

**RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**13 December 2022 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr R Levell (Chairman), Cllr R Beattie, Cllr P Byrne, Cllr B Cross, Cllr A Fernley, Cllr K Harrison, Cllr H Howell, Cllr D Hughes, Cllr M Levell, Cllr T Swailes, Cllr L Wilkes.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

N Barker, Administrative Officer  
 S Tucker, Clerk (Minutes)

**461.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr O Curtis.

**462.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**None received.**

**463.22 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**None received.**

**464.22 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.

**None.**

**465.22 Minutes:** To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 15 November 2022. (Copy via link.)

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 15 November 2022 be confirmed as a true record.**

**466.22 Committee Minutes:** To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- (i) **Events Committee** held on 15 November 2022.
- (ii) **Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee** held on 17 November 2022. (Draft)
- (iii) **Planning Committee** held on 24 November 2022. (Draft)

- (iv) **Extraordinary Events Committee** held on 29 November 2022. (Draft) (Copy via link.)
- (v) **Personnel Committee** held on 1 December 2022 (Draft) (Copy via link.)

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee Meetings held between 15 November to 1 December 2022 be noted.**

**467.22 Mayor's Report:** To receive the Mayor's report.

The Mayor provided an overview of recent engagements, drawing particular attention to the poignancy of the plaque unveiling in memory of Joan Betts, in the presence of members of her family.

A letter of appreciation from Tom Pursglove MP in respect of the Remembrance Sunday event was brought to the attention of members.

**RESOLVED that the digest of Mayoral activities for November 2022 be noted.**

**468.22 Unitary Councillors Report:** To receive reports from Unitary Councillors.

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

Noteworthy activity had included the commencement of a local government boundary review, proposing a reduction in the number of Councillors from 78 to 70. The Council is also engaged in preparations for next year's budget and had received confirmation from central government that the precept could be raised by 4.99% without the requirement to hold a referendum.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**469.22 Application for Hire of Open Space:** To consider an application for hire of Millfield.

The Council gave consideration to the application received and noted that the date for the King's Coronation fell within the proposed period of hire. It was therefore requested that the hirer be asked to schedule their shows on this date with regard given to any commemorative events that the Council might organise. It was also requested that the hirer be reminded of their obligation to be considerate of local residents and return the space to the Council in the condition it is handed over, including the removal of all event posters.

It was recommended that the open spaces fees and charges should be reviewed at the next meeting of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee, given that they were last amended in 2019.

**RESOLVED that the application be approved.**

**470.22 Planning Application 20/00745/FUL - 76 Bedroom Care Home (as revised) at Brick Kiln Lane, Raunds:** To consider the Agent's response to the Town Council's objections regarding the planning application and determine whether the response addresses outstanding concerns.

\* Cllr K Harrison arrived in the Chamber at 8.05pm after the debate had commenced and did not participate in the vote thereon. Cllr L Wilkes abstained from the vote.

The Council gave consideration to the Agent's response and suggested that whilst it is recognised that there remains potential need for additional care facilities in Raunds, particularly in light of the closure of the Darsdale care facility, the response did not satisfactorily address the objections previously raised and the Council continues to support the concerns raised by the other consultees/agencies.

The Council remained concerned at the insufficiency of parking provision, and although the agent had stated the figure was only four spaces below the minimum local adopted standards, members expressed the view that the whole purpose of having minimum is to set a base figure which should be adhered to. The Council also objected to the agent's description of the Planning Committee's earlier consultation response as 'lazy'.

**RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council maintains its objections to the application.**

**471.22 Annual Town Inspection:** To consider a recommendation from the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee for expenditure from the Town Hall Repairs & Maintenance budget.

The Council gave consideration to the report which asked it to approve the allocation of £7,480.15 from the Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance budget to fund the proposed kitchen works (at a cost of £6800.15, with a further 10% contingency budget of £680 built in). It was noted that the Finance and Policy Committee had reviewed the proposal at its meeting on 8 December 2022 and were satisfied that the works were required and there was sufficient provision within the budget to fund the works and provide the requested contingency.

**RESOLVED that the allocation of £7,480.15 from the Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance budget to fund the proposed kitchen works (at a cost of £6800.15, with a further 10% contingency budget of £680 built in) be approved.**

**472.22 Committee Structure:** To consider the structure of standing Committees for the 2023/24 municipal year.

The Council discussed whether the current structure of Standing Committees should be reviewed for the next municipal year, in light of a concern that Finance and Policy Committee has had limited capacity alongside its finance

remit to review a growing number of overdue policies. One alternative option discussed was to reassign the policy function to Personnel Committee, on the basis that greater capacity existed within their remit, however this was ruled out in preference of each individual Committee reviewing the policies that fall within their area of responsibility. It was agreed that the Chairman of Finance and Policy Committee and the Clerk will meet to review the allocation of policies by Committee, with a view to clearing the backlog progressively during the next municipal year.

**RESOLVED that reviews of Council policies will be conducted via the responsible Committee during the 2023/24 municipal year.**

**473.22** *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.**

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

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

After a discussion, it was

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) The contractor's proposal be reviewed by the independent flooring expert and an opinion be obtained on the likelihood of any substance being present;**
- (ii) Legal advice be sought in relation to the contractor's denial of liability in respect of external light repairs;**
- (iii) To proceed with the registration of Amos Lawrence Playing Fields with HM Land Registry on the basis of the valuation obtained in January 2020;**
- (iv) The Clerk be instructed to represent the Council in following up on the notification received 7 December 2022.**

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

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

After a discussion, it was

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) The Interim Clerk be appointed as Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on a permanent basis;**

**(ii) Authority be delegated to the newly appointed Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to implement the proposed support staff structure, including the offer of a permanent contract to the temporary Administrative Assistant and promotion of the Administrative Officer to the vacant Assistant Clerk post.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:30pm.

Approved: ..... (Town Mayor)

Meeting date.....5 January 2023.....(Council)