



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 04 January 2017.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

R. Alexander	Mrs P. Ansell
J. Bowater	A. Cooney
D. Gaye (Vice Chair)	G. Grant
M. Grocott	D. Hancock
Mrs P. Hancock	I. Hodgson (Chair)
Mrs C. Panter-Hood	Mrs G. Turner
Miss S. Whitehouse	

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs R. S. Mason – Assistant Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Dipple, C. Green, R. Jones Mrs S. Rose, N. Stanley and J. Winter.

2. Declaration of Interest

The following Councillors Declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 10 – Town Guide:

Councillor Mrs A. Cooney

Councillor D. Hancock

Councillor Mrs P. Hancock

Councillor I. Hodgson

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 – (SI K. Lee)

No Report was given.

6. Minutes

- a) Members received the minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 02 November 2016. Councillor D. Gaye proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. The proposal was seconded by Miss S. Whitehouse

Resolved: That

- [1] the minutes of Wednesday 02 November 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

VOTE: Unanimous

- b) Members received the minutes from the Full Council held on Wednesday 07 December 2016. Councillor Mrs G. Turner was thanked for doing the minutes for this meeting. Councillor Mrs P. Ansell proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. This proposal was seconded by Councillor R. Alexander.

Resolved: That

- [1] the minutes of Wednesday 07 December 2016 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 D. Gaye proposed that the minutes of the Festival Committee held on 09 November 2016 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor Mrs P. Ansell seconded this proposal. The minutes of the Festival Committee were approved.

VOTE: Unanimous

- [2] Councillor Mrs P. Ansell proposed that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 November 2016 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor D. Hancock seconded the proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous.

- [3] Councillor R. Alexander proposed that the minutes of Finance and Management Committee held on the 16 November 2016 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor I. Hodgson seconded the proposal. The minutes of the Festival Committee were approved.

VOTE: Unanimous

- [4] Councillor Mrs P. Ansell proposed that the minutes of Rose Committee held on the 07 December 2016 be adopted as a true and correct record. Councillor I. Hodgson seconded the proposal. The minutes of the Rose Committee were approved.

VOTE: Unanimous

8. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported on the engagements he had attended on behalf of Rugeley Town Council. These were:

- Funeral of Patrick Shelton a previous Chief Inspector of Rugeley



- The Christmas Lunch at St Joseph's
- Canapes Evening at Staffordshire County Council
- The final concert of the Power Station Brass Band at the Power Station Club
- Meeting with SI K. Lee and Mr K. Yates the Parks and Open Spaces Manager for Cannock Chase Council Regarding the council projects.

The Chairman also advised he had asked the Assistant Town Clerk to look at costings for Solar Panels for the Offices and Theatre. He also informed the members with regards to the banking situation the Council was at a stalemate however the immediate issues had been addressed. Councillor Mrs A. Cooney asked the Council if she could address this matter with Lloyds as she had a Business Manager with them who may be able to assist. The Council felt this would be a good idea. The plans for the budget and precept were discussed and the Chair informed the Committee that due to the timings the Finance and Management meeting would be held on Tuesday 24 January 2017 at 7pm and he urged all members to attend. Following this the recommendation will be put to Full Council on Wednesday 01 February 2017. Councillor M. Grocott asked that all draft budgets are sent to all members of the Council. The Assistant Town Clerk stated she would send Finance and Management Agendas and papers to all Councillors for the meeting. The Chair mentioned the planned budget for Cannock Chase Council and the proposed increase in Car Parking charges in the district where there is already parking charges in place. The Chair felt this was totally unfair as Hednesford has free parking and that if they installed parking charges in Hednesford there would be no need to increase in other areas of the district. Councillor I. Hodgson proposed that the Assistant Town Clerk should send a letter to Tony McGovern and Councillor George Adamson regarding the matter. This was seconded by Councillor G. Grant and it was

RESOLVED: that

The Assistant Town Clerk should send a letter to Tony McGovern and Councillor George Adamson regarding the matter of the increase in parking charges in Cannock and Rugeley when Hednesford does not have any charges in place.

VOTE: Unanimous

9. Clerks Report

The Assistant Town Clerk reported on the following:

- The Noticeboard for the Town Centre had been ordered.
- The Dementia Awareness Working Group are due to meet Monday 23 January 2017.
- Plans for Charter Fair 2017 are underway. Chase Radio will be in attendance on the day providing the roadshow and PA system. There has been a lot of concern shown on social media regarding the siting of Charter Fair at Green Lane Playing Fields. However it mainly seems to be aimed at the Fair Ground itself which had in all fairness tried to be accommodating.
- The Theatre Manager and Assistant Town Clerk had a meeting with PRS regarding the estimated invoices that had been issued for 2012 -2015. The Theatre Manager had got the estimated invoices lowered and was now on top of the matter. The Theatre Manager also found out that the Theatre can apply for a discount for the Pantomime if the songs used are only a certain percentage of the show itself. This has been granted and the Council will only pay 0.5% on the takings instead of 2.5%. *Councillors Mrs G. Turner and Councillors Mrs C. Panter-Hood informed the members that they had handed over the PRS information to the previous clerk when they left. A question was asked where the PRS will be shown in the accounts. The Assistant*

Town Clerk explained that it has it is under PRS Licence and that it should offset itself as the Council recoups the money from the people who hire the Theatre for their shows. Unfortunately claiming for the 2012-2015 would be difficult as the bills are estimated and the Manager is not sure what shows took place.

