



Rugeley Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Rugeley Town Council held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices, Taylor's Lane, Rugeley, at 7.30pm Wednesday 7 November 2018.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

R. Alexander	Mrs P Ansell
Mrs A Cooney	R. Dipple (Chair)
D Gaye (Vice Chair)	G Grant
D Hancock	P Hancock
D. Lucas	Ms N Mahon
N. Stanley	G Turner

Also Present:

H Goodreid (Town Clerk)
 3 members of public
 1 police officer
 Mark Keeling – Staffordshire County Council
 Angela Groves – Cannock Chase District Council

Min No	Item	Action
115 115.1	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors L Carroll, C Green, M Grocott, I Hodgson, O Lyons, C Panter-Hood and J Winter.	
116 116.1	Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests Cllr D Hancock declared an interest in item 127.3	
117 117.1	To receive any requests for dispensation None were received	
118 118.1	The Chair closed the meeting for the Public Session. Kate Waterworth thanked the Councils for their work in unblocking the drains by the disabled parking spaces in Bees Lane. However the surface treatment was not appropriate for vulnerable users.	
118.2	Kate Waterworth raised the issue of Elmore Park. It was understood that Natalie Petit had begun a Friends of Elmore Park Group but progress on this group was not known. The Town Clerk had met with Cannock Chase District Council and spoken about the future of Elmore Park. It was hoped that a scheme combining Elmore Park and Green Lane could be developed.	
118.3	Kate Waterworth asked if there was an opportunity to get more involved in the workings and discussions on the town council. The	

	council advised that there are four working committees for the council and if she would like to attend / sit on these, let the clerk know. Alternatively there would be elections in May 2019 when all the members' seats on the Town Council would be up for election.	
119	To Consider Approving and Signing the Following Council Minutes:	
119.1	<u>Full Council meeting 3 October 2018</u> It was proposed that the minutes be approved. <i>Proposed: Cllr D Lucas; Seconded: Cllr D Hancock</i> The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.	Town Clerk to place on December agenda.
119.2	Cllr Grant asked that the protocol of reporting absences be put on the agenda for December's Full Council meeting.	
120	Actions Arising	
120.1	The actions arising from the meeting had all been dealt with.	
121	Police Report	
121.1	PCSO Dave Hughes attended the meeting and gave a verbal report of recent crimes in Rugeley. This is attached to the end of the minutes.	Copy of report attached to these minutes.
121.2	Cllr Gaye asked if there was more information about the recent break in at the Old Chancel as there had been a number of recent instances of criminal damage of local historic monuments. PCSO Hughes advised that it was not understood that the crimes were related to each other.	
122	Report from District and County Councillors	
122.1	No District or County Councillors were in attendance.	
123	Staffordshire County Council Officer to attend	
123.1	Mark Keeling, the SCC Infrastructure Liaison Manager attended to answer questions about highways. The following comments were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The damage to the Horsefair Island had been reported and the pot holes around the island had been filled. • Drains are block by leaves/debris sitting on top of the grills – was there a programme for clearing the drains/gullies? Gully clearing at the County is being undertaken on 3 year rotation with A/B roads being cleared every 12 months, rural roads every 2 years and estate roads every 3 years. The A460 Hednesford to Rugeley Road had recently undergone a comprehensive gully clearance as part of this programme. • The state and condition of the roads around the housing on Fernwood Drive was a big issue. Mr Keeling advised that the state of the roads had been assessed but was not a priority for the resources currently available but would be attended to when funding was available. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the County to emphasis the state of the roads on this estate. • The state of the block paving in Rugeley Town Centre was a concern for pedestrians. Minor repairs are being undertaken but comprehensive improvements were needed especially where tree roots were pushing up the blocks. Mark Keeling 	Town Clerk to write to SCC Mark Keeling to report back to SCC and advise RTC of progress.

