



RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

The Hall, Thorpe Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire. NN9 6LT
E-mail: - info@raunds-tc.gov.uk, Website: www.raunds-tc.gov.uk
Telephone: (01933) 622087

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
THE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD
ON THURSDAY 27th April 2023
FROM 6.00PM**

**AT THE SAXON HALL,
THORPE STREET, RAUNDS, NN9 6LT**

Councillor Richard Levell
Mayor of Raunds

AGENDA

Item No.	Subject.
1.	Community Exhibition 6pm.
2.	Welcome from the Town Mayor 6.30pm.
3.	Performances from Local Schools.
4.	To approve the minutes of the last Assembly of the Town Meeting held on 5 th May 2022.
5.	To receive the Town Mayor's Annual Report.
6.	Grant Funding Report.
7.	Councillors to receive questions from the floor.
8.	Community Exhibition continues & refreshments served.

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

Saxon Hall, Raunds, on Thursday 5th May 2022

COMMUNITY FAIR

The evening opened with a Community Fair. There were 17 tabletop displays to view from local groups and organisations and a slide show on the projector screen showcasing the Town Council's achievements for the past year.

WELCOME FROM TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Sylvia Hughes welcomed attendees to the Town Assembly and invited Chris Hill, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Nene Education Trust to the floor.

PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS

Chris Hill, CEO of the Nene Education Trust introduced himself and advised Nene Education Trust look after all the schools in Raunds plus four other schools in Northamptonshire. Chris proudly stated that he works with an amazing team of colleagues who make a big impact on the school community and values. There is a bright future ahead and now that Covid restrictions have been lifted all schools would like to get more involved in the Raunds community.

Chris then introduced Lisa Jefferey, Principal of Raunds Park Infant School.

Lisa expressed delight at the lifting of Covid restrictions and the return to normal school activities. During the pandemic a lot of children did not have a full year in school, and a significant amount of disruption was experienced. The children coped well and had been extremely resilient.

The school council from Raunds Park Infant school provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about their accomplishments and what they had enjoyed over the past year.

Chris Hill introduced Mrs Giles from Windmill Primary School.

Mrs Giles introduced the pupils from Year 6 who spoke about the importance of mental health, followed by a performance of Wind in the Willows. The children had written the words and music for the performance.

Chris Hill also spoke about the importance of mental health and its part in the school curriculum.

He then introduced Mr Chris Innes, Vice Principal of St Peter's CofE Academy.

Chris Innes spoke about the school's vision: "Let your light shine." They nurture the children and support them to be academically and emotionally strong. The pupils spoke about the school and what they had achieved in the last year. They had been working on mindfulness; created a new library; and raised lots of money for several charities. Pupils had also taken part in "Northamptonshire Does Strictly." A group of children then performed two ballroom dances.

Chris Hill introduced Lee Towers, Head at Manor School.

Lee advised that at Manor School they “shine a light” on extra curriculum clubs. These clubs identify new talents and for some students they become lifelong passions in sport, music, or both. Manor School is inclusive, and they develop the whole child with a range of provisions. Students play an active role in the community and have performed at the Royal Derngate, Royal Albert Hall, School Summer concert, Castle Theatre and even in Prague. The future is looking bright, with a growing culture and opportunities. Pupils from Year 10 and 11 performed a vocal trio accompanied by keyboard.

Chris Hill concluded stating that the performances from all schools get better and better and that he is extremely proud of all the staff and pupils from the four schools.

The Mayor of Raunds thanked Chris and the schools for their informative presentations.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on Thursday 13th May 2021, be taken as read and agreed.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

The Mayor of Raunds, Cllr Sylvia Hughes presented her report.

Good evening and welcome to the 2022 Raunds Annual Town Assembly.

We are particularly pleased to be able to hold this event here in Saxon Hall. Firstly, because of Covid we have held the last two Assemblies online and secondly, because we are able to show off our lovely newly refurbished Saxon Hall. Please take the opportunity to wander around to view our new facilities.

As the Town Mayor this year I have been honoured to represent Raunds at many Civic events including the Civic Services of all our neighbouring towns, and some beyond the county. It was a privilege to lead the flag-raising ceremonies for Armed Forces Day, Commonwealth Day and Remembrance Day, then to lead the Raunds Remembrance Sunday Parade and the Centenary Parade. We are rightly proud of our town’s history. These events were some of the highlights of my year.

As Mayor, it is customary to use my events as fundraising opportunities and this year my chosen charity is Service Six who work with young people and have a strong presence both in schools and in the streets here in Raunds.

My Burns Night was an outstanding success. Despite the continual Covid threat we still filled Saxon Hall with many other Mayors and residents from Raunds. With support from local businesses, we raised £1000 towards my Charity Fund. We also held our traditional Raunds Town Council Quiz with Cllrs Levell and Levell in the chair as quiz masters. Again, a really great outcome, as we raised £1000 for my charity and people are still arguing about the answers!

