

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
12 April 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllr R Levell (Chairman), Cllr P Byrne, Cllr B Cross, Cllr O Curtis, Cllr A Fernley, Cllr H Howell, Cllr M Levell, Cllr T Swailes and Cllr L Wilkes.

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Tucker, Clerk (Minutes)
N Joy, Assistant Clerk
S Smart, Operations Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

One Member of the public.

704.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R Beattie and Cllr D Hughes.

705.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting in compliance with adopted protocol.

None received.

706.22 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

707.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY HAVE EITHER A DISLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHER INTEREST IN ANY ITEM THEN THEY SHOULD DECLARE THE INTEREST AND LEAVE THE MEETING FOR THAT ITEM.

Cllr T Swailes declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 721.22, as a family member of an individual employed by a tenant currently leasing two Town Hall offices.

708.22 Minutes: To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14 March 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14 March 2023 be confirmed as a true record.

709.22 Committee Minutes: To receive the minutes of the following Committee Meetings:

- (i) **Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee** held on 23 March 2023 (Including recommendations at Items 677.22 & 678.22)

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **The minutes of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee held on 23 March 2023 be noted;**
- (ii) **The Gritting Policy, as amended, be re-adopted; and**
- (iii) **The Sports Club (User Agreement) Policy be disappplied.**

710.22 Mayor's Report: To receive the Mayor's report.

The Mayor provided an overview of recent engagements attended.

RESOLVED that the digest of Mayoral activities for March 2023 be noted.

711.22 Unitary Councillor's Report: To receive reports from Unitary Councillors.

The attention of members was drawn to the recent edition of North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) Leader's Report.

It was noted that NNC's most recent Full Council meeting had approved reforms to the Planning service scheme of delegation and committee structure, including an amendment to increase the proposed call-in period from 21 to 25 calendar days to allow more time for Town and Parish Councils to liaise with NNC Ward Members. It was noted that the Town Council meeting schedule for the next municipal year would benefit from spacing Full Council and Planning Committee meetings two weeks apart in order to avoid the chances of a potentially significant application missing the call-in option as a result of time constraints.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

712.22 Community Orchard Signage: To consider designs for signage to be displayed on the new Community Orchard information boards at Amos Lawrence.

Members reviewed the designs for Community Orchard signage and fed back their preferences on the colour, wording and positioning of content options to the Operations Manager. It was requested that a proof check be carried out to address some minor typographical errors.

It was agreed that Officers be requested to apply the required changes and then circulate the final version to all Members by email.

RESOLVED that the proposed Community Orchard signage be approved, subject to application of the tabled amendments and the opportunity for all Members to review the final version.

713.22 Application for Grant Funding: To consider an application for grant funding from 1st Raunds Methodist Guides and 1st Raunds Methodist Rangers.

The Council gave consideration to the application for grant funding towards the purchase of replacement tents for the guide unit. Sharon Priest attended on behalf of the organisation to present the application and explain how the funding would benefit their user groups and the wider community. It was advised that should the organisation require additional funding to meet the cost of purchasing the equipment, they could also apply to their NNC Ward Members for empowerment funding.

RESOLVED that a grant of £300 be approved.

714.22 King's Coronation Commemorative Coin: To consider a request from the Events Committee to purchase King's Coronation Commemorative Coins to give to Raunds nursery and school children.

The Council gave consideration to the proposal and received a summary of the rationale behind it from the Vice-Chairman of Events Committee. The idea to provide a commemorative coin was broadly supported by Members, although it was considered that subject to confirmed pupil numbers and budgetary constraints, supply might have to be limited only to those children resident in Raunds.

RESOLVED that the purchase of commemorative coins be approved.

715.22 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs): To consider the Council's responses to North Northamptonshire Council's pre-consultation Public Space Protection Order questionnaire.

The Council reviewed the questionnaire and provided responses to enable the Clerk to respond formally on the Town Council's behalf. It was noted that the Dogs Exclusion Order in respect of the Skate Park area at Amos Lawrence was no longer applicable. It was also suggested that 'Dogs on Lead' requirements should be requested in respect of Bassfords and Millfield. A query was raised in respect of whether newly built play areas are automatically added to the list of Dogs Exclusion Orders, which the Operations Manager undertook to check.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to formally respond to the questionnaire on behalf of the Town Council.

716.22 Saxon Hall Hearing Loop: To consider installation of a hearing loop system for Saxon Hall.

The Council reviewed the quotations obtained but considered that for the level of investment required neither solution could adequately service the needs of the Council or Saxon Hall users. It was noted that the facility already possesses a high specification AV system, therefore investment towards a suite of compatible microphones to provide improved coverage and flexibility of use was a better option. The Operations Manager undertook to investigate and obtain quotations to bring these back to the appropriate meeting for consideration.

It was recommended that the Saxon Hall terms and conditions be updated to make it clear that there is no hearing loop system in operation.

RESOLVED not to proceed with the installation of a hearing loop system for Saxon Hall.

717.22 Mobile Card Reader: To consider procuring two mobile card readers to take card and telephone payments.

The Council reviewed the quotations obtained for mobile card payment terminals and determined that Quote 3 provided the required functionality at the best value.

RESOLVED to proceed with Quote 3 for procurement of two mobile card reader devices.

718.22 *The press and public will be excluded from the following agenda item due to the confidential nature of the business under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting.

719.22 Clerk's Update Report: To receive a confidential report from the Clerk.

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the terms of the proposal be accepted and the timeframe for the remedial works be approved.

720.22 Printing Contract: To consider the Council's options for future provision of printing services.

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that Quote 1 for printing services be accepted on a new five-year contract.

721.22 Town Hall Update: To receive a confidential report on the Town Hall.

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The revised rental charges to Town Hall tenants be approved; and**
- (ii) A Working Group comprising Cllrs P Byrne, O Curtis, A Fernley, H Howell, M Levell and T Swailes be formed to oversee future Town Hall maintenance and repair workstreams.**

722.22 Establishment Report: To receive a confidential report from the Clerk.

The Clerk provided a verbal update on recruitment matters and staff overtime.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) Recruitment of an additional casual Operations Officer for Saxon Hall be authorised.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.22pm.

Approved: (Town Mayor)

Meeting date.....9 May 2023.....(Council)