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	<p>advised that he would follow this up at the County Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue of Hagley Park as possible venue for future local events. It was understood that this was SCC Land rather than SCC Highways dealing with this site. • The County Council initiative of People Helping People was a way of the towns and parish councils being asked to undertake work which hitherto had been undertaken by the County Council. In order to pay for the work, Towns and Parishes will be required to increase the Precept request to tax payers which their taxes to the County and the District would not go down. • Anaerobic Digester on Wolseley Road was an issue with possible significant increase in traffic accessing the site. Mark Keeling advised where reports on traffic numbers could be found. • Issue of Fernwood Drive Shops was raised with street lights not working and the state of the paving was dangerous. SCC does not own the site but understood that Cllr Mike Sutherland had been at meetings concerning the future of this area. • The Town Council were advised to speak to County Councillors re the placement of the bollard at Bees Lane which is frequently being reversed over by delivery vehicles. • The Town Council were advised to speak to Steve Schofield at the District Council re the road surface at the disabled parking bays on Bees Lane. It was requested that the County Council look at the possibility of retractable bollards at key access ways to the town centre. 	<p>Town Council to write to Cllr Sutherland</p> <p>Town Council to write to SCC</p> <p>M Keeling to advise on retractable bollards.</p>
<p>124 124.1 124.2 124.3 124.4 124.5</p>	<p>Cannock Chase District Council Conservation officer to attend Angela Groves, the Conservation Officer for CCDC spoke about the consultation for three areas in Rugeley: Church Street; Talbot Street/Lichfield Road; Trent and Mersey Canal. Links to these documents were on the Town Council and District Council websites.</p> <p>The idea is to make people living in conservation areas aware of what their responsibilities are to their properties. For each area there is an Appraisal Document identifying the history of the area, and a Management Plan giving recommendations and plans for how maintenance can be carried out in sympathy with the area. All residents of the conservation areas have been notified of this Consultation period which runs until 17th December 2018.</p> <p>Issues to be considered included: Safeguarding trees – especially the green corridor along the canal. Importance of the canal as a route way Pedestrian links across from the power station site Importance of chimneys to the skyline Importance of boundary walls</p> <p>Councillors commented at the disappointment felt by the Council and local residents with the recent approval given to the housing development at 36 Church Street which seemed to go against all the principals of the conservation area documentation.</p> <p>The matter of the Section 106 funding from Tesco development was discussed re the disabled access from the towpath to Bridge 67. Angela Groves advised that this was still in contention as Western</p>	

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<p>124.6</p> <p>124.7</p> <p>124.8</p>	<p>Power was concerned at the building up of land around their substation.</p> <p>The future of the former Alefgar School site between Church Street and Taylors Lane was discussed. The site was not part of the conservation area but was of importance as future development would front Church Street</p> <p>The high visual impact of the cooling towers was noted and the county archaeologist was involved in recording people’s memories from the power station site a condition of the demolition.</p> <p>Cllr Gaye sought clarification on the ‘Neutral Value’ of buildings within conservation areas. These were buildings which did not add architecturally to the area.</p>	
<p>125</p> <p>125.1</p>	<p>Rugeley Power Station</p> <p>Representatives from ENGIE were not in attendance at the meeting. ENGIE are the company who own the site and would oversee development of the Rugeley Power Station site. It was noted that they had hired the Rose Theatre on 20th November 2018 in order to undertake public consultation.</p>	
<p>126</p> <p>126.1</p>	<p>To note the approved minutes from the following committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement Committee held 12 September 2018 • Rose Committee held 12 September 2018 • Planning Committee held 19 September 2018 • Finance and Management Committee held 19 September 2018 <p>These were all noted.</p>	
<p>127</p> <p>127.1</p> <p>127.2</p> <p>127.3</p>	<p>Finance and Management Committee Recommendations</p> <p>Councillors considered that Employer Pension Discretion Policies and these were agreed. <i>Proposed: Cllr A Cooney; Seconded: Cllr N Stanley</i></p> <p>It was agreed to approve and adopt the discretionary pension policies.</p> <p>The council received one quote for replacing the exiting notice board with a double sided one and moving the one sided board onto new legs at the entrance to the theatre/council on Taylors Lane. One quote only was considered as the board needed to be in the same style as the existing one and the posts in town could be reused for the new board which would reduce the overall cost. <i>Proposed: Cllr A Cooney; Seconded; Cllr P Hancock</i></p> <p>It was agreed to purchase the proposed notice board using funds from the Community Engagement Budget for project reserves in 2018/2019.</p> <p>Cllr D Hancock left the meeting for this item.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on work undertaken with the LDD group and it was agreed that this did not require council approval to continue. Any councillors that were involved did so in their private capacity rather than as a councillor.</p>	

