

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor J Smithers)	
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor C P O'Rourke)	
Councillor D C Lawson MBE	Councillor Mrs P H Whiting
Councillor R D Hamblin	Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor R Gell	Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor H L Jackson	Councillor Mrs S Mantle
Councillor P Tomas (items 18/196 -18/211)	Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor D Drage	Miss A Schofield (Assistant Town Clerk)
Councillor Mrs V Newbery	D Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)	

18/196. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Cllr A M T Reading.

18/197. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr J Smithers, item 10.1, chq 300698, chq 300700, BP793 and BP829, Mayoral expenses.

Cllr D C Lawson MBE, item 17 and 18, resident of Mallard Close.

Cllr D Hamblin, item, 19.1 and 19.2, member of the Friends of St Mary's.

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

Cllr B Jackson, item 23, member of Tourism.

Cllr R Gell, item 12, District Councillor serving on Planning Committee. Item 19.1, contributing to the cost of the project with Councillor Empowerment Funds.

Cllr P Tomas, item 17 and 18, resident of Mallard Close.

18/198. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th August 2018 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

18/199. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

Mr Tomas spoke with regard to item 17, not in his capacity as a Town Councillor, but as a member of the public. The residents have made it clear they do not want a gate at the end of Mallard Close. There is concern that vehicles will park in the close as members of the public drive to the area to use the new play equipment planned. There are already 2 access points and these are adequate. The gate is a waste of money. Council is urged to take account of resident's concerns and remove the gate.

18/200. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended.

- 3rd September, RAF Wyton First Mission Reaffirmation Parade and celebratory service on the Market Square, Huntingdon.
- 4th September, Wilson Brown United Charities Meeting.

- 9th September, Mayor's Civic Service followed by refreshments in the Bede House. The Mayor gave thanks to the staff, the ladies from Tourism and the Councillors who helped ensure the event ran smoothly.
- 16th September, Attendance at the opening of the Heritage Day at Rushden Lakes alongside the Mayor of Rushden. Compliments to Julie Thorneycroft in an outstanding job of bringing the event together.
- 16th September, Civic Service for Cllr Wendy Brackenby, East Northamptonshire Council, followed by refreshments at the Plaza in Thrapston.
- 21st September, 50th Anniversary of Save the Children at the Bede House attended by HRH Princess Anne. HRH Princess Anne was welcomed by children from Little Steps Nursery. Mr David Laing welcomed HRH Princess Anne to Northamptonshire and the Mayor welcomed her to the town.
- 22nd September, charity wine tasting event at Saxon Hall, Raunds.
- 23rd September, Civic Service for the Mayor of Rushden followed by refreshments at Rushden Town Hall.
- 24th September, Tour of Broughton House arranged by the Mayor of Kettering.

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

- 3rd September, Reading by the cenotaph, Market Square, and raising of the red ensign to commemorate the forgotten forces of the Merchant Navy and fisherman during the wars.
- 14th September, Civic opening of Rushden Feast at the Dodgems.
- 21st September, American Air Force Ball at the Marriot Hotel in Huntingdon. Good food, company and conversation and an excellent presentation from retired Colonel Richard Graham.

18/201. **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

Police Report

4th September - Garden Shed broken into, Charles Close.

4th September - Car broken into and items stolen.

10th September - Vehicle was stolen by unknown means from a driveway in Linden Avenue.

11th September - Person/s have removed front and rear number plates from a vehicle parked in Vine Hill Drive.

Anne Close - Culprits have managed to take the padlock off a resident's gate & unbolted the gate & shed. Various items stolen.

Extension to the Greenway

Agreement on the wording of the Licence has been reached with the Ferrers School. East Northamptonshire Council has agreed an extension of time for the project commencement.

Saffron Road Recreation Ground

There is a spate of anti-social behaviour occurring, including interference with heras fencing around the Wicksteed horse and the new play equipment being installed, damage to a piece of the outdoor gym equipment and a fire in a litter bin. In addition there was an incident between youths and the cleaner for the public toilet.

