

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 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 V M Newbery
Councillor R Gell		Councillor C P O'Rourke
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor Mrs T Reavey
Councillor D C Lawson MBE		Councillor Mrs P H Whiting
Councillor Mrs S Mantle		Miss A Schofield (Assistant Town Clerk)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor G Harwood MBE, 3 members of the public.

17/172. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr A M T Reading, Cllr R D Hamblin, Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Cllr B Prigmore.

17/173. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting, item 6, the application lies close to the border of her District Council ward.

Cllr Mrs S Mantle, item 6, has a motorhome stored on an adjoining field.

Cllr R Gell, item 6, makes representation for the Ramblers Association.

Cllr J Smithers, item 14.2, lives in a property close to the fencing in Parker Way.

17/174. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th August 2017 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record.

17/175. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

Mr N McDonald of Stonewell Design & Build Limited spoke in relation to item 7 and their request to erect scaffolding and safety fencing on part of the Saffron Road car park. Permission is sought to enable the building of the gable end wall and to ensure public safety during that build. The scaffolding will affect 5 parking bays. The bays will not be lost, the scaffolding and safety fencing will extend 1½ feet from the existing kerb edge into the parking bay. The gable end wall will have to be built overhand if scaffolding and safety fencing is not permitted and this is disadvantageous as the face of the wall cannot be seen by the builder.

17/176. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended:

- 3rd September, Merchant Nay Day flag raising at the Town Hall.
- 3rd September, NCC Garden Party at Grendon Hall.
- 22nd September, Mayor's Evening of Musical Entertainment at the Bede House which had raised in excess of £700.
- 26th September, Official opening of the new facilities at the Multi Use Games Area, Saffron Road, with the Chairman of ENC and children from the Junior

School in attendance alongside Mark Hawkins, who represented Team GB in handball at the Olympics.

The Mayor informed Councillors the retaining chain was now fitted to the Mayoral Chain and it made a great difference when wearing the chains and was more comfortable.

17/177. **PLANNING**

To consider additional information received;

17/01328/FUL: Erection of 10 No. poultry buildings and associated infrastructure (as set out in Table 1 of Design and Access Statement May 2017) – application accompanied by Environmental Statement (EIA) at land north east of Westwood AD Plant, Bedford Road, Rushden.

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting did not take part in the debate and vote having declared an interest.

RESOLVED:

That the existing objection be held and that no additional comments be made. That a representative from the Town Council make representation at the ENC Planning Committee, with Cllr D C Lawson MBE to attend.

17/178. **REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ERECT SCAFFOLDING AND SAFETY FENCING, SAFFRON ROAD CAR PARK**

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted to Stonewell Design and Build Ltd to erect scaffolding and safety fencing on land at the Saffron Road car park, subject to:

- All necessary health and safety requirements being met,
- Satisfactory arrangements agreed with the Clerk with regard to Christmas Sparkle,
- The Town Council being re-numerated for the works with the sum to be agreed delegated to the Clerk.

17/179. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

'Welcome to Higham Ferrers' Signs.

These have now been delivered and will be installed shortly.

Saffron Moat Interpretation Board.

This has now been installed.

MUGA Improvements.

The official opening is due to take place on 26th September.

Policing.

The letter circulated from the County Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner provides an update with regard to neighbourhood policing, responding to calls, investigating crime and estate management.

In addition to the written report the Clerk informed of the thank you letter received from the Rotary Club further to the Classic Car Show; the event had raised an impressive £7,200. The Clerk also advised of the change of date for the next Policy and Resources committee meeting which will now be held on Tuesday 10th October.

RESOLVED:

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

17/180. **QUESTIONS**

None.