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<p>127.4</p> <p>127.5</p>	<p>Cllr D Hancock returned to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors considered the payment of the fee for the recent by-election. It was proposed that the funding for this come from the elections reserve. Cllrs needed to bear in mind that in 2019, should a national election be called on the same day as local elections, the town council elections would need to be held on a different date which would increase costs. It was important that the election reserve was built back up as soon as possible to cover this possibility. <i>Proposed: Cllr G Grant; Seconded; Cllr N Stanley</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the by-election fees be taken from the election reserve budget.</p> <p>The matter of the glasswasher was raised again. Cllr Stanley advised that no changes of budget source could be made to the funding for this item as the 6 month rule was in place meaning that the decision could not be overturned until after at six months of the original decision.</p>	
<p>128</p> <p>128.1</p>	<p>Health and Safety Policy</p> <p>Councillors considered the new Health and Safety Policy for the council. It was proposed that it was adopted. <i>Proposed: Cllr A Cooney; Seconded: Cllr D Lucas.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the Health and Safety Policy be adopted by the council.</p>	
<p>129</p> <p>129.1</p>	<p>Committee Structure</p> <p>Cllr Lucas requested that he be allowed to join the Finance and Management Committee meetings as a member of the committee. <i>Proposed: Cllr Stanley; Seconded: Cllr Grant</i></p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Lucas become a member of the Finance and Management Committee.</p>	
<p>130</p> <p>130.1</p> <p>130.2</p> <p>130.3</p>	<p>Fireworks Event 2018 and future years</p> <p>Cllr Dipple explained to the meeting the decisions that had been taken around the decision to not hold the fireworks event. The event was in some ways a victim of its own success with ever increasing numbers. It was estimated (based on last year's figures) that over 5,000 could be in attendance which increase the risk of event management. The largest concern was the need for a wide bridge with handrail that would allow 4000 people, some with pushchairs or wheelchairs to vacate the site safely and fast enough. Lighting of the way would also have been required along with removal of some of the hedges to create this exit. The work was due to have taken place on the day of the event which meant that if there were any problems, there would not have been the time to rectify the situation.</p> <p>The Town Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency to see about the possible use of Hagley Fields next year and to clear up issues regarding second vehicular access to the field.</p> <p>It was noted that the Community Engagement Committee will be discussing this on the 14th November meeting.</p>	<p>Town Clerk to contact Env. Agency.</p>
<p>131</p>	<p>St Augustine's Christmas Tree Festival</p>	

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131.1	<p>St Augustine’s Church were holding a Christmas Tree Festival this year where local firms and groups were invited to pay £35 for a Christmas tree which they decorated and placed into the church for the time 11/12/18 to 17/12/18. It was proposed that a tree be purchased and the LDD group be invited to decorate it. Funding for the tree would come from the public relations budget.</p> <p><i>Proposed; Cllr N Mahon; Seconded: Cllr P Ansell</i></p> <p>It was agreed that a Christmas Tree be sponsored for the St Augustine’s Christmas Tree Festival at a cost of £35.</p>	
<p>132 132.1</p>	<p>Chairs / Vice Chairs Report</p> <p>The Chair had attended the presentation to Rugeley First Responders of the Queens Award.</p> <p>Cllr Ansell reported that she had attended the NALC national conference at Milton Keynes.</p>	
<p>133 133.1</p>	<p>Clerks Report</p> <p>The Town Clerk reminded all present that the Remembrance Day events would start at 9.15am in St Augustine’s Church followed by a parade from the car park at Aldi to the war memorial. The Beacon lighting would take place at 7pm.</p>	
<p>134 134.1</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 December 2018 starting at 7.30pm.</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

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