

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT:**

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

18/219. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor D C Lawson MBE, Councillor Mrs C Reavey.

18/220. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Other Interests**

Cllr J Smithers, item 10.1, chq 300702, Mayoral expenses.

Cllr Mrs P Whiting, item 12, District Councillor serving on Planning Committee.

Cllr R Gell, item 12, District Councillor serving on Planning Committee.

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, item 12, District Councillor serving on Planning Committee.

18/221. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

18/222. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

No public present.

18/223. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended.

- 6<sup>th</sup> October, NCALC AGM at Moulton Community Centre, accompanied by Cllr Reavey and Cllr Gardner.
- 7<sup>th</sup> October, Civic Service for the Mayor of Sandy Town Council, St Swithun's Church, Sandy.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October, Civic Service for The Mayor of Whittlesey Town Council, St Mary's Church, Whittlesey.
- 25<sup>th</sup> October, Church of All Saints, Northampton, to celebrate St Crispin's day, The Patron Saint of Shoemakers.
- 26<sup>th</sup> October, Serve Does Dancing at the Ferrers School, where the Mayor was honoured to be one of the guest judges.
- 29<sup>th</sup> October, Official opening of the new play equipment, Saffron Road play area, followed by the official opening of the blue tourist plaques. The Mayor was pleased to be joined by Steven North, Leader of East Northants Council, and Cllr Wendy Brackenbury, Chair of East Northants Council.

The Deputy Mayor reported on the event he had attended on behalf of the Mayor.

- The Mayor of Huntingdon Charities Quiz Night at Huntingdon Town Hall with fish and chip supper.

18/224. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

**Police Report**

- 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September, items stolen from vehicle – The Hedges.
- 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September, item stolen from an unlocked vehicle, Blackwell Close.
- 20<sup>th</sup> September, search made of insecure vehicle – College Street.
- 10<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> September, items stolen from vehicle - Chichele Street.
- 20<sup>th</sup> September, burglary – Northampton Rd via insecure door. Car keys taken, and car stolen.
- 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Gardenfields. Burglary via insecure patio window – items stolen including 2 cars.
- 27<sup>th</sup> September – Theft from vehicle - Midland Road.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Lancaster Street. Number plates stolen from vehicle.
- Burglary of a property in Kings Avenue, Higham Ferrers between 10pm Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September and 4.45am Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October, items taken including car keys and car.
- Number plates remove from a vehicle parked in Lancaster Street, Higham Ferrers between 1.30pm Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October and 8am Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, nothing seen or heard.
- A vehicle was broken into in Simpson Avenue, Higham Ferrers between 3.30pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 11.25am Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, item taken from inside.
- Burglary of a property in Elizabeth Way, Higham Ferrers overnight on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. Various electrical items stolen.
- Person/s removed both the front and rear number plates from a motor vehicle parked in Elizabeth Way, Higham Ferrers between 6pm on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October and 11.30am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- Interfering with a motorbike parked on the driveway of a property in York Close, Higham Ferrers between 2am and 9am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October. An attempt was made to start the bike by force by person/s unknown in order to steal it but failed.
- Burglary of a property in William Steele Way, Higham Ferrers at 2.08pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Entry gained by force. At this time unable to report if anything stolen.
- Wheels stolen from a motor vehicle parked in Handcross Way, High Ferrers between 10.05pm and 10.35pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.
- Entry gained to the boot of a motor vehicle, which was left open and parked on the Market Square, Higham Ferrers between 6.30pm and 7pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Work bag containing a passport was stolen.
- A vehicle was broken into in Lancaster Street, Higham Ferrers between 2.30pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 3.30pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October untidy search conducted and items stolen.
- Burglary of a property in Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers between 8pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October and 7.30am on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Access gained to secure detached house by means unknown and two sets of car keys stolen from kitchen table. Keys were then used to steal motor vehicle from the driveway and to enter a second vehicle on the driveway and steal property from within

- Entry gained by means unknown to a motor vehicle parked in Midland Road, Higham Ferrers between 4pm on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October and 45 mins after midnight on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Items stolen from within.

#### **Update on Arsons**

Three juveniles were arrested and interviewed. They have been released whilst investigations are being undertaken. CCTV has proved useful in identifying the individuals.

#### **Compliments Received**

Several compliments about new play equipment including comment - *Money wisely spent.*

Planters – How lovely the flowers looked this year.

#### **Elections 2019**

Town Council have been told to plan for elections on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. It will not be known until the New Year whether they will be postponed.

#### **Poppy Display**

At 1.30pm today the poppy display had received 69 comments, 311 shares, and had reached out to 38,724 people on social media. Thanks to Julie and Donna for their hard work in co-ordinating the display.

