

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 15 August 2019 Time 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr R Levell (Chair), Cllr L Wilkes, Cllr R Tyman, Cllr H Howell, Cllr O Curtis, Cllr B Tirebuck

IN ATTENDANCE

Miss Kate Houlihan, Town Clerk, Minutes

204.19 Apologies for absence

Cllr D Hughes, Cllr J Duff, Cllr N Beck, Cllr S Hughes, Cllr R Beattie,

RESOLVED to note the apologies

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

Peter Wathen addressed the meeting in respect of Raunds Library. He thanked Raunds Town Council for their support to date.

On behalf of Raunds Community Library Trust, he said that libraries were a public service that don't make a profit and are reliant on the public purse. Raunds Town Council had raised the precept in order to support the library and the library were be reliant on the council's continuing support for the future.

Raunds Community Library Trust will take on manning the library, but the volunteers need to know that the library will continue to exist in Raunds.

Glenville Greenwood-Smith thanked the council for listening to Peter Wathen and noted that the council had a difficult decision to make and must assess if enough people would support the library.

206.19 Notification of members questions in compliance with the council's standing orders.

NONE RECEIVED

207.19 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

NONE RECEIVED

- 208.19** Minutes: to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held 9th July 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2019 be confirmed as a true record

- 209.19** Minutes: to confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 30th July 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 30th July 2019 be confirmed as a true record

- 210.19** Committee report: To receive the report of the Personnel Committee held on 16 July 2019

Cllr Tirebuck presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Personnel Committee held on 16 July 2019 and answered members questions thereon.

The minutes were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the resolutions of the Personnel Committee held 16 July 2019 be agreed.

- 211.19** Committee report: To receive the report of the Environment Leisure and Recreation Committee held on 23 July 2019

Cllr Wilkes presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee held on 23 July 2019 and answered members questions thereon.

The minutes were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the resolutions of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee held on 23 July 2019 be agreed.

- 212.19** Committee Report: To receive the report of the Events Committee held on 30th July 2019

Cllr Howell presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Events Committee held on 30 July 2019 and answered members questions thereon.

Cllr Howell asked that as a number of members were absent the resolution regarding dates for events in 2020 was held over until the September meeting so that all members of the council had the chance to consider this

The minutes were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

RESOLVED that

- a) The report be approved, and the resolutions, (with the exception of the Diary Dates 2020) of the Events Committee held on 30 July 2019 be agreed.
- b) The Full Council be asked to approve the “Diary Dates” in September 2019.

213.19 Committee Report: To receive the report of the Planning Committee held on 6th August 2019

Cllr Levell noted that there were no resolved to recommend items and moved that the minutes be approved. The minutes were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the resolutions of the Planning Committee held 6 August 2019 be agreed

214.19 Mayors Report: To receive the Mayors Report

**Raunds Town Council
Mayor’s Activities – July 2019**

2 July	Service of Thanksgiving for the work of St John’s Ambulance *	I represented Raunds at this church service held in Towcester in the presence of David Laing, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire. It included service awards for ambulance members, and it was interesting to hear about their examples long service and bravery.
3 July	Wisbech Rose Fair opening	I was pleased to represent Raunds at the opening of this annual event. The theme was music, and floral displays were made to depict various song titles. It was followed by tea in the Mayor’s Parlour.
3 July	USAF Independence Day fireworks *	Civic leaders local to RAF Alconbury were invited to attend the annual fireworks display. We mixed with USAF personnel at the funfair beforehand, and it was interesting to hear about their experiences, and how much they enjoyed being posted to the UK.
4 July	Careers talk at Windmill school	I gave a talk on being a mayor to years 3, 4 and 5. At the start, over half wanted to be mayor. Afterwards, this had fallen to a quarter!
5 July	Tour of Bosworth House gardens *	I was pleased to support the Chairman of Daventry District Council in raising money for her chosen charity.
6 July	Raunds Saturday market *	I spent the morning chatting to shoppers and stallholders.
6 July	Raunds Town Picnic *	I opened and closed the event. Despite the threatening weather, turnout was up on last year, and the picnickers seemed to enjoy themselves. The band were a success.
8 July	Committee meeting of the Higham Ferrers/Raunds – Hachenburg Twinning Association	I attended the final committee meeting ahead of the visit of the twinning association in Germany, finalising the details of the two activities that were due to be held in Raunds.