The climax of my year was the Civic Service held here in Raunds at St Peter’s Church. It was a delightful collaboration of Raunds people and societies. Raunds Temperance Band led the procession to the Church. The youth groups (Cadets,

Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers) all carried their banners, under the guidance of the Raunds British Legion standard bearers.

The service was a lovely combination of Rev Jon Aldwinkle, Reverend Kim Shorley and the Rt Rev John Holbrook, Bishop of Brixworth who appealed to us to strive for the greater good, and to pray for all those who live and work in Raunds, in particular children and young people.

The Music from Manor School students and the Raunds Community Choir added a touch of grace and warmth to a wonderful event. The collection was divided between Service Six and Ukraine.

In the wider picture of Events, we are very proud of our achievements. In particular the very splendid Christmas light switch on which grows bigger every year. The Town positively dazzles with the decorations of this great community event. Our Town Picnic and Mayor's Show provide opportunities for local businesses to shine as well as tremendous fun for all the family.

The Events Committee includes members of the public and I would particularly like to thank those members for their contribution. Please do not hesitate to get involved if you would like to participate.

Our particular focus this year is, of course, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 2nd and the 5th of June. The picnic at Bassford's Recreation Ground promises a really great party with lots of activities for young people. If you have not received one of these cards through the letterbox, then please collect one from us today. It includes many of the town's events so that you can plan to make the most of the annual calendar. Do get involved.

Our Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee have, as ever, been busy enhancing the look and feel of the Town. We now have a Community Orchard at Amos Lawrence and we have planted wildflower seeds along some verges to help attract and protect bees and insects, not forgetting the adoption of a hedgehog highway project to help protect our prickly friends. Hedgehog highway arches are available for purchase from the Council's stand today.

For our young people we have given support and funding for a youth club called the Den in partnership with and held at Manor School. We have provided additional youth services via Service Six and plan to continue our commitment to the young people of the town. We have done further upgrades of children's play areas.

Covid restrictions, of course, have played a significant role in some of our recreational activities; in particular the film and coffee afternoons. The Film Afternoons restarted once we thought the Covid risk was acceptable, and the first Coffee Afternoon will be on Wednesday 6th July.

The Saturday Market, and litter picks, and bulb planting were held with appropriate Covid precautions in place.

For the local business community, we delivered the ground-breaking Raunds Town App, to help promote local businesses and provide community information. Further developments are on the way.

As a Town Council we are committed through our Raunds Goes Green project to plan for a cleaner, greener environment. One of our recent actions has been to install two electric car charging points in Marshall's Road car park.

Our Planning Committee at all times read and take note of all comments and objections to ensure residents views are fully considered. We stuck to our commitments in the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that all approved planning applications are in keeping with the Raunds Plan. Wherever possible we have stood up to developers and although not always successful we made ours and your views known. You can find the Neighbourhood plan on our website.

This year has been a very busy year for our Personnel Committee. Many of you will already have met our new Town Clerk & CEO Steve Beech. Steve joined the Council in August last year and in addition to the demanding job of Clerk he has been focused on recruiting his new team: Jane, Catriona, Donna (who starts very soon) and of course Nicola. Here in Saxon Hall, the team is led by Simon Smart with Ian, Barry and Robert in support.

I am proud to be the Mayor of Raunds and I am delighted to have been of service to you, the people of the town. Thank you for your support over the last 2 years. I wish every success to whoever is elected Mayor at the Annual General Meeting next Tuesday, and my very best wishes for the future to you all.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- 1) Following the change to North Northants Council (NNC), what will happen with the brown waste bins? Will residents have to pay, or will it be free?

Cllr Howell, who is also Deputy Leader of NNC, replied stating that NNC are working towards services being harmonised across what was previously several Councils. This therefore takes time. A public consultation has taken place and a decision will be made shortly.

- 2) Will residents have to pay towards the damages from the Monk's court case?

Cllr Howell advised that taxpayers will not have to pay toward the cost of damages to be paid following this court case. The money had been kept aside from the former Borough Council to cover these costs.

- 3) When will the £150 tax refund be paid to residents?

Cllr Howell advised it had taken a while for a new system to be set up to process the refunds and bank details were needed from those who do not pay by direct debit. The system was now up and running and refunds will be sent out to those who pay by direct debit and whose details they now have in the first two weeks of May.

MAYOR'S CITIZENS AWARDS

The Mayor explained that Raunds Town Council has run this scheme for the past seven years. Residents were encouraged to nominate local people who have put themselves forward to help others in the community.

List of winners who were presented with a Citizen's Award.

Noah Grant
Kiera Exhall
Sonia James
Lindy Matthews
Charlie Cooper
Bruce Darling
Kayleigh Gay
Diane Horne
Caroline Adams
Agnes Burton
Andrea & Tracy Haseldine
Brian & Anne-Marie Kettell

Mayor's Award

Andrea Wray, Mark Brookside, and the Jester's Bistro Bar team.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked all attendees for coming. She reminded everyone to visit the tabletop displays and extended an invitation to enjoy the Hog Roast and light refreshments.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7:38pm.