Heritage Fun day

Feedback from the day was that the Higham Ferrers stand displays were extremely good.

RESOLVED:

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

18/202. **QUESTIONS**

None.

18/203. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

None.

18/204. **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

District Councillor Miss Harriet Pentland had provided the following report for Council: *Since the last meeting of the Town Council, I believe there are two significant 'items' for me to comment on. One directly in our area, the other relating to the whole county.*

The day after the last Town Council meeting, East Northamptonshire Council debated, and voted on, the unitary proposal. After a considered debate, the council voted to submit the proposal on an almost unanimous basis. Although, having said this, it was clear that no-one wanted to be in this position, if It could have been helped. However, I, along with fellow councillors, made the point at this meeting that we should all be focusing on the ways in which we can make the best of this situation and ensure a stronger Northamptonshire in the future, rather than looking too much to the past and playing the blame game. We must of course learn from the past, but equally we must seize the opportunities in front of us now and work hard as we move forward to ensure the best for the people of Northamptonshire - that is of course, if the Secretary of State accepts the proposal.

Looking to another very local issue, you are, I am sure, aware of the application for a Pyrolysis Plant along the Upper Higham Lane, to which a great number of our local residents are strongly opposed. This application, which has created opposition in part due to being the first of its kind in the country, is confirmed to be going to the planning committee at Northamptonshire County Council on 18th October 2018. Some of the degree of interest in this application is quantified by 57 submissions against the application made to the Environment Agency. I will be very interested to see the outcome of the application due to the high level of public interest and the number of residents who have spoken to me in relation to it.

County Councillor Mr J Smithers had no report but urged Councillors to ask him should they have any issues regarding County Council matters.

18/205. **FINANCE**

18/205.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 28th September 2018.**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment total of £35,428.92 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.

18/205.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 31st August 2018.**

RESOLVED:

That the bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2018 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

18/205.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 31st August 2018.**

RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 31st August 2018 be received and noted.

18/205.4. **To approve the following expenditure:-**

4845

- (i) **Tree works, Ullswater Close, £400**

RESOLVED:

That the tree works to the rear of 24 Ullswater Close be undertaken at a cost of £400.

- (ii) **Heavy duty shelving for the Cemetery Chapel, £212.30**

RESOLVED:

That the heavy duty shelving for the Cemetery Chapel be purchased at a cost of £212.30.

18/206. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

- 18/206.1. Planning and Development Committee held on the 11th September 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 11th September 2018 be received and adopted.

- 18/206.2. Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 11th September 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 11th September 2018 be received and adopted.

18/207. **PLANNING**

Councillor Mrs P H Whiting and Councillor 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.

- (i) To consider a response to the following planning application:-

18/01648/OUT: Outline planning application on land to the west of the A6, Higham Ferrers, with vehicular access from the A6 roundabout for consideration, all other matters (layout, appearance, scale and landscaping) reserved for subsequent approval, for the development of up to 300 new dwellings of which 30% will be affordable, landscaping, earthworks to facilitate surface water drainage and all other ancillary infrastructure and enabling works at land to the rear of the Ferrers School, off Station Approach, Midland Road, Higham Ferrers.

RESOLVED:

That the Council object to the outline proposal because of the poor access and connectivity on foot and by car to the town of Higham Ferrers, as well as the impact on the infrastructure such as schools, and doctors. That the comments provided by James Wilson be submitted as drafted subject to word alterations in connection with the timing of delivery of the links to the north west of the site and disappointment regarding the lack of a secondary access to the Ferrers School,

- (ii) **18/01725/FUL: Replacement of flat roof to garage front with a lean-to pitched roof at 32 Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers.**

RESOLVED:

That the planning application be deferred to the Planning and Development Committee for consideration.

