

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH JULY 2020 AT 7.30PM
USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor C P O'Rourke)	
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor V J Paul
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor N Brown
Councillor P Tomas		Councillor Mrs S Mantle
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor B Spencer
Councillor A M T Reading		Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Councillor J Smithers
David Wicks (Mayors' Sergeant)		Ms A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)

20/226. **APOLOGIES**

20/226.1. Cllr D Hamblin, Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

20/226/2. **Absence of Cllr David Hamblin**

RESOLVED:

That approval is given to the absence of Cllr David Hamblin from meetings due to ill health until May 2021 (local Government Act 1972 s.85(1) and (2)).

20/226.3. **Absence of Cllr Anna Sauntson**

RESOLVED:

That approval is given to the absence of Cllr Anna Sauntson from meetings for health reasons until May 2021 (local Government Act 1972 s.85(1) and (2))

20/227. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr H L Jackson - Item 12, As a member of the Licensing Panel he requested an entry be made in the minutes to make it clear that as a member of both the Town and District Council he will reconsider all matters at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the District tier. Therefore, he cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by decisions of this Council.

Cllr H L Jackson – Item 14, Member of the Hachenburg Twinning Association.

20/228. **MINUTES**

20/228.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th June 2020 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

20/228.2. **RESOLVED:**

That an addition be made to the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th May 2020 under item 20/94 Finance as follows:

20/94.5. **To agree how to invest proceeds of maturity of the Cambridge and County 1-year bond.**

RESOLVED:

That the 1-year bond of £75,000 be reinvested in a 1-year bond with Cambridge and Counties Bank with the interest being paid into the 31-day account.

20/229. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

None.

20/230. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events she had attended.

- Ongoing, visit to local traders and businesses as part of the Big Thank You campaign. The Mayor thanked Cllr Gardner for her assistance with organising the visits and for being the photographer and Emily Arrow from the Town Hall for the work involved with the social media posts.
- RAF Alconbury, with events cancelled the Mayor has joined the Facebook Group for the Chains.
- 28th July, meeting at the wood carver's yard to view the work in progress for the 3 carved benches from the Three Oaks timber.
- 28th July, met with 2 of the 1st Responders following the Council awarding a grant to them.

20/231. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Police Report

Link to the report for May 2020 <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/crime/nm108bt>

RESOLVED:

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

20/232. **QUESTIONS**

None.

20/233. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

Cllr A Gardner reported following the JAG meeting held 20th July 2020 via zoom. Cllr H L Jackson was also an attendee. Drugs and anti-social behaviour remain a priority. There is a need to encourage members of the public to report any incidents to 101. If reports are not made following incidents it gives the false impression that there are no drugs or anti-social behaviour occurring in the town which then can reflect on the level of policing in the town. Cllr Gardner met with and walked around the town with the local PCSO on Thursday evening. It is intended that this will be a regular monthly liaison meeting. There was a successful leaflet drop to houses in the proximity of School Lane. The youths linked to the anti-social behaviour have been identified. Youths from Rushden have been linked to anti-social behaviour at the Saffron Road Recreation Ground. Riverside Park is being used for camping and there is evidence of drug activities.

Cllr H L Jackson reported following his attendance at a meeting seeking repairs to the A6 Station Road bridge. Also, in attendance were the Clerk to Irthlingborough Town Council, Irthlingborough Cllr Jon Gray, 2 members of Northamptonshire Highways, and a representative from Carnell's, the Chowns Mill roundabout improvement scheme contractors. Northamptonshire Highways reported no funds available to repair the bridge. However, the missing coping stones will be retrieved from the river and be re-bed back on the wall. It was suggested an extension be made to the closure order and a weight restriction to reduce the damage being caused by heavy vehicles. A joint meeting

between Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough Town Council to consider the future of the bridge was proposed.

