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Rugeley Town Council

Minutes of Rugeley Town Council Full Council held at the Rugeley Rose Theatre
7.30pm Wednesday 3rd November 2021.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

P Ansell (Vice Chair)	A Cooney
R Dipple	D Gaye
G Grant	I Gunner
I Hodgson	R Hughes
O Lyons	N Mahon (Chair)
C Martin	C Panter-Hood
G Turner	

Also Present:

H Goodreid (Town Clerk)
SCC Cllr Kruskonjic
CCDC Cllr Frew
CCDC Cllr Lyons
10 Members of Public

Min No	Item	Action
87 87.1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllrs Green, Pyke, Stanley and Tait-Green.	
88 88.1	Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests Cllrs Cooney and Hodgson declared an interest in item 97 as both were traders in the town.	
89 89.1	To receive any requests for dispensation None.	
90 90.1	Chair to close the meeting for the public session. The members of public had elected a spokesperson to talk on their behalf. The following points were made concerning the clearance of land corner of Hednesford Road/Stile Cop Road, Rugeley: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents from Surrey Close and Devonshire Drive were concerned at the needless destruction to the landLand lies within the Green Belt so if owner can't develop, why would he cut down the trees etc	

<p>90.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowner has left plant debris over the public footpath that runs through the site, so walkers are unable to access the Right of Way. • Landowner has removed the positive impact open space has on mental health • Site is part of the Cannock Chase and should be protected • Looking for a thorough investigation into this and want to know if there are any Tree Preservation Orders on the site; did the owner get a tree felling licence before the clearance; was the site checked for endangered bird species; what is the penalty for obstruction of the footpath; is the landowner breaching rules and regulations applying to the land; if an investigation is to take place – can its findings be made public. • Concern that rubble previously dumped on that land may contain asbestos as it came from old housing on the Pear Tree Estate. <p>Cllr Lyons advised the meeting that in her role as Leader of CCDC, she understood that the land was allocated as Green Belt within the local Plan and was part of the AONB Cannock Chase. For this reason, housing would not be considered suitable development on the site. Cllr Lyons understood that there were no Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on the site itself although there were some on the footpaths. Planning Enforcement at CCDC has been asked to investigate the legality of the actions undertaken and have contacted the Forestry Commission have been contacted.</p>	
<p>91 91.1</p>	<p>Chair to reopen the meeting. The Chair reopened the meeting.</p>	
<p>92 92.1 92.2</p>	<p>To consider approving and signing the following council minutes: Full Council Meeting on 6th October 2021 It was proposed that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting be amended to include the fact that Cllr Cooney left the meeting. <i>Proposed: Cllr G Grant; Seconded: Cllr R Dipple</i> It was agreed that the minutes Full Council meeting be amended to record that Cllr Cooney left the meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed that the amended minutes of Full Council on 6th October 2021 be approved. <i>Proposed: Cllr G Grant; Seconded: Cllr P Ansell</i> It was agreed that the amended minutes of Full Council meeting on 6th October 2021 be approved.</p>	
<p>93 93.1</p>	<p>Actions Arising 60.2 – a response from Marcus Warnes had been received and had been sent via email to all councillors.</p>	
<p>94 94.1 94.2 94.3</p>	<p>To note the minutes from the following committee meetings: Rose Committee 8th September 2021 Community Engagement Committee 8th September 2021 Planning Committee 15th September 2021</p>	

