

## **RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes: 8 March 2016: Start Time 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr H Howell (Town Mayor) (Chair), Cllr L Jones, Cllr D Hughes, Cllr S Hughes, Cllr L Wilkes, Cllr B Tyman, Cllr D Allard, Cllr R Beattie, Cllr N Beck Cllr R Levell.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Kate Houlihan, Town Clerk (Minutes)  
Miss Joanne Coduri, Assistant to the Clerk.

#### **620.15 To Receive Apologies For Absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Jeffs, and Cllr K Davidson-Jeffs

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

**None Received**

#### **622.15 Notification of members questions in compliance with the council's standing orders.**

**None Received**

#### **623.15 Declarations of Interest.**

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

Cllr N Beck declared a pecuniary interest in item 637.15 and left the meeting during that item.

#### **624.15 Presentation from Roxhill and Howdens Joinery regarding ongoing and possible future development at Warth Park.**

**The Mayor welcomed representatives from Howdens and Roxhill to the meeting.**

Representatives from Howdens outlined the history of the business and the company's ethos of being a good employer. It was explained that the current premises at Brackmills, Northampton had been outgrown. Howdens were therefore relocating to a larger new building in Raunds. Planning permission has already been granted and development is underway for a new distribution centre on the existing Warth Park site, along with associated office space. The move is likely to take effect in late 2016.

Representatives from Roxhill then outlined plans for further development to the south of Meadow Lane. (see plan in Appendix 1) The proposal would involve the creation of a green bridge over Meadow Lane for pedestrians, while vehicular traffic went underneath the bridge. Howdens have expressed interest in taking additional space to expand on the land south of Meadow Lane.

Members expressed concerns at these proposals including:

- Warth Park becoming larger than the town itself
- Potential detrimental impact on the SSSI at Stanwick Lakes
- The area proposed for development is designated as a protected open space within the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- Had a need been identified for further employment sites within Raunds?
- What types of jobs would new development bring?
- Were Roxhill aware of footpaths that ran through the space?
- Economic viability of delivering the green bridge

Members asked a number of general questions about the Warth Park site

- A number of Sat Nav systems still seem to direct heavy goods vehicles through the town can this be changed.
- Dog and rubbish bins are required at the new open space?
- Is any parking planned for the open space?

David Shaw that no parking was planned for the open space and he would look into the request for dog and litter bins. With regard to Sat Nav systems it would be down to

The Mayor proposed that standing orders be suspended to allow members of the public who were present to ask questions and it was..

**RESOLVED to suspend standing orders at 8.12pm**

Members of the public then asked questions.

**Standing orders were reinstated at 8.25pm**

The Mayor thanked all those present for their time and representatives from Howdens, Roxhill and David Shaw left the meeting.

**625.15 Minutes: confirm the minutes of the council meeting held 9 February 2016**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held 9 February 2016 be agreed.**

**626.15 Committee Report: To receive the report of the Policy and Resources Committee 16 February 2016. (copy herewith).**

Cllr Jones presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 16 February 2016 which were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

**RESOLVED that the report be approved and the resolutions of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 16 February 2016 be agreed.**

**627.15 Committee Report: To receive the report of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2016.**

Cllr Levell presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Finance Committee meeting held on 18 February 2016 which were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

Cllr Levell referred members to item 583.15 "The Future of External Audit" and the recommendation of the Finance Committee to opt out of the sector led body arrangements. Following the Finance Committee meeting further consideration had been given to the matter and it was felt that value could be added to the council by reviewing the work of the internal auditor and having more detailed input into the audit plan. It was felt that if the council were to appoint their own external auditors this could pose a risk to the council.

Following discussion it was...

**RESOLVED not to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee under item 583.15 and that Raunds Town Council would remain opted into the sector led body who would appoint the councils external auditor from 2017/18 onwards**

Members then considered the remainder of the report and it was..

**RESOLVED that the report be approved and the resolutions of the Finance Committee meeting held on 18 February 2016 be agreed.**

**628.15 Committee Report: To receive the report of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2016.**

**This item was deferred to be discussed under the confidential session later in the meeting.**

**629.15 Committee report: To receive the report of the Planning Committee 25 February 2016.**

Cllr Beck presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2016 which were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

**RESOLVED that the report be approved and the resolutions of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2016 be agreed.**

## **630.15 District Councillors Report.**

**Cllr Boto gave his report;  
NNJCS**

**Brownfield Site Housing and planning**

**Need for jobs**

### **Cllr Jones gave his report**

At Planning Management committee we discussed the plans for the new Asda store. Local councillors expressed their support for the development but asked that more wood cladding be considered and a pitched roof be made plain to see, rather than be hidden by the parapet. Roxhill, decided to withdraw the planning application until the minor adjustments are included.