- 20/234. **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
Report from District Councillor H L Jackson from a pre-application Slaters Lodge development meeting held 7th July 2020. Gladman Developments propose between 900-1000 houses with a density of 35 houses per ha, with a 2-ha allocation for education. No employment land has been allocated. Linkage to the A6 is proposed via the new spine road in the Rushden SUE which is some years away from allowing connectivity. Green separation along the Rushden/Higham Ferrers boundary was sought.
- 20/235. **FINANCE**
- 20/235.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 28th July 2020.**
RESOLVED:
That the accounts for payment total of £48,016.22 as at 28th July 2020 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.
- 20/235.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 30th June 2020.**
RESOLVED:
That the bank account reconciliation as at 30th June 2020 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.
- 20/235.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 30th June 2020.**
RESOLVED:
That the budget report as at 30th June 2020 be received and noted.
- 20/235.4. **To approve the following expenditure: -**
- (i) **Annual tree works.**
RESOLVED:
That the annual tree works be undertaken at a cost of £9070. That with receipt of 3 quotes very competitively priced the contractor to be appointed by Council is selected based on known experience.
- (ii) **Video intercom system for the front door of the Town Hall.**
RESOLVED:
That an intercom system be fitted to the front door of the Town Hall at a cost of £960.
- 20/236. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- 20/236.1. **To receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees: -**
Planning and Development Committee held on the 14th July 2020.
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 14th July 2020 be received and adopted.
- 20/236.2. **Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 14th July 2020.**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 14th July 2020 be received and adopted.
Recommendations
- (i) **TIMBER TRIM TRAIL AT CASTLE FIELDS**
RESOLVED:
That the revised timber trail design for Castle Fields consisting of 10 items be approved at a cost of £6736.
- (ii) **REVIEW OF FEES FOR HIRE OF FACILITIES CONSIDERING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**
RESOLVED:

That

- The school be asked if they are likely to use the facilities in 2020/21 and a fee to be negotiated.
- A fee to be negotiated per match for the cricket club in the region of £45 a match.
- The Tennis Club fee be reviewed at the September meeting once likely usage until March 2021 is known.

(iii) **FENCING TO VILLA RISE PLAY AREA**

RESOLVED:

That the wooden fence at Villa Rise play area be replaced with 1m high galvanised playsafe specification bow top fencing within a budget cost of £5975. Cost to be met from Section 106 monies held for maintenance of the play areas.

(iv) **5 A SIDE FOOTBALL PITCH, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

Improvement Works to the Pitch

RESOLVED:

That works be undertaken to improve the 5 aside football pitch with the importation and grading of soil for seeding at a cost of £840.

20/237. **LICENSING**

**To consider a response to the consultation for a license review: -
Premises Licence, Green Dragon Hotel, 4 College Street, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That Council support the review and the conditions put forward for addition to the Licence.

20/238. **CONSULTATION MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

RESOLVED:

That the consultation from the Local Government Association on the Model Code of Conduct be noted and that no response is made at this time.

20/239. **TWINNING WITH HACHENBURG**

Having declared an interest Cllr H L Jackson withdrew to the zoom waiting room for the discussion and vote.

RESOLVED:

That a letter and a plaque be sent to Hachenburg to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning Association.

20/240. **CIVIC SERVICE OF THANKS AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE, COVID-19**

RESOLVED:

That plans commence for a Civic Service to be held to give thanks to the work of the NHS and others during the COVID 19 pandemic and a celebration of the lives of those who have lost their lives to the illness. That the date for the Civic Service be held in abeyance pending the ability to hold the service with appropriate Covid-19 control measures and Government guidance being met.

20/241. **USE OF CASTLE FIELDS FOR A CIRCUS**

RESOLVED:

That James Richards Circus not be permitted to use Castle Fields due to the risk from Covid-19 but that the Council, all being well, look forward to welcoming them next year.

20/242. **COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

- 20/243. **DEFIBRILLATOR MAINTENANCE COSTS**
RESOLVED:
That the maintenance costs are met by the Council for the defibrillator provided at the Carriage House by the Rotary Club.
- 20/244. **VJ DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY**
RESOLVED:
That the Mayor take part in a private wreath laying ceremony, that is video recorded for social media with live streaming where possible, to mark the VJ Day 75th Anniversary.
- 20/245. **TOWN AND FARMERS MARKET WORKING PARTY**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Town and Farmers' Market Working Party meeting held on the 7th July 2020 be received and noted.
- 20/246. **COVID-19**
20/246.1. **Update**
RESOLVED:
That the report from the Clerk including the impact on income and expenditure from the be received and noted.
- 20.246.2. **Working Party**
RESOLVED:
That a Covid-19 Working Party be established to assist the office with developing and scrutinising risk assessments and guidelines for opening Council premises and services. Membership – Leader, Deputy Leader and Chairman of Committees - Cllr Mrs P Whiting, Cllr H L Jackson, Cllr Mrs T Reavey, Cllr AMT reading, Cllr Angela Gardner.
- 20/247. **CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE 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.
- 20/248. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Personnel Committee held on the 21st July 2020 be received and adopted.
- 20/249. **RE-OPEN THE MEETING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS**
RESOLVED:
That the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.
- 20/250. **ITEMS TO REPORT**
Cllr J Smithers requested an agenda item seeking the live streaming of Council meetings to YouTube. The Clerk advised that this had initially been tried but technical problems had been encountered.
Cllr C P O'Rourke asked if the promotion for the May 2021 elections could start and not be left to close to them being held.

Mayor
Date