

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 31st JANUARY 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Simon Arthur, PCSO Leanne Parker.

- 17/01. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor D C Lawson MBE, Councillor Mrs O J Mayes and District Councillor G Harwood.
- 17/02. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Other interests
Cllr Mrs A M Sauntson, item 13, committee member of Higham Ferrers Tourism
Cllr H L Jackson, item 13, committee member of Higham Ferrers Tourism
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting, item 10.1, chq no. 300323, Mayoral expenses
Cllr P Tomas, item 17, resident of Mallard Close
- 17/03. **MINUTES**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2016 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and accurate record.
- 17/04. **POLICING**
PCSO Simon Arthur referred to the 2016 crime figures tabled and explained the figures for the month of December for the Chichele and Lancaster ward areas were both quite low for the time of year and compared to previous months. He informed that the attack on a man on a Saturday night near the Market Square, as referenced at the last meeting, had not actually been reported to the Police. Cllr J Smithers asked if figures were available that showed the follow up on the crimes reported. The Police responded that officer detection levels may be available but they were not certain if an overall % detection rate could be reported but they would look into what information was available. PCSO Simon Arthur confirmed regular patrols included Saffron Road Recreation Ground and that he was not aware of any further reports of possible drug offences. From the crime reports it was noted the number of drug possession and drug trafficking reports were low. The Police said a low figure didn't necessarily mean there wasn't a drug problem in the area. The Police are always working on this area of crime. If numbers are higher, it could be reflective of a period of concentrated effort by the Police which results in an increase in the number of reported crimes. A reminder was given regarding the forthcoming TASH meeting, Thursday 2nd February.

- 17/05. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**
No public present.
- 17/06. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Mayor had not attended any events this month. Thanks were passed to those Councillors who attended the Searchers concert hosted by the Swivel Club on behalf of the Mayor and the Mayor of Rushden. The Mayor reminded of the Ladies International Day Lunch she will be hosting on Wednesday 8th March, with Gentleman welcome too.
- 17/07. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**
CCTV
A report on the activity for December as circulated.
Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)
At the November Town Council meeting members agreed areas that should go forward to be considered for PSPO'S. The Clerk has had a visit from the Enforcement Officer and the areas put forward for Dog Control will go forward for public consultation in April. The Council also asked that the equivalent to a 'Designated Public Place Order' be renewed on Saffron Road Recreation Ground and added for Castle Fields, Riverside Park and the Cemetery. Initially the officer advised that they would not be going forward with the PSPO for alcohol due to not enough capacity for enforcement. It was pointed out that Saffron Road Recreation Ground already had one in place, which the officer was not aware of. After exchange of emails they will be consulting on Saffron Road Recreation Ground.
Tourisms Request to Install a Defibrillator in the BT Box on the High Street
A request has been received from Higham Ferrers Tourism to install a defibrillator in the BT box on the High Street. The Council would have been the body to adopt it. In making enquiries with BT the box is well used and BT are not willing to put it up for adoption. Higham Ferrers Tourism have been advised.
Community Safety Partnership
A reporting system is to be put in place for the partnership.
RESOLVED:
That the Town Clerk's report be received and noted.
- 17/08. **QUESTIONS**
No questions.
- 17/09. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**
No reports.
- 17/10. **FINANCE**
- 17/10.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 31st January 2017.**
RESOLVED:
That the accounts for payment total of £41,352.21 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.
- 17/10.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 31th December 2016.**
RESOLVED:
That approval of the bank account reconciliation be deferred in the absence of Cllr D C Lawson MBE.
- 17/10.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 31st December 2016.**
RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 31st December 2016 be received and noted.

17/10.4. **To approve the following expenditure:-**

- (i) **Advert in the Rushden Reporter, £1,080 for 6 months.**

RESOLVED:

That the advert be placed in the Rushden Reporter for a 6 month period at a total cost of £1,080.

