



# Rugeley Town Council

Minutes of the Rugeley Annual Assembly held at the Rugeley Rose Theatre, Taylor's Lane, Rugeley, at 7.00pm Wednesday 17 April 2019.

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:**

R. Alexander	Mrs A Cooney
R. Dipple	D. Gaye
G. Grant	C. Green
D. Hancock	I. Hodgson
D. Lucas	Ms O Lyons
Ms N Mahon	Mrs C Panter-Hood
N. Stanley	Mrs G Turner

**Also Present:**

H Goodreid (Town Clerk)  
Approx 45 local residents attended the meeting.

**Earlier in the evening, a display had been available of the work of local groups and charities. The groups had submitted a one page report of their work over the past year. This report was appended to the agenda.**

Min No	Item	Action
<b>1</b> 1.1	<b>Welcome by the Chair of Rugeley Town Council</b> Councillor Robert Dipple welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Dipple thanked all the councillors for their work over the past 4 years. May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2019 would see the election of all the councillors and where there were vacancies after the election, the positions would be open for co-option. Cllr Dipple thanked all of the community / business / interest groups who had set out fantastic displays promoting their activities.	
<b>2</b> 2.1	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs P Ansell, L Carroll, M Grocott, P Hancock and J Winter.	
<b>3.</b> 3.1	<b>Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 to be noted</b> All attendees had received a signed copy of the minutes from last year's Annual Assembly. The minutes were noted.	
<b>4.</b> 4.1	<b>Chairman's Report</b> The past year had been marked with a number of key milestones including the achievement of Quality Council status. The council were now working towards the Gold Status.	
4.2	The town council works with partners to bring in funding for projects and	

<p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p>2018/2019 had seen success in bringing in £10,000 from National Heritage Lottery Funding for a project around World War 2 Childhood Memories. For more information about this, you should contact either the Town Clerk or Cllr Mahon.</p> <p>The Town Council were also looking for funding from Tesco's Bags of Help scheme in order to see redevelopment of the children's play area at Green Lane – voting on this project will take place in May and June 2019 at the Rugeley Tesco's store.</p> <p>Cllr Dipple mentioned the development of a youth council which will run alongside Rugeley Town Council. The second development meeting for this would be on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 in the Rose Theatre and interested parties were welcome to attend.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p>	<p><b>Community Engagement Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr David Lucas – Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, spoke about the three key events arranged over the year. Green Lane had once again played host to the Charter Fair. Green Lane continues to be the site for the fair until Hagley Fields is handed back to the County Council.</p> <p>The annual Bonfire and fireworks at Rugeley Cricket Club had unfortunately been cancelled at the last minute – this was due to the need for safety precautions not being able to be in place in time to ensure the safety and protection of the public attending the event.</p> <p>Rugeley Town Council worked again with Rugeley Lotto Events to provide the Christmas Lights in the Town, linking it to the Christmas Markets.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Committee also is manages the National Heritage Lottery Funded World War 2 project which was mentioned by the Chair of the Council.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p><b>Finance and Management Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Neil Stanley – Chair of the Finance and Management Committee, spoke of the role of the committee in overseeing staff, management and finances of Rugeley Town Council. The Committee had prepared and updated plans for the next financial year and recommended precept request to full council. The council had agreed top no increase in the portion of council tax which was claimed for 2019/2020.</p> <p>Finance and Management Committee also has responsibility for giving money back to the community through small grant scheme. Details of how to apply for the grants are available either from the Town Clerk or on the Town Council website.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p>	<p><b>Rose Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Chris Green – Chair of the Rose Committee, spoke about the work of the committee in management and organisation of the Rose Theatre.</p> <p>2018/2019 had seen an increase in the number of hirings and events and this lead to an improved community base. The purchase of a stage extension has seen a rise in the number of live performances at the theatre. Bookings for events are now done on line through 'Ticket Source' which has made the administration around events a lot easier and streamlined.</p>	

