



Rugeley Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Rugeley Town Council held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices, Taylor's Lane, Rugeley, at 8.00pm Wednesday 01 February 2017.

PRESENT:

Councillors:	R. Alexander	Mrs P. Ansell
	J. Bowater	A. Cooney
	R. Dipple	D. Gaye (Vice-Chair)
	G. Grant	C. Green
	M. Grocott	D. Hancock
	Mrs P. Hancock	I. Hodgson (Chair)
	Mrs C. Panter-Hood	N. Stanley
	Mrs G. Turner	J. Winter

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs R. S. Mason – Assistant Town Clerk
PC Joanne Manser – Neighbourhood Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Jones, Mrs S. Rose and Miss S. Whitehouse.

2. Declaration of Interest

The following Councillors declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 9 – Clerk's Report – Cannock Chase Local Plan:

Councillor J. Bowater

Councillor M. Grocott

The following Councillor declared a Personal Interest in Item 9 – Clerk's Report – Best Kept Village/Town:

Councillor Mrs P. Hancock

3. To Receive any Requests for Dispensation

No requests were made.

4. Public Participation

No Members of Public were present.

5. To Receive Crime Report for Rugeley – PC Joanne Manser – Neighbourhood Officer

PC Joanne Manser introduced herself to the Council Members as the new Neighbourhood Officer for Rugeley and Brereton Area. She explained that the area had not had a neighbourhood officer for some 12 months and she hoped that she could address issues that had arisen. It was explained that crime had increased in Rugeley however anti-social behaviour had decreased slightly. In her role PC Manser would be looking at the anti-social

behaviour especially within the young demographic. The Chair asked members that if they had particular questions they wished to ask PC Manser could they get in contact with the Clerk so she can forward on the questions so that PC Manser will be able to look into the matter before the meetings.

6. Minutes

- a) Members received the minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 04 January 2017. Councillor C. Green proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Ansell

Resolved: That

- [1] the minutes of Wednesday 04 January 2017 were approved as a true and correct record.

VOTE: Unanimous

7. Minutes of Committee Meetings

Members received the minutes of committee meetings that had taken place since the last Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] Councillor R. Alexander proposed that the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 14 December 2016 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor M. Grocott seconded this proposal. The minutes of the Finance and Management Committee were approved.

VOTE: Unanimous

- [2] Councillor D. Gaye proposed that the minutes of the Festival Committee held on 21 December 2016 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor G. Grant seconded the proposal. The minutes of the Festival Committee were approved

VOTE: Unanimous.

- [3] Councillor Mrs P. Ansell proposed that the minutes of Rose Committee held on the 04 January 2017 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor Mrs A. Cooney seconded the proposal. The minutes of the Rose Committee were approved.

VOTE: Unanimous

8. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair explained he had numerous meetings with the Management Auditor as expected. The Chair explained he had received a quote from the Management Auditor to be the Internal Auditor. It was explained that we would have to go out for quotes. Councillor N. Stanley explained that the Finance and Management would need to decide who to ask to quote and the timeframe was tight. Councillor M. Grocott proposed that the Finance and Management Committee were given delegated powers to decide who should be asked to put proposals in to be the Internal Auditor. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs A. Cooney and it was

RESOLVED: That



The Finance and Management Committee were given delegated powers to decide who should be asked to put proposals in to be the Internal Auditor.

VOTE: 15 For 1 Abstention

9. Clerks Report

The Assistant Town Clerk reported on the following:

- The email from Amanda Milling had been dealt with by the Rugeley Traders Association as they were in the process of producing a Rugeley Town Guide and had been in discussions with Mrs Beardsmore.
- Britain's Best Kept Village/Town was discussed and it was felt this was not something that the Town Council could do as they were not in charge of any cleaning of Town or the Flowerbeds. Councillor M. Grocott proposed that this is not something that the Town Council looks into. This was seconded by councillor Mrs A. Cooney and it was

RESOLVED: That

The Town Council does not take part in the Best Kept Village/Town due to having no input in to the appearance.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussions then took place on grant funding available to Parish and \town |Councils for the hedge trimming and verge cutting. Councillor D. Gaye proposed that Staffordshire County Council should be approached to see whether the grant for hedge trimming and verge cutting is something the Town Council can apply for. This proposal was seconded by Councillor R. Dipple and it was

RESOLVED: That

Staffordshire County Council should be approached to see whether the grant for hedge trimming and verge cutting is something the Town Council can apply for.

Vote: Unanimous

Councillors J. Bowater and M. Grocott left the room

- The letter from Cannock Chase Council regarding the Chase Local Plan was discussed. It was proposed by Councillor C. Green that the planning policy Team be asked to attend the March Full Council and give a presentation. This proposal was seconded by Councillor R. Alexander and it was

RESOLVED: That

The planning policy Team be asked to attend the March Full Council and give a presentation on the Chase Local Plan.

Councillors J. Bowater and M. Grocott re-entered the room

- The Assistant Town Clerk has had a request from the Brewery Street Shopping Centre regarding the old Noticeboard in Brook Square that was being replaced. The Brewery Street Shopping Centre would like to take ownership of the old noticeboard to put on the grass at almost the end of Brewery Street. The Council would still be able to display in the noticeboard. A discussion took place and Councillor M. Grocott proposed that the old noticeboard is donated to Brewery Street Shopping Centre. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs C. Panter-Hood and it was

RESOLVED: That

The old noticeboard is donated to Brewery Street Shopping Centre by Rugeley Town Council.

- The Assistant Town Clerk explained that the timescale for the End of Year accounts and Audit were available and it was a very proactive timeframe and easily explainable and of great use to herself. Copies were given to Members.

10. Defamation and Social Media – Councillor Mrs A. Cooney

Members had each received a copy of the recent SPCA bulletin regarding the matter of 'Defamation and Social Media'. Councillor Mrs A. Cooney wished to remind Members to be careful of what they post on Social Media and all those representing the Council. A discussion took place regarding the matter and it was agreed that all those involved in the Council should think before they post.

11. Budget 2017-2018

The Members discussed the budgets presented to them from both the Finance and Management committee and Councillor D. Gaye. Discussions took place on the proposed increases of 1.9% and 0.3%. With the 1.9% increase it would work out as a 93pence a year increase on Band D households. Councillor D. Gaye proposed his budget of 0.3% increase however there was no seconded. Councillor R. Alexander proposed the 1.9% increase budget which was a precept of £298208 (two hundred and ninety eight thousand, two hundred and eight pounds only). This proposal was seconded by Councillor I. Hodgson and it was

RESOLVED: That

Budget 3.5 be accepted at an increase of 1.9% which is a precept of £298208 (two hundred and ninety eight thousand, two hundred and eight pounds only).

Vote: 15 For 1 Against

Councillor D. Gaye wished to have it minuted that he voted against the proposal.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 01 March 2017 at 8pm.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That

The public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 (A) paragraphs 1 & 2, 3 & 4.

14. Staffing Matters.

The Assistant Town Clerk left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Prior to the commencement of this item the Chairman proposed that Cllr Mrs G Turner be authorised to minute the remainder of the meeting which was agreed.

