

MINUTES OF A STATUTORY MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor P Tomas)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor J Smithers)	
Councillor D Drage		Councillor Mrs S Mantle
Councillor R Gell		Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor Mrs A Gardner		Councillor Mrs T Reavey
Councillor R D Hamblin		Councillor Mrs A Sauntson
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor Mrs P H Whiting
Councillor D C Lawson MBE		Miss A Schofield (Assistant Town Clerk)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		

Before the start of the meeting 1 minute of silence was held in remembrance of County and District Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE.

17/217. **PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened with prayers led by Canon Richard Stainer.

17/218. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr C P O'Rourke, Cllr B Prigmore and Cllr A M T Reading

17/219. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting - item 10, the application lies close to the border of her District Council ward.

Cllr Mrs V Newbery - item 12.2(i), owner of a plot at the cemetery.

Cllr P Tomas - item 10, member of the campaign group. Item 15, has previously brought forward a motion with regard to yellow lines on the Market Square.

Cllr H L Jackson – item 10, has delivered letters for the campaign group.

17/220. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st October 2017 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

17/221. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

No public present.

17/222. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended:

- 11th November, Cabaret evening held by the Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council, Colin Wright, at the Bowls Club.
- 12th November, Remembrance Sunday Service at the war memorial with the laying of the wreath on behalf of the Town Council.
- 12th November, Youth concert at the Derngate Theatre by the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust.
- 18th November, Light switch on at Christmas Sparkle.

- 22nd November, Thanksgiving and Pie Social at Alconbury Air Base. The Service was held in the Chapel at the base, followed by the Pie Social at the community centre.

17/223. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Police Report

- Number plate forcibly removed – Grove Street between 15th November and 16th November.
- Entry gained to vehicle – Celtic Close between 14th and 15th November.
- Entry into garden to insecure garage and items stolen – Crab Apple Drive between 6th November and 13th November.
- Entry gained to garage and items stolen – Coniston Close between midnight and 7.30am on 1st November.
- Items stolen from a vehicle in School Lane between 31st October and 1st November.
- Vehicle broken into - Swans Way between 22nd and 23rd November.
- Entry gained to insecure vehicle – Roland Way, between 24th November and 25th November.

Meeting with County Cllr Andy Mercer, Rushden South Ward.

A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 7th December at 7pm at the Town Hall regarding the budget cuts and the library closures.

RESOLVED:

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

17/224. **QUESTIONS**

Cllr Mrs S Mantle sought an update regarding the street light at the Saffron Road Recreation Ground which was still not working. The Assistant Clerk advised that it had been reported to E-ON for repair at least 3 times and they had visited to investigate. There seems to be a repetitive fault with the lantern and a replacement is likely required. The Assistant Clerk will check the latest position with E-ON.

17/225. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

None.

17/226. **PLANNING**

Cllr Mrs P Whiting, Cllr H L Jackson and Cllr P Tomas, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote. The item was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Smithers.

To consider a response to:-

17/01328/FUL: Revised and additional information received, erection of 10 poultry buildings and associated infrastructure and upgrading works to access track, land north east of Westwood AD Plant, Bedford Road, Rushden.

RESOLVED:

That the Council respond to the consultation with comment that they note the amendments and additional information but the original comments remain and the Council is vehemently opposed to the proposal. The Council understand there may be issues with the permitting process/DEFRA consultation and draw this to the attention of the authority.

17/228. **FINANCE**

17/228.1. **To approve the accounts for payment as at 30th November 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of £20,266.44 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.

17/228.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 31st October 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the bank reconciliation as at 31st October 2017 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

17/228.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 31st October 2017.**

The Clerk advised there is not the intention to set the budget and precept for 2018/19 at the December Policy and Resources Committee meeting due to the ongoing County Council budget cuts and the implications of the cuts on the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

That the budget report report as at 31st October 2017 be received and noted.

17/228.4. **To approve the following expenditure:-**

New white liner for marking the football pitch, £138.

Following a query the Clerk clarified that the football pitch lines are burnt marked at the beginning of the season by the Town Council's contractors. The football clubs are then responsible for marking the pitch throughout the season with the white lines required for the matches. The current white liner has not been working properly.

RESOLVED:

That a new white liner for marking the football pitch be purchased at a cost of £138.

17/229. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

17/229.1. **Planning and Development Committee held on the 14th November 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 14th November 2017 be received and adopted.

17/229.2. **Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 14th October 2017.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 14th November 2017 be received and adopted.

