

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
11 February 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Tucker, Clerk (Minutes)

FC129.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Beattie.

FC130.24 Public Participation

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

None received.

FC131.24 Questions from Members

None received.

FC132.24 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.

FC120.24 Council Minutes: To confirm the minutes of the following Council meetings:

- [Full Council](#) meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2025.

Members requested that a link to the [budget and precept](#) information at item FC125.24 be provided within the minutes.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14 January 2025 be confirmed as a true record.

FC121.24 Committee Minutes: To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

Initial _____

- [Planning Committee](#) held on Thursday 23 January 2025

Members requested that the resolution at item PLC86.24 be amended as shown below, to make clear that the Town Council opposes the application.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **NE/24/01201/OUT - Raunds Town Council objects to the proposed development on the grounds of the significant adverse impact it is likely to have on local traffic and infrastructure. While the potential economic benefits of the scheme are noted, the Council is deeply concerned about the increase in traffic flow from Higham Ferrers and Rushden that this development would generate. This additional traffic would exacerbate congestion levels, place undue pressure on already strained local infrastructure, and compromise road safety within the area; and**
- (ii) **The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23 January 2025, as amended, be noted.**
 - [Finance Committee](#) held on Tuesday 28 January 2025.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **The Financial and Risk Management Assessment be approved;**
- (ii) **The Flag Flying Policy be readopted for a further two-year period; and**
- (iii) **The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 28 January 2025 be noted.**
 - [Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee](#) held on Tuesday 4 February 2025.

The following amendment was tabled in respect of item ELR45.24:

Email the proof artwork design to **all Councillors** for approval.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held on 4 February 2025, as amended, be noted.

FC122.24 Mayor's Report: To receive the Mayor's report.

RESOLVED that the digest of Mayoral activities for January 2025 be noted.

FC123.24 Unitary Councillors Report: To receive reports from Unitary Councillors.

The attention of members was drawn to the recent edition of the [Leader's update](#).

RESOLVED that the Unitary Councillor reports be noted.

FC124.24 Planning Applications Received for Consideration:

Cllr L Wilkes left the Chamber for the duration of the item and did not take part in the debate or vote thereon.

NE/24/01260/REM | **Proposal:** Approval of Reserved Matters. Reserved Matters: Appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale pursuant to application 20/00347/OUT: Outline: Residential development for up to 21 dwellings and access (All matters reserved except Access) Outline application was not EIA development | **Location:** Hillside Brick Kiln Road Raunds Wellingborough NN9 6HY

RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council objects to the application due to the significant number of unresolved issues raised by consultees regarding surface water drainage, highway and parking safety, recreational impacts on protected sites, crime prevention measures, and ecological considerations. The Town Council requests that these matters are fully addressed and reviewed before the application is progressed further.

NE/22/00698/OUT | **Proposal:** Hybrid planning application comprising: Full planning application for the construction of a storage and distribution unit (Development Plot 1) (Use Class B8) with ancillary offices (Use Class E); creation of a principal estate road (including bus stop) and new access from the A605; construction and emergency access; highways improvements to Huntingdon Road and A605 roundabout and at Junction 13 of the A14; strategic green infrastructure; vehicular and cycle parking; pedestrian infrastructure; hardstanding; circulation areas; lighting infrastructure and all other ancillary, enabling and associated works including landscaping, drainage, earthworks, sub-station and boundary treatment. And - Outline planning application with all matters reserved for an employment park comprising Class B2, B8 and E uses with ancillary offices; creation of a new access from Oundle Road; vehicular and cycle parking; pedestrian infrastructure; hardstanding; circulation areas; lighting infrastructure and all other ancillary, enabling and associated works including landscaping, drainage, earthworks and boundary treatment. | **Location:** Land Adjacent Haldens Parkway Thrapston

RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council objects to the application due to significant concerns regarding the wastewater infrastructure proposed for the development. Specifically:

- (i) **The Town Council is concerned about the extensive pumping infrastructure required to transport wastewater from the proposed site to the Raunds treatment facility. It is unclear why the developer cannot provide on-site treatment infrastructure to offset the environmental and logistical impacts of this development. The developer should take responsibility for mitigating the effects of their proposals rather than imposing additional strain on Raunds' facilities.**
- (ii) **The proposed pumping route is not clearly defined, raising questions about the environmental impact of establishing off-**

road access to connect to the existing network. The ecological benefits of this approach are questionable, and further clarification is needed on how this will avoid disruption to the surrounding environment.