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7.3	<p>Regular events held at the Theatre include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seniors Afternoon Teas – every Wednesday between 12 and 2pm</li> <li>• Community Arts Club which is every Wednesday evening from 7pm</li> <li>• Christmas Pantomime</li> <li>• Pop Up Cinema during school holidays</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8.</b> 8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p><b>Planning Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Chris Green – Chair of Planning Committee spoke about the role of the planning committee in representing the views of the local community. The Planning Committee has 8 councillors on it who discuss and debate all local planning applications, planning policies and detailed regeneration opportunities affecting the town. This year the planning committee had commented on 78 planning applications and commented on Conservation Area Appraisals and Lichfield District Councils Local Plan Review.</p> <p>This year has seen interesting debates and discussions around the redevelopment of Rugeley Power Station. The Town Council is looking to work with neighbouring parish councils to ensure that the community views are being heard. As a result of this, a Facebook Page (Power for All) has been established and is an open platform where community views and suggestions can be posted and fed back to the developers.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b> 9.1</p>	<p><b>Rugeley WWII Childhood Memories Project (National Heritage Lottery Funded)</b></p> <p>Cllr Mahon spoke about this new project running this year which focusses an intergenerational approach to preserving memories of residents who were children in Rugeley in WWII with young Rugeley people conducting the interviews and making short films to record them. An exhibition launch will take place at the Rugeley Theatre later in the year with presentations and interpretation of the projects outcomes. After this, the project will tour local libraries and The Museum of Cannock Chase.</p>	
<p><b>10</b> 10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p> <p>10.4</p>	<p><b>To Receive any reports from the Community Groups</b></p> <p>The following community representatives spoke to the floor:</p> <p><u>Rugeley Community Centre</u> Chris Fielding, the centre manager, spoke about the role of the centre in supporting the development of Rugeley. The centre hosts over 200 regular activities and special events throughout the year which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Foodbank</li> <li>• Active-ate during school holidays</li> <li>• Cinema</li> <li>• Access English</li> <li>• Jobs Club</li> <li>• Art group</li> </ul> <p>The community centre is keen to promote and support all local events.</p> <p><u>Rugeley Community Church</u> This is very much part of the community with values and direction which supports the town's residents.</p> <p><u>Rugeley Leisure Centre</u> The leisure centre offers a swimming pool with lessons and support for all ages and abilities; and 80 station fitness suite; 2 squash courts; artificial turf pitch;</p>	

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	walking football and above all, a friendly and professional approach to meet every individual need. It may be that residents can get a GP referral to the leisure centre in which case experts work to get people back to being active over 15 months through accompanied walks, gardening, art projects etc.	
10.5	<p><u>St Augustine's Church</u> Over the past year the church has been focussing on the free counselling service – Changing Room. Over the past year, 60 people have been supported on matters around mental health, anxiety and depression. As part of the Churches Together group, the Rugeley Churches offer joined up services and opportunities. St Augustine's are recruiting local volunteers who will help to keep the church open to the public for more hours each week.</p>	
10.6	<p><u>Rugeley and Armitage Cameral Club</u> This group had been going for 10 years and now has around 80 members. They have meetings between September and June and meet on Monday evenings at Lee Hall Miners Welfare Club. There are competitions to enter and presentations from other photographers. The group have raised over £7,000 for St Giles Hospice through various fund raising activities.</p>	
10.7	<p><u>St Josephs and St Etheldreda Catholic Church</u> Community activities continue aplenty at this church with coffee mornings on Fridays and a Messy Church on Wednesdays from 4pm – 5.30pm. A lay worker will start to further develop relationships with other groups and the local community when they start in May 2019. More information is available on the church's website.</p>	
10.8	<p><u>ASDAN</u> This is an outdoor therapy centre run by a not for profit charity. It offers assisted therapy to students aged from 7 – 25 years old. The bespoke education is offered through therapy programmes offering over 100 ASDAN accredited courses.</p>	
10.9	<p><u>Rugeley Lotto Events</u> This organisation stems from the previous Rugeley Traders Association and has been active for some 9 years. There is a monthly lott draw with half the money taken going to the winning ticket holder and the other half going to local causes. Over the past 4 years, over £35,000 has been given away to a variety of causes. Each year there are 3 key events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St George visiting the town on his horse (23<sup>rd</sup> April each year)</li> <li>• Christmas Market (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019)</li> <li>• Lantern Parade</li> </ul>	
10.10	<p><u>Support Staffordshire</u> Supports the voluntary and community sector throughout Staffordshire. It organises networking forums which bring organisations together, delivers a volunteer centre in Cannock Library, matches the public needs to volunteers, runs the voluntary car scheme etc.</p>	
10.11	<p><u>Help a Squaddie</u> This group have been in Rugeley for a year now and in that time the group has gone from strength to strength. The group supports PTSD veterans, getting them back on the right track through healthy exercises and meditation. The group currently link with Churchfields School in Rugeley to assist with a gardening project. Mixing children with veterans is therapeutic to all. The Staffordshire Regimental Fishing group now has over 60 members. Help a Squaddie recently started a new military band which helps to instil a sense of</p>	

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	pride in the musicians.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Open Forum on Local Issues and Resolutions</b>	
11.1	Ian Gunner raised the need for the community to support the development of young people in the town in order to give them purpose and pride in their lives and where they live.	
11.2	The Town Clerk reminded everyone that the Town Council and the Rugeley Community Centre were working together to collect the communities vision for Rugeley in the next 2, 5 and 10 years. Sticky notes were available on which to write your thoughts and aspirations for the town. These comments would then be collated and fed back to various agencies to see if local groups, organisations and councils could help to make the ideas a reality.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Resolutions from the Floor</b>	
12.1	none were received.	
<b>13</b>	Councillor Dipple drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for coming along and participating in the event. He reiterated the fact that you didn't have to be a councillor to have your say in what was happening in Rugeley. Cllr Dipple thanked the current cohort of councillors for their work over the past 4 years and wished the next council well. Cllr Dipple again encouraged people to contact the Town Clerk and Councillors and attend the public monthly council meetings.	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

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