

**RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**11 March 2025 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Tucker, Clerk (Minutes)

**FC133.24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr K Harrison, Cllr D Hughes and Cllr T Swailes.

**FC134.24 Public Participation**

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

**None received.**

**FC135.24 Questions from Members**

**None received.**

**FC136.24 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.**

**FC137.24 Council Minutes:** To confirm the minutes of the following Council meetings:

- [Full Council](#) meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2025.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11 February 2025 be confirmed as a true record.**

**FC138.24 Committee Minutes:** To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- [Planning Committee](#) held on Tuesday 18 February 2025

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

**FC139.24 Mayor's Report:** To receive the Mayor's report.

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

**FC140.24 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.

**FC141.24 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/25/00208/TPO | **Proposal:** Tree Preservation Order Consent. T7: Pine - remove to ground level and replace with Scots Pine | **Location:** 3 Chestnut Gardens Raunds Wellingborough NN9 6GT

**RESOLVED** that Raunds Town Council acknowledges the applicant's proposal. Given the tree's protected status, the Council would be guided by the professional opinion of the unitary authority's Tree Officer in determining the necessity and appropriateness of the proposed works. The Council trusts that any decision will consider the tree's contribution to the local environment, amenity value, and compliance with relevant policies.

**FC142.24 Applications for Grant Funding:** To consider applications for grant funding from Raunds Yarn Bombers and 2<sup>nd</sup> Raunds Scout Group.

The Council gave consideration to applications for grant funding received from Raunds Yarn Bombers and 2<sup>nd</sup> Raunds Scout Group.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) A grant of £494 be awarded to Raunds Yarn Bombers for Saxon Hall room hire, cable ties, donation bins, and yarn stash.
- (ii) A grant of £500 be awarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> Raunds Scout Group for compasses and training aids, collapsible tables and benches, and a storage cupboard.

**FC143.24 Graffiti and Street Art Policy:** To consider adoption of a Graffiti and Street Art Policy.

The Council reviewed the draft Graffiti and Street Art Policy and suggested a number of minor amendments, as shown at Appendix 1.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Graffiti and Street Art Policy, as amended, for a three-year period.

**FC144.24 Saxon Hall and Town Hall Maintenance:** To consider quotes for Saxon Hall redecoration and Town Hall roofing repairs.

The Clerk presented the report which asked members to review quotes received for maintenance work to Saxon Hall internal doors and the Town Hall roof.

Following a discussion, it was

**RESOLVED that**

- (i) Quote 1 for painting of Saxon Hall fire doors be accepted at £2,275; and**
- (ii) Quote 3 for Town Hall roof repairs be accepted at £880+VAT.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.55pm.

Approved: ..... (Town Mayor)

Meeting date.....8 April 2025.....(Council)

DRAFT



# RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, The Hall, Raunds, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. NN9 6LT

Telephone: (01933) 622 087

E-mail:- [info@raunds-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@raunds-tc.gov.uk), Website: [www.raunds-tc.gov.uk](http://www.raunds-tc.gov.uk)

## Graffiti and Street Art Policy

Raunds Town Council recognises the adverse impact that graffiti can have on public and visitor perception of our town.

The Council is committed to tackling unwanted, illegal and antisocial graffiti, whilst taking a balanced view on street art.

The Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) defines graffiti as “any informal or illegal marks, drawings or paintings that have been deliberately made by a person or persons on any physical element comprising the outdoor environment, with a view to communicating some message or symbol etc. to others”.

Graffiti, street art and fly-posting can have a detrimental impact on the local environment and people’s quality of life when it is offensive. According to DEFRA guidance, offensive graffiti applies where it is **racially offensive, hostile to a religious or belief group, sexually offensive, homophobic, depicts a sexual or violent act or is defamatory**.

### Graffiti Removal

The Town Council does not consent to any painting, writing, soiling, marking or other defacement on its property without its prior express permission being obtained. Where graffiti is found on Council-owned properties or street furniture the graffiti will be removed as soon as practicable.

The Council will aim to carry out the removal of graffiti deemed to be offensive within **3 working days 24 hours** of any sightings or reports, **unless it falls on a weekend, in which case removal will take place on the next working day.**

The ability to remove graffiti and the method used will be assessed on a case-by-case basis taking the health and safety of the operatives undertaking the work and the potential for damage to property into account.

If the graffiti is on property not owned by the Council the details of the graffiti and its location will be reported to the relevant authority. Private and public companies have a duty to remove graffiti from their own property, including utility companies such as;

British Telecom - green boxes and telephone boxes

Royal Mail - red post boxes

North Northamptonshire Council – traffic lights, lampposts, bollards, bus stops, bus shelters, road signage, public toilets, rubbish bins and street name plates.

North Northamptonshire Council can remove graffiti from property outside of its ownership. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 empowers the Authority to issue a ‘Graffiti Removal Notice’ to an owner requiring the owner to remove graffiti within a stipulated timescale which cannot be less than 28 days. Failure to comply with such a notice may result in the Council

carrying out and charging for works in default.

## **Preventing Graffiti**

The Council recognises the importance of engaging young people through ongoing education, including through schools and organised youth activities in areas where graffiti is identified as a problem.

The Council will also work in partnership with a range of other agencies and organisations to explore preventative measures and ideas.

## **Street Art**

The Council recognises that public opinion on what constitutes graffiti has changed, that some "Graffiti" is now considered to be "Street Art" and that some members of the community now consider that "Street Art" makes a positive contribution to the urban environment. Where street art enhances visitor engagement with the public realm, this is viewed by the Council as a positive attraction to the town.

In recognition of this, properly authorised and appropriate street art may be supported, subject to meeting the acceptance criteria within this policy and not being a detriment to local environmental quality.

Any individual that wishes to apply street art to Council property must inform the Council at the earliest opportunity. Where graffiti has already been applied to Council property, but the creator considers the graffiti to be street art, the creator must notify the Council that they would like the work to be kept.

Any decision not to remove the work will be based upon a test of whether the street art or graffiti are considered to be detrimental to the local environment and enjoyment of the location by users.

The list below highlights key considerations:

- Can the Graffiti/Street Art be seen from areas the public are entitled to frequent.
- Is the Graffiti/Street Art offensive in its nature, gang related, racially aggravating, insulting and against public interest.
- Are the images considered to be contextually detrimental, including but not limited to:
  - encouraging to illegal graffiti proliferation
  - inappropriateness for the location e.g. adult content near schools
  - out of keeping with surrounding area.
- Saturation (Consideration of the number of images already present in the area).
- Complaints
- Other policies likely to be infringed
- Explicit Images
- Intimidating
- Libellous or potentially libellous statements
- In a conservation area
- On a listed building
- Tags
- Scratching
- On Council property.

This list is not exhaustive and adequate exploration of the detriment question is critical to provide the Council with a clear considered rationale for any decision, especially where conflicting opinions between the community may exist. This is a matter of judgement for the Council, acting reasonably and having due regard to national guidance and to this policy.

There is no obligation on the Council to consult in connection with the exercise of its graffiti removal powers and in most cases it will not be in the public interest for it to do so.

### **Evaluating graffiti and street art**

There may be occasions when it is difficult to make a clear decision whether a piece is street art. In this situation, cases will be referred to ~~the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee~~ Full Council. The ~~Committee~~ Council will review each case, applying the policy criteria in order to reach agreement on whether a piece is removed or allowed to remain in place.

Evaluation by the ~~Committee~~ Council will take place when ~~the Council receives complaints~~ are received from the community.

The Council supports engagement with the artistic community, particularly through a co-ordinating single point of contact.

**Adopted March 2025. To be reviewed triennially.**