The Clerk reported from the last Joint Action Group meeting that the level of crime was not considered by the Police to be out of the ordinary.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to express disappointment at the level of crime in the town at the present time.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

#### 18/225. **QUESTIONS**

None.

#### 18/226. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

None.

#### 18/227. **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

District Councillor Harriet Pentland presented to Council with regard to the pyrolysis plant, Upper Higham Lane. The plant has been granted planning permission although the Environment Agency has not yet issued a permit. Following the County Council Planning Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> October disappointment was expressed because it was felt comments had been disregarded.

#### 18/228. **FINANCE**

##### 18/228.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the accounts for payment total of £73,906.03 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.

##### 18/228.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>st</sup> September 2018 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr Mrs V Newbery.

18/228.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the budget report as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received and noted.

18/228.4. **To approve the following expenditure:-**

- (i) **Wet pour repairs, rocking horse, Saffron Road Recreation Ground, £1,465.**

That the wet pour repairs to the rocking horse, Saffron Road Recreation Ground, be undertaken at a cost of £1,465.

18/229. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

18/229.1. Planning and Development Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be received and adopted.

18/229.2. Policy and Resources Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be received and adopted.

*Recommendations*

- (i) **Review of Policies**

**Unreasonable Complainant Behaviour Policy, Tree Management Policy, Investment Strategy, Complaints Policy**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Unreasonable Complainant Behaviour Policy, Tree Management Policy, Investment Strategy and Complaints Policy be reviewed without change.

- (ii) **Glebe Farm**

**RESOLVED:**

That a second legal opinion be obtained.

18/230. **PLANNING**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Cllr Mrs P H Whiting and Cllr R Gell, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote. As members of both the Town and District Councils they will consider all matters at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the district tier. Therefore, they cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by the decisions of this Council.

To consider a response to amended/additional information for the following planning application:-

**18/01388/FUL: Amended/additional information: 80 dwellings, highways layout, open space and all other associated infrastructure (including details of access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) at land east of Brindley Close, Northampton Road Rushden.**

**RESOLVED:**

That no further comment be made. The objection and comments previously submitted still remain.

18/231. **GRIT BINS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council take on the grit bins handed over by Northamptonshire County Council for this year, with the exception of the grit bin located in The Hawthorns.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council check the levels of grit in the bins and use the filling service from Mowerman to replenish the level as required.

18/232. **PURCHASE OF A BRANDED GAZEBO**

**RESOLVED:**

That decision regarding the purchase of a branded gazebo be deferred to allow the Clerk to investigate the feasibility of printed aprons for the existing gazebos.

18/233. **PARKING IN WOOD STREET**

Council considered the correspondence received concerning the parking of vans in Wood Street. Planning enforcement have advised that as no planning conditions were attached to the application there is no breach of planning.

**RESOLVED:**

The Clerk write to Addingtons to seek co-operation and consideration with regard to the parking of vans in Wood Street.

18/234. **ANNUAL RETURN AND AUDIT 2017-18**

18/234.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the Interim Audit Report 2017-18 be received and noted.

18/234.2. **RESOLVED:**

That box 8 on the Annual Return be amended from £766,935 to £768,450.

18/235. **REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THE CHARTERS**

**RESOLVED:**

That permission be given to use the full reproduction of each of the Charters in the commemorative book that charts the development of Higham Ferrers.

18/236. **COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Community Centre Working Party meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be received and noted.

18/237. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of a meeting with Northamptonshire County Council held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 regarding the library service be received and noted.

18/238. **BOOK LENDING WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Mrs A Gardner reported on the Community Library Group meeting that she attended with the Clerk and was encouraged by its positive nature.

**RESOLVED:**

To receive and note the minutes of the Book Lending Working Party meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

18/239. **CHRISTMAS SPARKLE, EVENTS WORKING PARTY**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Events Working Party meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 be received and noted.

18/240. **LAND OFF OAKS DRIVE**

**RESOLVED:**

That Council wish to see the land off Oaks Drive retained as Open Space and not put forward for property development with Hallie Homes Ltd.

18/241. **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.

18/242. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES CLEANING CONTRACT**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public conveniences cleaning contract be extended for 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 at a cost of £569 per month.

18/243. **RUSHDEN EAST**

**RESOLVED:**

To receive and note the update on Rushden East.

18/244. **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.

28/245. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr D Hamblin requested an agenda item to allow consideration of a price for the purchase of the library building. The Clerk advised Council motions were already in progress with regard to the library building and the item was not required.

Cllr D Drage requested an agenda item seeking improvement to the lighting in the Council Chamber. The light from the Chandelier candle bulbs is considered poor.

Mayor

Date