18/208. **BOWLS CLUB DAMAGE**

- 18/208.1 The loss adjuster has visited the site and confirmation of the pay-out is expected soon. This will cover the removal of the damaged sheds, replacement with one larger shed and

replacement of the damaged fence. It will not cover the cost of the extension of the fence to meet with the gate.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the insurance claim regarding the damage at the Bowls Club be received and noted. That the work to extend the fence to the gate be undertaken at a cost of £395.

18/208.2. The Clerk had obtained costs to replace the damaged hedge with prices starting from £4,952.

RESOLVED:

That given the high costs associated with replacing the hedge that at the present time the hedge be cut back to root level.

18/209. **REVIEW OF TOWN HALL OPENING HOURS**

RESOLVED:

That the opening hours of the Town Hall remain unchanged and as currently advertised at 9.30am to 2pm Monday to Friday, with appointments after 2pm.

18/210. **TOWN COUNCIL UNIFORM**

18/210.1. **RESOLVED:**

That it become mandatory for the Park Wardens to wear uniform.

18/210.2. **RESOLVED:**

That a budget of £500 be set for the purchase of uniform. That polo shirts and sweatshirts be purchased for Town Hall staff for events and other occasions as required. That Councillors may purchase polo shirts if they wish.

18/211. **MALLARD CLOSE GATE**

Cllr P Tomas and Cllr D C Lawson MBE, having declared an interest, withdrew from the discussion and vote.

A special resolution as required by Standing Order 7a.

Council were asked to reconsider the decision to install a pedestrian gate off Mallard Close to the open space. Reference was made to an access into the field from this point having been established since 1839. The fence to this part of the field was erected a number of years ago.

RESOLVED:

That the pedestrian gate off Mallard Close to the open space remain as installed.

Cllr P Tomas left the meeting at this point.

18/212. **MALLARD CLOSE OPEN SPACE WORKS**

RESOLVED:

That the works to be undertaken on Mallard Close Open Space prior to the installation of the play equipment be noted.

18/213. **REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR A MEMORIAL GARDEN AND THE RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF THE WW1 PLAQUE, ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

18/213.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the Council offer their support to the Friends of St Mary's for the memorial garden project and the restoration and repair of the WW1 memorial plaque.

18/213.2.

RESOLVED:

That the Council do not feel a retiring bucket collection after the Remembrance Day Service on the Market Square to help raise funds for the memorial garden and the restoration and repair of the WW1 memorial plaque is appropriate. That the offer be made to the Church Council to have a stall at one of the Farmers' Market to raise funds.

18/214. **BOOK LENDING WORKING PARTY**

18/214.1. The Clerk reported that a representative from the Library Service had requested a meeting although the nature of the meeting was not clear.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Book Lending Working Party meeting held on the 11th September 2018 be received and noted.

18/214.2. **RESOLVED:**

That following request from the Book Lending Working Party the community group be allowed free use of the sports pavilion for their committee meetings.

18/215. **COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Community Centre Working Party meeting held on the 30th August 2018 be received and noted.

18/216. **CHARTERS WORKING PARTY**

18/216.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Charters Working Party meeting held on the 10th September 2018 be received and noted.

18/216.2. **RESOLVED:**

That authority be delegated to the Clerk to allow expenditure in accordance with the Heritage Lottery approved project costs and up to the project budget of £36,800.

18/217. **REQUEST FROM TOURISM TO SUBMIT A LICENCE FOR PAVEMENT WAY-MARKING FOR SPARKLE**

Higham Ferrers Tourism had made the request to the Town Council to submit the Licence because they did not hold the sufficient level of public liability insurance. It transpired there was doubt the group held any insurance cover at the present time.

RESOLVED:

That the Council write to Tourism to ask for a copy of their public liability insurance policy and that the group are restricted from taking part in Council events until this has been provided. That the Council do not support the request to submit a licence for pavement way-marking for Sparkle.

18/218. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

None.

Mayor

Date