

Signed: *Niall Kelly*
7/4/21

Minutes Full Council 3 March 2021



Rugeley Town Council

Minutes of Rugeley Town Council Full Council held online at
7.30pm Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs P Ansell (Chair)	Mrs A Cooney
R Dipple	D Gaye
G Grant	C Green
I Gunner	I Hodgson
R Hughes	Ms O Lyons
Ms N Mahon (Vice Chair)	Mrs C Martin
C Panter-Hood	N Stanley
Ms A Szklarczyk	K Tait-Green
Mrs G Turner	J Williams

Also Present:

H Goodreid (Town Clerk)
CCDC Cllr Josh Newbury
Adam Peacock – Keele University (Zero Carbon Rugeley)
A local resident

Min No	Item	Action
116 116.1	Apologies All Councillors were in attendance.	
117 117.1	Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests None were declared.	
118 118.1	To receive any requests for dispensation None.	
119 119.1	Chair to close the meeting for the public session. A local resident had submitted a question to be asked by the Clerk on their behalf:	
119.2	Wondered if the Town Council would support increased biodiversity in Rugeley by reducing the use of glyphosates for treatment of weed killing that was damaging to local wildlife.	

119.3	<p>Cllrs were supportive of the idea of encouraging wildflower planting in certain areas. Cllrs noted that the work is more likely to be directed by Cannock Chase District Council and Staffordshire County Council as they dealt with grounds maintenance. Cllr Newbury was asked to take this back to the District Council for their comment.</p>	
120	<p>CCDC Cllr Josh Newbury to speak on the issue of free/reduced rate parking to shoppers in Rugeley.</p>	
120.1	<p>Cllr Newbury reminded Cllrs about the Cabinet report which considered the Town Council offer to pay up to £30,000 towards free parking in Rugeley town centre car parks.</p>	
120.2	<p>Points made by Cllr Newbury included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/2020 year, CCDC received £129,772 from Rugeley. • Up to Jan 2020 the income for 2020/2021 was £50,080 with an anticipated end of year income of £67,000. • £49,000 has been claimed from central government to cover the loss. • CCDC has spent £98,000 on installation of new ticket machines in car parks across the district. • CCDC felt it is the wrong time to look at supporting Rugeley in isolation – need to consider other ways of increasing footfall to the towns across the district. • CCDC have a projected deficit of £300,000 for the next financial year owing to increased costs associated with additional works around the pandemic. • Review of car parking across the district as part of new corporate plan – this would be part of recovery strategy. Will consider all issues including parking fees, number of spaces etc. • Offer from Rugeley would reduce CCDC income from parking and loss would have to be made up from elsewhere which may be diversion of funding from other projects. • Hednesford Town Council have requested funding from CCDC to support further regeneration of their town centre • Budget review will go to Cabinet on 1st April 2021 • CCDC still responding to the effects of the pandemic and therefore premature to consider reducing income. • CCDC have considered a loyalty scheme for Rugeley 	
120.3	<p>Cllrs considered the views and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are car park fees charged comparable to other areas / district council car parks / Lichfield? • The car parking income received of c£129k is around £30k less than 4 years earlier – why is that? Less Parking? Increased Charges? • Clarification on the costs – is the income quoted gross or is it net of salaries for staff to collect money from machines and monitor parking breaches etc • You mentioned that CCDC would be looking to do works to Elmore Park toilets and the Boardwalk – what is the budget for those projects as CCDC budget last week did not show this work 	

Signed: 

Date: 7th April 2021

Page 2 of 4

120.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the meeting on 1st April which will hear a car parking review – can the timeframe be specified then? • Climate Change – has CCDC got plans to invest in alternatives e.g. bike storage and electric vehicle charging points? • CCDC advocates equality and fairness between the towns – this is not evident from car parking charges in Hednesford and Rugeley – there is an inconsistency in policies • Is the income from Rugeley car parks ring fenced to be spent in upkeep and maintenance and staffing of the car parks in Rugeley? • The car parking issue in Hednesford was to be revisited some years ago when the regeneration of the town had taken place – why has it not been revisited? <p>CCDC Cllr Newbury agreed to report back to the Town Council on the questions raised at another time. It was noted that the decision of CCDC on the free parking was to be reported to CCDC Scrutiny Committee on Monday 8th March 2021. Town Councillors would be attending that committee.</p>	
121 121.1	<p>Chair to reopen the meeting</p> <p>There being no further questions, the Chair reopened the meeting.</p>	
122 122.1	<p>To consider approving and signing the following council minutes. Full Council Meeting on 6th January 2021</p> <p>It was proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 3rd February 2021 be approved.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Cllr C Green; Seconded: Cllr R Dipple</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes be approved.</p>	
123 123.1	<p>Actions Arising</p> <p>All actions either done or would be on the agenda for the meeting.</p>	
124 124.1 124.2 124.3 124.4	<p>To note the minutes from the following committee meetings:</p> <p>Rose Committee 13th January 2021</p> <p>Community Engagement Committee 13th January 2021</p> <p>Planning Committee 20th January 2021</p> <p>Finance and Management Committee 20th January 2021</p> <p>The minutes were noted.</p>	
125 125.1	<p>Greening Rugeley Initiative</p> <p>Adam Peacock from Keele University attended to speak on this item. Through his work on Zero Carbon Rugeley, he has been in contact with an increasingly vibrant community looking to drive forward various greening activities in and around the town. Cllrs were asked to be the driver of these existing projects and develop new initiatives to improve the local environment through developing biodiversity, carbon reduction etc. This can include projects such as Rugeley in Bloom, Urban Orchards, and Rotary Club work etc.</p>	

Signed: *Nicola Eddowes*

125.2	It was agreed that the Town Clerk would set up an initial working party with Cllrs Grant; Green; Lyons; Martin; Gunner; Ansell, Mahon and Cooney.	Town Clerk to set up working party
126 126.1	Pedestrianisation Measures Cllr Lyons advised Cllrs that she had raised the issue of drivers breaching the pedestrianisation order for Rugeley, with the Chief Inspector. Staffordshire police had a new officer dedicated to local traffic issues – Sgt David Westwood. Cllr Lyons said that she would see if he would be able to attend a future council meeting.	
126.2	SCC Cllr Dudson had offered to use some of his local allowance to add bollards / gates to stop traffic driving through the town but SCC were expressing concerns over the nature of the obstacles to stop traffic.	
126.3	There was a discussion about the various ways in which retailers, police etc could assist with enforcing the order. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to Sgt Westwood to see if he could attend a future meeting to discuss this.	Town Clerk to write to the police to raise the problem.
127 127.1	Elections The Town Clerk had yet to receive an update on possible costs associated with the upcoming local election in Hagley Ward on 6 th May 2021. As soon as costs were known, Cllrs would be advised. CCDC would advise the Town Clerk if the seat is contested.	
128 128.1	Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of Full Council would be Wednesday 7 th April 2021 at 7.30pm. This would be held via Zoom.	

The meeting finished at 9:00pm.

Signed: 

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