

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS
TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29th JUNE 2021 AT 7.30PM
AT THE BEDE HOUSE, ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A Gardner)	
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor N Brown
Councillor B Spencer		Councillor V K Paul
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor G Salmon
Councillor C P O'Rourke		Councillor P McCann
Mrs Sandra Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Ms Alicia Schofield (Assistant Clerk)
David Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)		

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public

21/117. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr H L Jackson, Cllr Mrs J Bone, Cllr P Tomas, Cllr G Kelly, Cllr A M T Reading

21/118. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr P H Whiting, item 14, has family connections to the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Cricket Club.

21/119. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th May 2021 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

21/120. **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chair of the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Cricket Club spoke further to the letter she had sent to the Town Council seeking approval to locate a defibrillator near the cricket ground. In excess of £2000 has been raised in funds. The Round Table have also offered to donate a defibrillator which they wish to see installed at the recreation ground. With an excess of funds the club were in a fortunate position to be able to look at other locations too for siting a defibrillator in Higham and Rushden, including other sporting facilities and the local schools. A defibrillator is planned for Henry Chichele Primary School who were a local school some distance from the centre who did not have one. The club do not wish to keep the recreation ground defibrillator for their own use but wish it to be sited so it is available for all. The club will cover the maintenance costs. The club would urge the council to push for a defibrillator on all new housing estates. Businesses are also offering support so it is hoped this will allow for training in the use of defibrillators and that a training day can be offered at the Pavilion.

21/121. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on her activities since the last meeting as follows:

- 1st June, I welcomed to the Council Chamber, with the Deputy Mayor and Cllr Whiting, the retiring Councillors: Cllr Lawson, Cllr Mantle and Cllr Hamblin. We held a socially distanced leaving party with each presented with a town plaque and thanked for their work and commitment to the Council and the town.

- 10th June, I formally opened the newly refurbished Co-op store. The store is a great asset to the town and it was missed by customers during the refurbishment works.

21/122. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Police Report

The link to the report for April 2021 <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/crime/nn108bt>

44 Crimes for April: -

- Anti-Social Behaviour – 16
- Criminal Damage and Arson – 5
- Public Order – 4
- Shoplifting – 5
- Violent and sexual offences - 13
- Other Theft – 1

CCTV Report

A copy of the CCTV report attached had been circulated.

The Clerk responded to a number of questions raised by Councillors regarding the effectiveness of CCTV, the crime figures and the reporting system. The Clerk advised the website 'streetcheck' is the best means to use to track the crime figures and the latest information in relation to each crime.

RESOLVED:

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

21/123. **QUESTIONS**

None.

21/124. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

As the Police Liaison Representative, Cllr, Mrs A Gardner, informed Council of her last walkabout with PCSO Stephanie Bacon on the 28th June. They were joined by another officer in training. PCSO Bacon will now be central to the town. The new WPC will also be central to Higham. When she comes starts it is hoped she will coming to a meeting for introductions. CCTV has been effective in helping to identifying certain school age individuals linked to anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Police have been into schools, parents have been visited and both the school and PCSO have issued letters. In the last 2 weeks there has been no ASB at Saffron Road recreation ground. Cllr Gardner repeated the message that any ASB or other crimes should be reported to the Police so a true picture is formed and it ensures the allocation of resources to tackle it. Voi have their own reporting system for incidents with e-scooters and Cllr Gardner urged all to use this so a true picture was formed of the various issues surrounding them. If there is no reporting it will be assumed that everyone likes the e-scooters and is happy with them. Cllr Gardner confirmed the working hours of the PCSO varied but the shift work allowed a presence in the town in the evenings too.

21/125. **REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS**

A joint report from the North Northamptonshire Unitary Councillors had been circulated.

21/126. **FINANCE**

21/126.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 29th June 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of £35,926.88 as at 29th June 2021 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.

21/126.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 30th April 2021 and 31st May 2021**

RESOLVED:

That bank account reconciliation as at 30th April 2021 and 31st May 2021 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.

21/126.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 31st May 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 31st May 2021 be received and noted.

21/127. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

21/127.1. **Planning and Development Advisory Committee held on the 15th of June 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Advisory Committee held on the 15th June 2021 be received and adopted.

21/127.2. **Policy and Resources Committee held on the 22nd June 2021.**

That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 15th June 2021 be received and adopted.

Recommendations

(i) **Review of Policies**

RESOLVED:

- That Coronavirus be added to the list of diseases in the Health and Safety Policy.
- That the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure be reviewed with a target date for a draft to be agreed by full Council in September 2021.
- That the following policies be reviewed without change: -
Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy
Leader Protocol
Mayors' Handbook.
Financial Regulations

(ii) **Feeder Pillars**

RESOLVED:

That 2 feeder pillars for additional electric supply be installed in the Market Square within a budget of £7000. To be funded from Higham Ferrers Improvement Reserve.

21/128. **REVIEW OF TIME EXTENSION OF CLERK'S DELEGATED POWERS**

RESOLVED:

That the delegated powers given to the Clerk as a response to the Covid-19 outbreak be extended with a review date September 2021.

21/129. **CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR**

RESOLVED:

That Sean Prosser be co-opted as a Councillor to fill the 1 vacancy.

21/130. **DEFIBRILLATOR TO THE PAVILION**

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and the vote.

RESOLVED:

That Rushden and Higham Ferrers Cricket Club be permitted to locate a defibrillator to the outside of the Pavilion.

21/131. **CHURCHYARD PLANTING**

RESOLVED:

That no trees are planted along the northern boundary. That shrub planting be permitted in the identified area with request that it be undertaken with care and mindful of existing tree roots; suggested planting as blackthorn, hawthorn and cotoneaster with any further shrub species requested for the area at the approval of the Clerk in conjunction with the Tree Warden. That Council do not support the planting of a Rowan in a position between the Bede House and the Church.

21/132. **PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATION FOR A PROPOSED UPGRADE TO EXISTING RADIO BASE STATION, WOODLEY HOLDING LTD, NEWTON ROAD, HIGHAM FERRERS**

To consider a response to the pre-planning consultation from Cornerstone on behalf of Telefonica and Vodaphone:-

Woodley Holding Ltd, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers: Removal of the existing 3 no. antennas and the installation of 3 no. replacement antennas. Ancillary development thereto including the installation of 3 no. Remote Radio Units (RRUs) and 1no. GPS module.

RESOLVED:

That Council have no comments aside they would not wish to see an increase in the height of the mast.

21/133 **CHRISTMAS SPARKLE WORKING PARTY**

21/133.1. **Christmas Sparkle Working Party meeting held on the 14th June 2021**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Christmas Sparkle working party meeting held on the 14th June 2021 be received and noted.

21/133.2. **Christmas Tree in the Market Square**

RESOLVED:

That a christmas tree in the Market Square form part of Sparkle this year and that sponsorship be sought to meet the cost of the supply and installation of the tree. That Council agree to cover the cost if it cannot be met in full by sponsorship.

21/134. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

None.

Mayor

Date