

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor R J Gell)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)	
Councillor D Drage		Councillor R D Hamblin
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor C O'Rourke		Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson		Councillor J Smithers
Councillor P Tomas		
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Mr D Wicks (Mayors Sergeant)

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO R Brown and District Councillor G Harwood MBE.

15/211. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr A M T Reading, Cllr B Prigmore, Cllr Mrs V Newbery, Cllr Mrs S Mantle and Cllr Mrs O Mayes.

15/212. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson – Items 18 – Will be funding the planters through Cllr Empowerment monies

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson – Item 13.1 (ii) Member of Higham Ferrers Tourism.

Cllr P Tomas - Item 11.1. chq no 501455– He is the payee.

Cllr H L Jackson – Item 13.1 (ii) – Member of Higham Ferrers Tourism.

15/213. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2015 be signed as a true and correct record.

15/214. **POLICING**

PC D Brown gave the following report:-

	2014	2015
Dwelling Burglary	4	0
Burglary Other	2	2
Criminal Damage	3	7
Theft from Motor Vehicles	4	1
Theft of Motor Vehicles	0	3
Violent Offences	8	5

He spoke about the properties agreed at the JAG Meeting:-

1. Arson
2. Traffic enforcement
3. Anti-Social cheviot in Vine Hill Drive area.

He spoke about the changes to the issues and priorities would be decided on. He handed out a template form that would be given out to residents for them to complete and return. The form would be analysed and discussed to agree priorities at the JAG meetings.

- 15/215. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**
No public present.
- 15/216. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**
The Mayor gave the following report:-
“On 3rd September I made a short speech at the raising of the Red Ensign to show our support for the Merchant Navy and the Seafarers UK campaign.
On 4th September at the request of her family, I visited Mrs Woodley who is 101 years old. She was a Borough Councillor from 1958-1969, Borough Mayor 1963-64 and an Alderman from 1969-74. She retired from the council in 1976.
On 18th September I attended the opening and blessing of Rushden Feast Fair followed by a fish and chip supper at Rushden Station.
20th September was my Civic Service led by my chaplain at St. Peter’s Catholic Church with both Father Joe and Father Richard taking part in the service. Afterwards we all enjoyed Sunday tea provided by the ladies of the Hope Methodist Church. It was good to see that Mrs Woodley, with the help of Home Instead, had been able to attend the function. She seldom misses one. I thank the Councillors who were able to attend.
Last Thursday I attended the AGM of Serve.”
- 15/217. **PLANNING.**
- 15/217.1 To consider responses to the following planning applications received:
- (i) **15/01543/FUL: Installation of fencing and floodlighting to the school 3G pitch at Ferrers Specialist Arts College Queensway, Higham Ferrers.**
RESOLVED:
That no comments or objections be made.
- (ii) **15/00040/CCDFUL: Extension of existing storage outbuilding and conversion of part of the existing outbuildings to create a new staff room with a meeting room: Higham Ferrers Junior School, Higham Ferrers.**
RESOLVED:
That no comments or objections be made.
- (iii) **15/01537/LBC: To replace windows to property (marked 1 -10 on drawing DAW/AR/0815/001) :Fitzwilliam House, 3B Higham Street, Higham Ferrers.**
RESOLVED:
That no objections or comments be made.
- 15/217.2 **To note determinations on planning applications.**
RESOLVED:
That the report on determinations of planning applications previously considered be noted.
- 15/217.3. **To receive a verbal update re the Rushden East Board meeting on 26th August 2015.**
Councillor Mrs A Sauntson gave the following report:-
- The Board met in August and members received Transport Study from WYG. As this had been produced without having sight of the Employment Study WYG were requested to do further work on this document.
 - To note: County Highways do have serious concerns. Members emphasised that traffic/cycling and walking should be included to ensure connectivity. A 3/4 arm junction was envisaged at Hayden Road West and members re-stated this must include cars. It was also pointed out that the fifth option in the report had not been analysed and WYG were requested to include this.