10 July	Afternoon tea, Peterborough	I was pleased to support the Mayor in raising money for his charities.
10 July	Windmill end of year theatre production *	I made a short speech at the end of this play put on by Year 6. They say the cast had only a short time to rehearse, but it didn't show as they were excellent.
11 July	Park Infant Summer Fair	I judged the inter-classroom competition, and drew the raffle tickets at the fair. It was a happy occasion and raised a useful amount of money for the school. It was good to see the strong level of commitment from parents in helping out with the event.
12 July	Higham Ferrers quiz night *	The Mayoress and I joined a team consisting of the Chairmen of ENC and NCC and their wives. We did not win, but we were pleased to support the Mayor of Higham Ferrers in raising money for his chosen charities.
13 July	Windmill School summer fair *	I spent all afternoon at this event, as it was more of a community fair. There was a good turnout from parents and residents, and there was some interesting entertainment, the highlight of which was the football match between Windmill staff and Raunds firefighters, which the staff won convincingly.
14 July	Huntingdon BBQ *	I was pleased to support the Mayor at this event to raise money for his charities.
15 July	St Peter's school leavers assembly	<i>The Deputy Mayor</i> attended this Year 6 celebration on their leaving to go to secondary school. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.
18 July	Kettering Jazz in the Gallery *	This charity concert organised by the Mayor of Kettering was excellent. There were a lot of chains attending, and we were joined by our German twinning guests, who enjoyed themselves.
19 July	Windmill Leavers Assembly	I handed out awards to Year 6 leavers. They had organised the event themselves. Matt Coleman has given up being headmaster, and Michelle Brett, the deputy head, is going to another school.
19 July	Reception in Higham Town Hall for guests from Hachenburg *	The Mayor of Higham Ferrers hosted a reception for the German twinning party. Greetings from the Mayor of Hachenburg were read out, and it was clear that the link between Hachenburg and Raunds and Higham Ferrers is flourishing.
19 July	Lord Lieutenant's summer party	<i>The Deputy Mayor and Cllr Howell</i> attended this garden party to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund. Many thousands of pounds were raised via an auction.
20 July	Raunds Carnival *	The Mayoress and I led the parade behind the fire engine. I was joined by Cllrs Wilkes, Howell, D Hughes and S Hughes among others, as judges of the floats. The weather stayed fine and there were a lot of residents lining the streets. The parade was bigger than last year, and the attractions on Amos Lawrence field more varied. The field seemed to be busier, and I think that overall the event was a success and a credit to the town. Well done RAG!

21 July	Unveiling of Welcome to Raunds signs *	I unveiled the new sign by the football club. In attendance were members of the German twinning association, which was very appropriate as the sign includes "Twinning with Hachenburg, Germany".
21 July	Wine tasting for guests from Hachenburg, held in Saxon Hall *	I hosted a wine tasting for German and UK members from Raunds and Higham Ferrers involved with the twinning with Hachenburg. The tasting competition was won by the German bus driver.
22 July	Mayor Monday at Radio Northampton	I was interviewed about being mayor for the weekly Mayor Monday slot around midday. Thoroughly enjoyable.
23 July	Change of Command ceremony at USAF 501 st Combat Support Wing	I represented Raunds at this ceremony and met the new commander at RAF Alconbury, Col Wendt.
25 July	Theatre production in Brackley *	The Brackley Players every year put on a production in aid of the mayor's charities. The plays were "interesting".
25 July	Fund-raising for the Oliver Cromwell museum in Huntingdon	<i>The Deputy Mayor and Cllr Howell</i> attended a fund-raising evening organised by the Mayor of Huntingdon. The event included a guided tour of the museum.
26 July	Opening of Mercy in Action shop in Raunds *	I cut the ribbon on the first day of trading at this new charity shop on the square. Shoppers visiting the Friday market stopped by for a glass of Prosecco.
28 July	Mayor of Rushden civic service *	I was delighted to support the Mayor of Rushden, Cesare Molinaro, at his civic service. There were a lot of chains present, and the service was followed by lunch in Rushden Hall.
28 July	Afternoon tea, Huntingdon *	I was pleased to support the Mayor of Huntingdon at his charity afternoon tea party in Huntingdon Town Hall. We were slightly late, having rushed over from Rushden, but the Mayor was at the front door to greet us. We were seated next to Col Bromen of the USAF and his wife and had a discussion about the USVF Honorary Commander programme.

* Occasion where I was joined by the Mayoress, Mrs Magdalena Levell.

Cllr Levell in particular reported on the successful twinning visit and the unveiling of the Welcome to Raunds signs.

RESOLVED to note the report.

215.19 Annual Report: To approve the annual report of Raunds Town Council

Members reviewed the Annual Report and it was...

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Report subject to...

- a) Final Proof reading;
- b) Minor amendments already supplied to the Clerk being incorporated in the report;
- c) Revisions to the photo montages.

216.19 Twinning: To receive a verbal report on the recent Twinning Visit.

Members reviewed the report of the Clerk as shown in appendix 1 and following discussion it was...

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Mayor will write to the Chairman of the Hachenburg twinning association asking for their understanding of the relationship between Raunds and Hachenburg.
- b) The Clerk will write to Higham Ferrers Town Council once a response has been received from the Hachenburg twinning association.

217.19 Watering System: To approve the purchase of a watering system for the hanging baskets

Cllr Wilkes presented the report as shown in appendix 2. He explained that a number of options had been considered including rental and purchasing a second-hand system, but the system shown was the only viable option. Following discussion, it was...

RESOLVED to purchase the system from Logic at a cost of £3,025. The Clerk was asked to verify with the council's insurers that the proposed storage arrangements were suitable.

