
- The access arrangements over the Council land to the new secondary entrance to the side from Queensway.

18/641. **TEXTILE RECYCLING BANK**

RESOLVED:

That the correspondence regarding the provision of a textile recycling bank in the town be received and noted.

18/642. **CAMPAIGN GROUPS AT EVENTS**

Cllr P Tomas, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote.

The Council considered the email from Councillor P Tomas regarding the ‘Cluck Off’ campaign group at Town Council events.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk draft a response to the email and a policy on campaign groups at events for consideration at the next meeting.

18/643. **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.

18/644. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on the 30th November 2018 be received and adopted.

Recommendations

(i) **Staff Leave**

RESOLVED:

That staff leave not taken by the end of March could be taken as pay at the request of the staff member.

(ii) **Creation of Extra Work Area**

RESOLVED:

That a work area be established in the Town Hall Chamber. A budget of £1500 be agreed to cover the cost of furniture and equipment.

(iii) **Training budget**

RESOLVED:

That the Training Budget for 2018/19 be increased to £3000.

(iv) **Pensions Direction Policy**

RESOLVED:

That the Policy as circulated be adopted.

18/645. **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.

18/646. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr C P O'Rourke requested an agenda item to consider the use of the Market Square by the Swivel Club for a community carol service on Christmas Eve 2019.

Mayor

Date