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94.4	Finance and Management Committee 15 th September 2021 The minutes were noted.	
95 95.1	Decisions from meetings held in July and August It was proposed that the extraordinary meetings which had been held in July and August should be classed as informal meetings only. <i>Proposed: Cllr I Hodgson; Seconded; Cllr P Ansell</i> It was agreed that the two extraordinary meeting held in July and August 2021, would be considered as informal meetings of the council only.	
96 96.1	Recommendation from Finance and Management Committee <u>Banking and Investment Strategy</u> It was proposed that the council approve the amendments to the Banking and Investment Strategy which would see the closure of the Unity Trust and Santander bank accounts and the opening up of CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account. This would all be included in section 10 of the Strategy. <i>Proposed: Cllr C Martin; Seconded; Cllr P Ansell</i> The above motion was agreed.	The Banking and Investment Strategy will be amended and put on the website
96.2	It was proposed that Section 8.2 of the Financial Regulations be amended to permit movement of money between the Lloyds Bank Account and CCLA Account. <i>Proposed: Cllr C Martin; Seconded; Cllr P Ansell</i> The above motion was agreed.	The Financial Regulations will be amended and put on the website
97 97.1	Christmas Lights Cllrs considered the 2 additional nominations for local heroes that had been received via Facebook. It was proposed that the two local people not be invited to turn on the lights at the Christmas Switch On Event. <i>Proposed: Cllr R Dipple; Seconded: Cllr P Ansell</i> There was a split vote of 5 votes each way. The Chair used her casting vote, and it was agreed that the two local people be invited to attend the Christmas Market to help switch on the lights. Cllr Dipple left the meeting.	Community Engagement Committee would be notified about the additional local heroes
97.2	Cllrs were asked to nominate themselves to a working group which would look at the development of the lights tender for the Christmas Lights for 2022/2023/2024. It was agreed that Cllrs Gaye and Stanley sit on the working group.	Cllrs Gaye and Stanley to work with the Town Clerk on the Christmas lights contract.
98 98.1	Newsletter Cllrs received a report on the quarterly publication and delivery of a town council newsletter as requested in October Full Council meeting.	

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<p>98.2</p> <p>98.3</p>	<p>Community Engagement Committee had looked over the costs associated with this. It was proposed that up to £2,000 be allocated from general reserves to pay for the printing and delivery of a winter and a spring edition of a council newsletter. <i>Proposed; Cllr G Grant; Seconded: Cllr G Turner</i> It was agreed that up to £2,000 be found from general reserves to pay for the Winter 2021 and Spring 2022 edition of a newsletter.</p> <p>It was agreed that advertising be looked at for future editions of the newsletter to help with the costs.</p> <p>It was proposed that an evaluation of the success of the newsletter be undertaken following the Spring Edition. It was further proposed that Full Council develop a new budget line for 2022/2023 which would secure future funding for the newsletter should evaluation show that it was a success. <i>Proposed; Cllr N Mahon; Seconded: Cllr C Martin</i> It was agreed that an evaluation take place following the Spring edition and that a budget line for the newsletter be established for 2022/2023</p>	<p>A report would come to November Full Council</p> <p>Development Manager to look at advertising for future editions.</p> <p>RFO to create budget line. Development Manager to factor in evaluation of the newsletter.</p>
<p>99</p> <p>99.1</p>	<p>Precept for 2022/2023 Cllrs received a precept approval timeline and the half year budget to show when committees / full council will be considering the budget requirements for the next financial year.</p>	
<p>100</p> <p>100.1</p> <p>100.2</p>	<p>Chairs / Vice Chairs Report Cllr Mahon had attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopening of 1st Rugeley Scout hut on 19th September. • Reopening of refurbished Penny Bank and gave a talk on behalf of the Landor Society. • Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles Creative Corners meeting on 13th October re displays in empty shops in town etc. • Attended the Hart Youth Council Community Spirit event on 19th October to hand out badges to the members. • Attended the Sherrif and Mayors fund raising quiz night in Lichfield on 19th October. • Attended the Keele University / Zero Carbon event at Rose Theatre on 23rd October. • Attended Hart Scvhoool production of Hour Glass on 29th October and welcomed the audience – this was financially supported through the Chairs Allowance. • Attended the Girl Guiding Review at St Peters on 2nd November. <p>Cllr Ansell had attended the Keele University / Zero Carbon event at Rose Theatre on 23rd October. Thanks to Cllr Ian Gunner for his presentation.</p>	
<p>101</p>	<p>Exclusion of the Public</p>	

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101.1	The public were excluded because of the likely discussion of exempt information defined in Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.	
102	Staffing Matters	
102.1	It was agreed that the RFO could hold additional employment with Essington Parish Council on the days when not working for Rugeley Town Council.	
102.2	Councillors were reminded of the Code of Conduct which applied to them not only while directly representing the Town Council, but also when they were commenting on social media in a personal context.	
103	Date of Next Meeting	
103.1	The next meeting of Full Council would be Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm.	

The meeting finished at 8:27pm.

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