218.19 Raunds Library

- a) Exclusion of the press and public

The Mayor explained that it had been proposed to hold the following item in private session due to the confidential and commercially sensitive information to be discussed. However, it was felt that the Clerk could report on the meeting with the library trust without disclosing such information.

If it became necessary, the public and press would be excluded from the meeting

RESOLVED that the public and press will not be excluded from the meeting

- b) To receive a verbal report from the working party following a meeting with Raunds Community Library Trust.

The Clerk reported that the working group had had a productive meeting with Raunds Community Library Trust. The Town Council were concerned that the financial statements in the business plan had shown an increasing reliance on Town Council support over the years.

The trust had agreed to review the financial statement and would be submitting a revised financial plan.

Members reiterated their commitment to supporting the library, but of course all due diligence had to be followed and it was important for the Town Council to understand the true cost of running the library in the future.

RESOLVED to await the revised financial plan and for the council to continue their due diligence.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 20:22

Approved: (Town Mayor)

Meeting date:10 September 2019..... (Council)

Appendix 1

Summary:	A report on the Twinning Visit
Attachments	None
1.0	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>As members will be aware the Town Council has recently installed new “Welcome to Raunds” signs at key locations within the Town.</p>  <p>The signs include reference to the fact that Raunds is twinned with Hachenburg in Germany.</p> <p>It has long been understood by Raunds Town Council that Raunds, along Higham Ferrers, is jointly twinned with Hachenburg, Germany. Indeed, as members are aware, the twinning association is formally known as the Higham Ferrers/Raunds-Hachenburg Twinning Association. The exact date this association began seems to be a grey area, however press reports dating back over 10 years refer to the Higham-Raunds-Hachenburg Twinning Association.</p> <p>This understanding of joint twinned status is shared by Hachenburg. This was evident in a speech made by the Mayor of Hachenburg at a civic reception during the recent twinning visit in July.</p>

2.0	<p>Letter from Higham Ferrers Town Council Higham Ferrers Town Council have written to Raunds Town Council with regards to the Town signs. (extract from letter below)</p> <p><i>The Town Council (Higham) is dissatisfied with what Raunds Town Council have done, which shows a lack of respect for Higham Ferrers Town Council. The treaty is with Higham Ferrers and there are members from other villages and town associated with the twinning group, which do not claim to be formally twinned with Hachenburg. As Higham Ferrers Town Council have never been approached by yourselves to ask to be jointly twinned they request that the signs be taken down.</i></p>
3.0	<p>Twinning Arrangements-generally It is correct that Higham Ferrers have a treaty with Hachenburg, which was agreed thirty years ago and that Raunds is not referred to in this treaty. However, there is no legal requirement for there to be a treaty in order to form a twinning relationship. The Local Government Association describes twinning arrangements.</p> <p>Twinning arrangements may be formalised through a charter (treaty) but that often an official charter is often no longer used, with municipalities preferring to have a less formal friendship agreement”.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assume that Raunds and Hachenburg fall into the latter category.</p>
4.0	<p>Proposed Response to Higham Ferrers Town Council A suggested response is detailed below:</p> <p>Raunds Town Council and the Council of Hachenburg have a long-standing relationship, which both consider to be that of twin towns, and this was very apparent from the message conveyed from the Mayor of Hachenburg during the formal reception on 19th July 2019.</p> <p>Raunds Town Council wished to take advantage of their change of welcome signs to mark this twinning relationship. Raunds Town Council has always acknowledged that it was a joint twinning relationship with Higham Ferrers but did not think it necessary to state this on the sign. It was by pure coincidence that the signs were put up immediately before the visit from the Hachenburg Twinning Association, and it seemed an ideal opportunity to share this with our Hachenburg guests. They certainly seemed to appreciate the occasion. If, as a result of this, we have caused offence this is unfortunate and was certainly not intended.</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation That the Town Council agree a response to the letter from Higham Ferrers.</p>

Appendix 2

Summary: A report on the purchase of a hanging basket watering system

1.0 Background

This year the number of hanging baskets has been increased from 20-40.

A considerable amount of time is spent watering the baskets and this involves some ladder work, which is not ideal. There is also a constant need to replenish the water being carried on the contractor's van.

In order to reduce the ladder work and improve the efficiency of watering it is essential that the council invests in a watering system. The ELR committee had previously approved the expenditure and the open spaces reserve can be used for this expenditure.

A number of options have been considered however these have proved to be extremely costly, or not suitable for our use

A suitable product has now been sourced, shown below:



2.0 Costs

Logic HANGING BASKET WATERING SYSTEM 600 LITRE CAPACITY

SLB610HB HANGING BASKET WATERING SYSTEM - 600ltr trailed unit c/w 1" Honda Pump, manual hose reel +15m 1/2" hose, telescopic lance and 23 x 10.5 – 12 wheels. **£2970.00**

SLB610-20A SUCTION HOSE - SELF FILL - 1" x 5m for use with above £55.00

Total Cost £3025

3.0 Recommendation

That watering system is purchased from logic at a cost of £3025.