- A meeting was held with Kevin Yates – Parks and Open Spaces Manager or Cannock Chase Council regarding the Canadian Geese at Elmore Park. Because Canadian Geese are a protected species Cannock Chase Council are planning on using methods to actually stop the geese from nesting in the park. They will begin putting these in place over the next year.
- The email from a member of public regarding the dog mess on the Chadsfield Estate has been forwarded to the relevant department at Cannock Chase Council.
- The email received from Amanda Milling MP regarding the litter bins and waste surrounding Love Lane and Leathermill Lane has been forwarded to the relevant people at Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Council and Amazon. Amanda Milling's offices have also been notified of whom to contact regarding this matter.
- The Clerk of Hednesford Town Council has sent an email regarding ensuring Cannock Chase Council explain that the removal of the Government Grant has caused Parish and Town Council's to on the whole increase their precept. Also that Cannock Chase Council forward the draft wording to the Parish and Town Council's in the district before hand for approval.
- Staffordshire County Council are aware of who damaged the Metal Archway at the entrance to Town and they have admitted liability So therefore will be recouping the cost of refurbishment and repair from their insurance.
- The Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that the Community Infrastructure Levy monies can be spent anywhere within the Parish. This had been confirmed by Cannock Chase Council.
- The Assistant Town Clerk was in negotiations to get a living tree donated for Eaton Lodge Island.

Councillor G. Grant thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for all her hard work on this matter.

Councillors Mrs A. Cooney, D. Hancock, Mrs P. Hancock and I. Hodgson left the Room

Councillor D. Gaye as Vice-Chair took the Chair

10. Town Guide – Councillor Mrs A. Cooney

A request had been made on behalf of the Rugeley Traders Association for a grant of £250.00 (two hundred and fifty pounds only) be made towards the printing of the Rugeley Town Guide. Councillor M. Grocott proposed that the £250 be donated to the Rugeley Traders for help towards the printing of the Rugeley Town Guide subject to the Rugeley Town Council being included on the publication. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Ansell and it was

RESOLVED: That

£250 be donated to the Rugeley Traders for help towards the printing of the Rugeley Town Guide subject to the Rugeley Town Council being included on the publication.

VOTE: 8 For

1 Against



Councillors Mrs A. Cooney, D. Hancock, Mrs P. Hancock and I. Hodgson returned to the Room.

Councillor I. Hodgson took the Chair.

11. USP – Councillor Mrs A. Cooney

Councillor Mrs A. Cooney expressed how she felt that the Council had a great USP in the shape of the Rugeley Community Spirit and Events. The constant question of what is Rugeleys USP was frustrating as there is many from all the events that are put on, the Rugeley Rose Theatre and Community Hall and the Rugeley Christmas Lights which were far better than anywhere else. As a Council Rugeley Town Council is pulling together and should be very proud. This was agreed by members of the Council. Councillor J. Bowater also mentioned the medals that were given out to the schools for the Queen's 90th Birthday as Rugeley Town Council were the only ones to do this within the area. In all the Council felt that on any further questions on what the USP was could be answered in future by Councillor Mrs A. Cooney.

12. Gritter Update – Councillor Mrs A. Cooney

It was explained that due to a conflict of interest selling the Gritter to County Councillor G. Martin would not be advisable. Councillor Mrs A. Cooney proposed that the Gritter was placed on Ebay with the reserve of £2500.00 (two thousand five hundred pounds only). This was seconded by Councillor M. Grocott and it was

RESOLVED: That

The Gritter was placed on Ebay with the reserve of £2500.00 (two thousand five hundred pounds only).

VOTE: Unanimous

13. Christmas Light Switch On

Councillor D. Gaye explained although the event was successful elements did not work. CESS had decided to do the Lantern Parade separately and the Traders Association felt it was better the lights being switched on before the late night event as the stalls were illuminated. Councillor D. Gaye stated plans for the Light Switch On itself were still being discussed and the Festival Committee hoped to bring forward to Full Council an exciting new idea.

14. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors

No meetings had been attended.

15. 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.

16 Urgent Matters that may have arisen over the Christmas and New Year Period at the Discretion of the Chairman.

None were noted.