- (iii) Raunds' wastewater treatment capacity must first be prioritised for the town's future growth. If this infrastructure is established, it risks encouraging further development in Thrapston, which could also seek to connect to the Raunds treatment site. This would potentially limit Raunds' ability to expand in the future.

FC125.24 Application for Hire of Open Space: To consider an application from Raunds Cricket Club to hire Bassfords Recreation Ground for its annual firework display.

The Council reviewed the application and expressed its support for the event, subject to timely production of the relevant documentation and inclusion of the Town Council logo on the promotional artwork. It was advised that notification of the event should be sent to North Northamptonshire Council's Event Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED that the application be approved.

FC126.24 Pedestrian Crossing Request: To consider whether to support a request to the highway authority for a new pedestrian crossing on Brick Kiln Road.

Members gave consideration to the request for a new pedestrian crossing to be installed near to the junction of Kelmarsh Avenue and Brick Kiln Road to improve the safety and accessibility of the area.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED to formally support the request and instruct the Clerk to write to the Highway authority to ask that this be considered for budgetary approval, along with a new pedestrian footpath and improved street lighting to enhance public safety.

FC127.24 *The press and public will be excluded from the following agenda items 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.

FC128.24 Clerk's Update Report: To receive a confidential report from the Clerk.

The Clerk presented the confidential report regarding a commercial property enquiry received from a community organisation.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that

- (i) **The Town Council reaffirms its commitment to supporting community groups and initiatives, but this does not extend to facilitating the purchase or redevelopment of privately owned property; and**
- (ii) **The organisation be informed that the Town Council awaits receipt of an application for grant funding support.**

FC129.24 Establishment Report: To receive a confidential report from the Clerk.

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that

- (i) **The appointment of the Council's Gardener on a 25 hour per week permanent contract be approved; and**
- (ii) **The staffing and recruitment updates be noted.**

FC130.24 Raunds Skate Park Update: To receive an update on the construction of Raunds Skate Park.

The Clerk provided a confidential update regarding the progress of the construction of Raunds Skate Park.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **The feedback provided by members be relayed to the contractor for their consideration; and**
- (ii) **A graffiti policy be drafted for consideration by the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee.**

FC131.24 Perimeter Land at Warth Park: To consider an outstanding requirement of the Section 106 Agreement relating to Roxhill Howdens Phase 2 scheme.

The Council considered the requirement relating to the Section 106 Agreement connected with the Roxhill Howdens Phase 2 scheme, which obliged the developer to offer a transfer of perimeter land to Raunds Town Council for the nominal sum of £1, subject to specific terms outlined in the agreement.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Council declines the offer of transfer for the perimeter land in question and instructs the Clerk to notify the relevant parties accordingly.

FC132.24 Grounds Maintenance Contract 2025-2030: To review tenders received and approve the award of a five-year grounds maintenance contract to cover the period April 2025-2030.

Members carefully reviewed the tenders received and the accompanying report prepared by the Grounds Maintenance Working Group.

The Council unanimously agreed with the Working Group's recommendation for the award of contract and thanked the Group for the time and dedication devoted to the tender process.

RESOLVED that the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for the period 2025-2030 be awarded to tender number 3, Mowerman Grounds Maintenance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Approved: (Town Mayor)

Meeting date.....11 March 2025.....(Council)

Initial _____