- Since the meeting David Reed, the Chief Planning Officer, has received an option regarding the Employment Study with the deletion of B8 warehousing
- Under this scenario 2251 jobs are estimated with lower take up of land – 5 hectares less - as opposed to 2493 jobs with the inclusion of B8s (242+ jobs). Without B8s the land needed is 9.35 hectares for B1/B2 and 2.5 hectares for higher value employment.
- The downside is that with no B8s there will be a greater need for more public sector finance to kickstart employment development.
- It would seem that the Board is leaning for the option of development with no B8s.
- The syntax study showed a preference for simpler routes to integrate with the present Rushden East area.
- Next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday 13th October when it is hoped to agree a statement with developers for submission to the inspector who will hold the examination into the Joint Core Strategy.

15/218. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

Highway Services

The contract for KierWSP to provide Highways Services for Northamptonshire has been extended until 2020. Some service areas are being restructured. The change that affects Higham Ferrers is how the Community Liaison Officers operate. Northamptonshire will be split into 2 areas instead of 4 with 3 people serving each area instead of 2 in each of the previous 4 areas. The officer for Higham Ferrers remains unchanged – Sarah Barnwell.

Fire Damaged Walnut Tree.

On Friday 18th September, the large walnut tree on open space on the corner of Kings Meadow Lane was severely damaged due to arson. An arboriculturalist came out the same day and advised that no immediate works were required to maintain public health and safety, but the long term prospect for the tree was poor. He has recommended removing the tree within 6 months. Prices will be sought for these works.

Outdoor Gym Equipment

The Council have been awarded a grant from Awards for All of £8017. Once the paperwork is complete an order will be given for the works.

Article re Council Tax

Attached is an article from the recent Clerk's magazine which may be of interest. Note that the Band D figure for Higham Ferrers is £96.32 and the Council Tax base is 2598.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerks report be received and noted.

15/219. **QUESTIONS.**

Cllr D C Lawson MBE asked that Chowns Mill be put on the next agenda.

15/220. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES.**

Cllr Mrs P Whiting reported on the recent JAG meeting. An update was given on the operation that was dealing with the issue of arson on trees. Priorities were agreed as:-

1. Tackling the series of arsons.
2. Speeding and Traffic Enforcement.
3. Tackling anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Sports Pavilion.

15/221. **FINANCE.**

15/221.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 28th September 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of £37,511.10 be approved for payment.

15221.2. **To approve the Bank Account reconciliation as at 31st August 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2015 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

15/221.3. **To receive and note budget report as at 31st August 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 31st August 2015 be received and noted.

15/221.4. **To ratify expenditure under Clerk's delegated powers.**

RESOLVED:

That the following payments under the Clerks delegated powers be ratified:-

All figures include VAT.

Peter Tomas Company Ltd	Service of roller shutters at Pavilion	72.00
Baca	Clothing for Park Rangers	44.26
Colemans	100 2nd Class stamps	54.00
Colemans	2 x receipt books	1.58
Colemans	A3 photocopying	1.20
Colemans	3 x book of 4 large letter stamps	11.40
Lynx Fire and Security	Engineer callout to alarm	75.60
NALC	Book Local Councils Explained	54.99
W Cave Electrical	Cost of electrical work install new light chamber cupboard	96.00

15/222. **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

RESOLVED:

That the external audit report for 2014/15 be received and noted.

15/223. **COMMITTEES**

Events Committee held on 15th September 2015.

15/223.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Events Committee held on 15th September 2015 be received and noted.

Recommendations

(i) **RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council consider allocating money in next year's budget towards the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations.

(ii) **RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council consider allocating £1500 in next year's budget towards the summer events in 2016 in Chichele College.

15/223.2. **Environment Committee held on 15th September 2015.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 15th September 2015 be received and adopted.

Recommendations

RESOLVED:

(i) That the draft Tree Policy as circulated be adopted.