Recommendations

(i) **Cemetery Fee Review for 2018/19**

RESOLVED:

That the cemetery fees for 2018/19 be amended as follows:-

- Purchase of Burial Plot – Increase of £30 to £310
- Purchase of Child Plot – Increase of £10 to £100
- Burial of child under 12 – Increase to £5 to £135
- Burial of person over 12 single depth – Increase of £30 to £420
- Burial of person over 12 double depth -Increase of £30 to £520
- Memorials – Increase of £5 to £85
- Single kerbset – Increase of £5 to £85
- Double kerbset -Increase of £5 to £120
- Purchase of Cremation Plot – Increase of £5 to £140
- Interment of ashes - Increase of £5 to £185

- Certified extracts from the Register – Increase of £5 to £30
- (ii) **Sports Club Fee Review for 2018/19**
RESOLVED:
 That the following fees for 2018/19 remain the same at:-
- Football Clubs: Football Pitch - £16 per match, Changing Rooms - £25 (plus VAT) per match.
 - Cricket Club: Pitch - £220 per season, Changing Rooms £300 (plus VAT) per season.
- That the fees for the Tennis Club are £170 for the season, with an additional fee of £150 (inc VAT) per season for the use of the new cabin.
- (iii) **Hire of Castle Fields for fairs for 2018/19**
RESOLVED:
 That the fee for 2018/19 for the use of Castle Fields for fairs etc remain the same, subject to negotiation by the Clerk, with a minimum fee of £500.
- (iv) **Casual hire of Tennis Courts and MUGA for 2018/19**
RESOLVED:
 That the fees for 2018/19 remain the same at:-
- Hire of Tennis Courts - £5 (inc VAT) per hour. (Half price if a Tennis Club Member)
 - Regular users - seasonal fee of £50 per annum and a 20% reduction (£40) for tennis club members. (Courts still need to be booked and keys collected.)
 - MUGA - £10 (inc VAT) per hour.
- (v) **School use of facilities for 2018/19**
RESOLVED:
 That the fee for 2018/19 increase by £150 to £1250 per annum (plus VAT) to take account of the use of the new cabin.
- (vi) **Pavilion hire for 2018/19**
RESOLVED:
 That the fees remain the same for 2018/19.

Category of Hire	Room Type	Price per Hour (£) (Mondays – Saturdays inclusive)	Price per Hour (£) (Sundays/Public Bank Holidays)
Commercial	Hall 1	£12.50	£18.75
Charity	Hall 1	£10	£15
Community	Hall 1	£9.50	£14.25
Under 13's Party	Hall 1	£8.50	£12.75
Private Function / Party	Hall 1	£11	£16.50

- 17/230. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, BUDGET CONSULTATION**
RESOLVED:
 That the Clerk submit the corporate response based on the merging of the comments from the two responses that had been received from Councillors.
- 17/231. **HENRY CHICHELE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUPPORT FOR PROJECT**
 Council considered a request for support of a project to celebrate 'Henry Chichele' English Archbishop, with placement of an iron/steel work design outside the school. The Clerk referred to possible funding streams.
RESOLVED:
 That the matter be deferred to the New Year to allow costings to be obtained.
- 17/232. **ANNUAL PARKING RESTRICTION REVIEW 2017/18**
 Cllr P Tomas, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote. The item was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Smithers.

RESOLVED:

That the Council has no objection to the proposal for the parking restrictions for the Market Square. That the Council has no objection to the proposal for the parking restrictions at the junction of Kimbolton Road and Chichele Street.

17/233. **THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY**

The Clerk expressed concern regarding the tight timeframe and that an extra-ordinary meeting may be required in January. The County Council is only just tendering for the work to establish market value for the library properties. Councillors raised concern regarding the lack of detail provided by the County Council and the problems the lack of information and the timescales presented for budgeting.

RESOLVED:

That the update report on the future of the library be received and noted.

17/234 **CHRISTMAS SPARKLE**

The Clerk asked that all feedback be passed to Julie Morriss. Cllr Mrs P Whiting thanked the staff and all those involved. There was comment regarding the presence of the poultry farm campaign group.

RESOLVED:

That the report and feedback on Christmas Sparkle 2017 be received and noted.

17/235. **RUSHDEN EAST**

17/235.1. That the report from the Town Clerk on the Rushden East Board meeting held on the 14th November 2017 be received and noted.

17/235.2. That the report from the Rushden East meeting held on the 20th November 2017 be received and noted.

17/236. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson suggested the Council send a letter to congratulate the Queen and Prince Philip on their Platinum Wedding Anniversary and Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on their engagement.

The Clerk advised that, subject to references, an appointment had been made for the administration role.

Mayor

Date