- 17/181. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**
None.
- 17/182. **FINANCE**
- 17/182.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 30st September 2017.**
RESOLVED:
That the accounts for payment total of £142,126.96 be approved for payment. Copy attached to the minutes.
- 17/182.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 31st August 2017.**
RESOLVED:
That the bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2017 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr D C Lawson MBE.
- 17/182.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 31st August 2017.**
RESOLVED:
That the budget report as at 31st August 2017 be received and noted.
- 17/183. **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2016/17**
The Clerk reported the Auditor had raised no concerns.
RESOLVED:
That the External Auditors Report and Conclusion of Audit be received and noted.
- 17/184. **BANK AUTHORITY, UNITY TRUST BANK**
RESOLVED:
That the signing authority for the Unity Trust Bank be amended to allow the removal of Olwen Mayes as a signatory.
- 17/185. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
To receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees:-
- 17/185.1. **Planning and Development Committee held on the 12th September 2017.**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 12th September 2017 be received and adopted.
- 17/185.2. **Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 12th September 2017.**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 12th September 2017 be received and adopted.
Recommendations
- (i) **Use of Village Green land adjacent Glebe Farm**
RESOLVED:
That the land be used for unorganised outdoor recreational activities such as cricket, children playing, kite flying, football, with the provision of goal posts, running and circuit training. That in the longer term consideration be given to the possibility of providing vehicular access for on-site parking.
- (ii) **Parker Way fencing**
RESOLVED:
That the fence be removed from the top end of Parker Way near the school to the 1st road crossing to Blackwell Close.
- 17/186. **OFFER FROM LINDEN HOMES, GARDENFIELDS**

- 17/186.1. The Clerk outlined the advice received from NCALC with regard to taking action against East Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council.
RESOLVED:
That no action be taken against East Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council in the failure to deliver the original planning condition.
- 17/186.2. **To consider the offer from Linden Homes to give the Town Council £5,000 in lieu of installation of speed cushions.**
RESOLVED:
That the Clerk be delegated to liaise and negotiate with Linden Homes with the primary suggestion that 2 vehicle activated signs be funded for location on Wharf Road near the school, one for each direction of traffic flow. If this proves not possible, then negotiation regarding the offer sum, with monies held for a highway scheme in the future anywhere in the town.
- 17/187. **CO-OP BUS LAY BY AND BUS SHELTER**
RESOLVED:
That consideration of whether a letter be written to the Co-op advising of the possible changes to the bus stop lay-by and requesting that they fund a bus shelter be deferred pending receipt of a detailed plan.
- 17/188. **UNITARY AUTHORITIES/DEVOLUTION**
Cllr D C Lawson MBE reported to Council following the recent meeting of the Larger Councils Partnership. With Brexit in mind it has been suggested that local government reform may be some time off coming before central government, possibly 3 to 4 years.
RESOLVED:
That the report and papers be received and noted. That a letter be sent to Peter Bone MP asking him to keep Council informed on the matter and advise as and when it comes to Parliament.
- 17/189. **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.
- 17/190. **RUSHDEN EAST**
That the report from the Town Clerk on the Rushden East Board meeting held on the 12^h September 2017 be received and noted.
- 17/191. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**
To receive and adopt the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on the 18th September 2017.
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on the 18th September 2017 be received and adopted.
Recommendations
(i) **Flexible working**
RESOLVED:
That the Clerks' request to work compressed hours be approved.
(ii) **Appointment of an Administration Officer**
RESOLVED:

(iii) That the appointment of an Administration Officer be delegated to the Personnel Committee.

Vehicle Policy

RESOLVED:

That the vehicle policy as drafted be approved.

17/192. **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.

17/193. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr C P O'Rourke queried progress on the removal of non-permitted items at the Cemetery with reference to a plot at the cemetery that he noted still had stone chippings on; he also spoke of the safety inspection. The Assistant Clerk will liaise with Cllr C P O'Rourke to update on these issues.

Cllr C P O'Rourke had enjoyed the Mayor's recent musical entertainment evening at the Bede House and endorsed the comment from the Mayor that the number of Councillors who attended was disappointing.

Cllr Mrs T Reavey asked if an update could be requested from Linden Homes regarding the Japanese Knotwood.

Mayor

Date