RESOLVED:

(ii) That a working party of no more than 5 members plus an officer be set up to review dog and litter bin provision in the town. Membership – Cllr Mrs P Whiting, Cllr H L

Jackson, Cllr Mrs C Reavey, Cllr C O'Rourke and Barry Spencer (Higham Ferrers Angling Club).

15/224. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2015/16**

RESOLVED:

That the following amendments are made to the committee membership for 2015/16:-

Environment Committee

Cllr C O'Rourke to replace Cllr D Drage

Cllr D Drage to become second substitute.

Events Committee

Cllr C O'Rourke to become second substitute.

15/225. **NCALC**

No resolution was put forward for debate at the AGM.

15/226. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Independent Examination had been completed and the Inspector had recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan be submitted to referendum following some minor modifications. The referendum was being planned for November.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Neighbourhood Plan be amended as per the Inspectors recommendations.

(ii) That the Neighbourhood Plan once amended be approved and submitted to Referendum.

15/227. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONSORTIUM**

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk, as the 'Proper Officer; sign the agreement for the Grounds Maintenance Consortium on behalf of the Council.

15/228. **PLANTERS AND TROUGHS**

RESOLVED:

That the Council purchase up to 3 three flower fountains at a cost of £346.50 each and apply to the District Council Empowerment Fund for a grant to cover the full cost.

15/229. **HIGHAM FERRERS PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT**

RESOLVED:

That the Council respond that they fully support and welcome the proposal to implement a 40mph speed limit on the B569 Chelveston Road to Moulton College, as it would improve safety in the area

15/230. **REMOVAL OF MOTORCYCLE RESTRICTORS AT CASTLE FIELDS**

A resident had written requesting that the motor cycle restrictors be removed in Castle Fields as they believed that they were not in keeping with the conservation area and looked rather ugly. Some of the Councillors recalled the problems and complaints before they were installed and felt that they had worked.

RESOLVED:

That the motorcycle restrictors at Castle Fields not be removed.

15/231. **GRAFFITI**

A complaint had been received about graffiti between the north boundary of the cemetery and the Hawthorns. As this was not on Council land it had been passed to East Northamptonshire Council, but they would only deal with offensive graffiti. The

resident felt that the Town Council should remove the said graffiti.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council will only deal with graffiti on property owned by the Town Council and not on other areas. The resident to be reminded that it was a criminal offence to paint graffiti on property and it should be reported to the Police.

15/232.

PRINCES TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME RUSHDEN

A letter had been received on behalf of the Prince's Trust Team Programme Rushden for community project ideas that they could undertake within Higham Ferrers. Following possible ideas were put forward:-

- Painting the Sports Pavilion
- Painting at Cemetery Chapel
- Helping with publicity for Queen's Birthday celebrations in June
- Repairing problem paving outside pavilion.

Councillors to submit other ideas to the Clerk, who would discuss them with the Princess Trust.

15/233.

HERITAGE CENTRE

Councillors discussed the circulated report re the possibility of a Heritage Centre at 19 College Street. The building was being offered under a lease from the Duchy of Lancaster. There were some concerns raised about the long term costs, but the decision required at this stage was to commit to undertaking further research so that a more detailed proposal could be considered by the Council before they committed to the project.

RESOLVED:

- That the Council agree to pursue the project with the aim of making a final decision on whether to commit to a lease in December.
- That the Council ratify the submission of the grant application to the Community Facilities Fund.
- That the Council allocate a budget of £10,000 initially for professional fees including structural survey, architects fees, valuation and legal fees.
- That the Council rename the reserve Heritage Centre/Community Centre Reserve.
- That the quote be accepted of £775 to undertake a building survey and produce existing layout plans.

15/234.

ITEMS TO REPORT.

Cllr J Smithers requested the following items for future agenda:-

- A Town Warden who could issue enforcement notices for litter etc.
- Lighting at Skateboard Park.

He also requested an update on the Scrapyard at Irthlingborough.

Mayor

Date