- (ii) **Legal fees for the first registration of land, £1,000.**

RESOLVED:

That a budget of up to £1,000 be allocated to enable the registration of the land with the Land Registry for the land at the end of Mallard Close and for the land on the far side of the A6.

- (iii) **Moss treatment at the tennis Courts/MUGA, £520.**

RESOLVED:

That the annual moss treatment at the tennis courts be undertaken at a cost of £520.

- (iv) **Senior National Figure, event planning, £500.**

RESOLVED:

That a budget of up to £500 be allocated for the event planning.

17/10.5. **To ratify expenditure under Clerk's delegated powers.**

RESOLVED:

That expenditure as listed and to a total of £515.81 be ratified:-

Barnard & Westwood	£383.94
Vanessa Treasure Designs	£131.87

17/11 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Planning and Development Committee held on 17th January 2017.

17/11.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held 17th January 2017 be received and adopted.

17/11.2 **Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 17th January 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held 17th January 2017 be received and adopted.

Recommendation:

Footpath obstruction VC23

RESOLVED:

That a letter be sent to the Highway Authority asking for the obstruction to be removed from the field side of the footbridge on Public Footpath VC23 adjacent to Fitzwilliam House, Station Road, and that, if necessary, the Town Council use the powers granted to them under the Highways Act 1980 section 130 (6) for its removal.

17/12. **BOWLS CLUB GRANT**

RESOLVED:

That the Bowls Club are not required to produce 2 further quotes for works to the remaining 2 sides of the Green given the specialist nature of the works.

17/13. **SPONSORSHIP OF OUTDOOR EVENTS AT CHICHELE COLLEGE**

RESOLVED:

That Higham Ferrers Tourism are allocated sponsorship of up to £1,000 for outdoor events in Chichele College.

17/14. **MILEAGE RATES FOR THE USE OF OWN VEHICLES BY THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES WARDEN**

RESOLVED:

That the Parks and Open Spaces Warden receive 'Essential User' car allowances with effect from 1st January 2017 whilst the decision regarding possible purchase of a vehicle remains outstanding.

17/15. **FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

RESOLVED:

That funding of £2015 for additional parking enforcement be approved of 5 hours per week for 6 months subject to the Town Clerk obtaining additional information regarding the extent of the working day and hours for the enforcement officers.

17/16. **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.

17/17. **REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND ADJACENT MALLARD CLOSE**

Cllr P Tomas withdrew from the discussion and vote as he had declared an 'Other Interest'.

RESOLVED:

That a decision regarding the request is deferred pending the Working Party, excluding those member of the Working Party who reside in Mallard Close, visiting the site to enable a review of the residents plans for an extension to the garden and construction of a double garage.

17/18. **RUSHDEN EAST**

17/18.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the report from the Town Clerk on the Rushden East Board meeting held on 10th January 2017 be received and noted.

17/18.2 **RESOLVED:**

That the letter of 13th December 2016 from Bidwells be received and noted.

17/18.3. **Rushden East Stakeholder Group**

The Town Clerk advised that further to receipt of the letter of 23rd December 2016 from David Oliver, Chief Executive, ENC, seeking views on the establishment of a Stakeholder Group, the first Stakeholder meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday 21st February at 6pm. Louise Jelly, the Planning Officer, will be writing the Terms of Reference for the Stakeholder Group.

RESOLVED:

That the Rushden East Working Party hold a pre-meeting prior to the first Stakeholders Group Meeting. That the Working Party members will represent Council at the meeting, but if all Rushden Town Councillors are to attend then the Town Clerk will advise and the meeting will duly be open to all the Town Councillors.

17/19. **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.

17/20. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Mrs V Newbery suggested the Police and Crime Commissioner be asked to attend a meeting. The Town Clerk suggested the Annual Town Council meeting in March would be ideal for him to be invited to attend.

Cllr Mrs A M Saunston requested an agenda item for the next meeting to seek consideration of an agreed position following reports of a proposal for the establishment of a church school, Rushden East.

Mayor

Date