At the full Council meeting council tax was set with an average £5 increase being applied for a typical band D property.

It has been brought to my attention that there are discussions under way to create a unitary authority to replace the Northamptonshire County Council and East Northamptonshire District Council. As district councillors we have not been kept informed about developments but hope that I will have more to say about this at our next meeting.

## **631.15 County Councillors Report.**

Cllr Hughes noted that the county council had set their council tax for the area. Council tax was set to rise by 1.99% for general budgets with an additional 2% being ring fenced for social care.

Ofsted had inspected children's services and it was hope that the service would be moved from special measures to requires improvement.

Further details of county council activity had been circulated through the regular county council e-newsletter.

## **632.15 Town Mayors Announcements.**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February attended The Peterborough Mayors fundraiser

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February attended St Peters church volunteer day as part of their lottery funding commitments.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February: The Chairman of East Northants Council, Cllr Marika Hillson's Valentines ball at Saxon Hall.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February attended Raunds library and presented the little ones with their Read on Get on certificates along with Peppa Pig! .

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March I attended the business forum and gave an update on the council activities.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March attended Daventry district council chairman's race night at Towcester races,

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March Clean for the Queen and I am pleased to say that we collected over 12 bags of rubbish from around the town. A huge thank you to all the councillors and residents, it was great to see some new faces.

The Mayor then gave reminders on future events:

The civic service takes place on Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Town Assembly is on Thursday 21st April at 6pm, we will be lighting the beacon in honour of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at 7.30pm outside the town hall.

And finally, not to forget, The Mayor's Show on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

**633.15 Police report: To receive information on community safety bollards and a request for funding from the Police.**

Members considered the report of the clerk as shown in Appendix x. In consideration of the report and following discussion it was..

**RESOLVED that the Environment Leisure and Recreation committee would review the matter once Northamptonshire County Council Highways department had considered the letter.**

**634.15 Grounds Maintenance Summer Contract: To receive and approve the revised Summer Grounds Maintenance Contract.**

Members reviewed the report of the clerk as shown in appendix x and in consideration of the report it was...

**RESOLVED to note the amendment and that it be dele**

**635.15 Accounts for payment: to receive the payments lists for February 2016.**

Members considered the payment lists for February and it was resolved to note the payment list.

**636.15 Planning Applications for consideration.**

**EN/16/00290/FUL**– Insertion of new French doors, removal of existing fire escape and construction of new terrace at Saxon Hall, Brook Street, Raunds Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. NN9 6LL (for information only)

This item was for information only as the application is from the council.

**EN/16/00313/PNA**- Portal steel framed grain store (24.38m x 18.29m) with plasticol coated steel wall sheet cladding and natural grey cement fibre roof sheets at Pecks Lodge Brooks Road Raunds, Northamptonshire. NN9 6NT.

**RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council has no objection**

**EN/16/00307/FUL**- Two storey side extension at 5 Derling Drive Raunds Wellingborough Northamptonshire NN9 6LF.

**RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council has no objection**

**637.15 RELOCATION OF BUS STOP, WELLINGTON ROAD RAUNDS:** to consider the relocation of a bus stop on Wellington Road, Raunds (information herewith).

Cllr Beck withdrew from the meeting during this item.

Members considered the relocation of the bus stop and it was...

**RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council strongly object to the proposed relocation of the bus stop.**

**The council firmly believes it is both unnecessary and would have a serious and detrimental effect on highway safety and traffic flows.**

**The council also wished to urgently discuss the proposed roundabout and traffic signal with a representative from Kier and a meeting is to be requested with the relevant officers.**

**638.15** *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.*

**639.15 Sale of land at Belmont Gardens:** to consider the report of the clerk regarding the sale of land at Belmont Gardens (report herewith)

Members considered the confidential report of the clerk and in consideration of the report it was.....

**RESOLVED to carry out the recommendations as outlined in section 3 of the report.**

**640.15 Request to purchase land:** to consider a request to purchase a strip of town council owned land at London Road, Raunds.

**Members considered the request and noted that a previous request had been received to purchase the land. Following detailed discussion it was...**

**RESOLVED to not to proceed with the sale of the land at that time.**