

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes: 14 May 2019 Time 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr R Levell (Chair), Cllr L Wilkes, Cllr R Tyman, Cllr H Howell,
Cllr D Hughes, Cllr B Tirebuck, Cllr S Hughes, Cllr O Curtis,
Cllr J Duff, Cllr D Jones

IN ATTENDANCE

Miss Kate Houlihan, Town Clerk, Minutes
Mrs Emma Williams, Assistant to the Clerk
Miss Joanne Coduri, Assistant to the Clerk

ALSO PRESENT 20 members of the public including invited guests and dignitaries.

1.19 Election of Town Mayor & Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Levell called for nominations for the Office of Mayor and it was proposed by Cllr S Hughes and seconded by Cllr Curtis that Cllr Levell be elected as Mayor for the 2019/2020 year and it was...

RESOLVED that Cllr Levell be elected as Town Mayor for 2018/19.

Cllr Levell read and signed his declaration, it was received and witnessed by the clerk.

Cllr Levell then presented the Chain of Office to his consort Mrs Magdalena Levell.

2.19 Election of Deputy Town Mayor & Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Levell called for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor and it was proposed by Cllr D Hughes and seconded by Cllr Tirebuck that Cllr Wilkes be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2019/20 year and it was...

RESOLVED that Cllr Wilkes be elected as Deputy Mayor for 2019/20.

Cllr Wilkes read and signed his declaration, it was received and witnessed by the clerk.

Cllr Wilkes then presented the Chain of Office to his consort Cllr Helen Howell.

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

None received

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

None received

5.19 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

6.19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr N Beck and Cllr R Beattie.

RESOLVED to note the apologies

7.19 Minutes: to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held 9 April 2019.

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

8.19 Committee report: To receive the report of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 11 April 2019

Cllr Levell presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 11th April 2019 which were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the resolutions of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 11th April 2019 be agreed

9.19 Committee report: To receive the report of the Personnel Committee held on 17 April 2019.

Cllr Tirebuck presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 17th April 2019 which were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the resolutions of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 17th April 2019 be agreed

10.19 Committee report: To receive the report of the Events Committee held on 29 April 2019

Cllr Howell presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Events Committee meeting held on 29th April 2019 which were received, and the resolutions and recommendations duly considered.

Cllr Howell reminded everyone that the Mayors Show was taking place on Sunday 19th May and thanked all the volunteers councillors and staff who would be assisting at the event.

RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the resolutions of the Events Committee meeting held on 29th April 2019 be agreed

- 11.19 Committee report:** To receive the report of the Planning Committee held on 9 May 2019

Cllr Duff presented the minutes (forming the report) of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 May 2019 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 9 May 2019 be agreed

- 12.19 Appointment of members to Raunds Town Council Committees**

Members reviewed the report of the clerk as shown below.

RESOLVED that committee membership would be as shown below

Committee Group Members:

Environmental, Leisure and Recreation:

Cllr Richard Levell – Ex Officio
Cllr Lee Wilkes – Ex Officio
Cllr Ollie Curtis
Cllr Dudley Hughes
Cllr Deborah Jones
Cllr Bill Tirebuck
Cllr Bob Tyman

Events Committee:

Cllr Richard Levell – Ex Officio
Cllr Lee Wilkes – Ex Officio
Cllr Oliver Curtis
Cllr Jamie Duff
Cllr Helen Howell
Cllr Bill Tirebuck
Cllr Bob Tyman

Volunteers:

Ms Flic Kemp
Mrs Magdalena Levell
Mrs Anya Curtis – Non Voting
Mr Ken Dunkley – Non Voting
Mr Dave Jones – Non Voting
Mr Nigel Ogden – Non Voting

Finance & Policy

Cllr Richard Levell – Ex Officio
Cllr Lee Wilkes – Ex Officio
Cllr Rosalie Beattie
Cllr Nick Beck
Cllr Ollie Curtis
Cllr Jamie Duff
Cllr Helen Howell
Cllr Dudley Hughes

Personnel:

Cllr Richard Levell – Ex Officio
Cllr Lee Wilkes – Ex Officio
Cllr Rosalie Beattie
Cllr Nick Beck
Cllr Helen Howell
Cllr Sylvia Hughes
Cllr Bill Tirebuck

Planning:

Cllr Richard Levell – Ex Officio
Cllr Lee Wilkes – Ex Officio
Cllr Ollie Curtis
Cllr Jamie Duff
Cllr Sylvia Hughes

13.19 To appoint representation on external bodies for 2019/20

a. JAG: Joint Action Group

RESOLVED that Cllr H Howell be appointed as the Council's JAG representative.

b. Ringstead Grange Liaison Group

RESOLVED that Cllr R Tyman be appointed as the Council's Ringstead Grange Liaison Group representative.

14.19 To consider the payment of any subscriptions falling to be paid annually.

Members considered the report of the assistant to the clerk as in appendix 1.

The clerk gave further explanation as to the detail of the subscriptions and it was...

RESOLVED that the report be received, and that the Council continues to subscribe to the organisations listed therein for 2019/20

15.19 Meeting Dates 2019/20 - To approve the meetings calendar for 2019/20

Members reviewed the calendar of meetings.

RESOLVED to approve the calendar of meetings as tabled.

16.19 Town Mayor's Address

Cllr Levell addressed the meeting

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I said at the start of this meeting, it is very good to see so many people attend this Annual Meeting of Raunds Town Council. Welcome especially to the mayors and chairmen of local towns, boroughs and districts. As members of the chain gang, we dutifully support each other's civic ceremonies and charity fundraising activities for, I would suggest, a number of reasons:

1. I would be dishonest if I didn't say that these events are fun;
2. We learn a lot about other areas in the locality, meeting new people and picking up ideas on how we can do things differently in our own town – I have certainly benefitted here;
3. We like to support our friends, and believe me members of this year's gang have formed a strong bond of friendship that we'll renew at a number of rusty chain events this summer;

4. Being mercenary for a moment, the more support we give, hopefully the more support we'll receive at our own events;
5. And last, and perhaps most important, we raise the profile of our towns.

On this last point, between us, the Deputy Mayor and I during the last 12 months have attended over 90 events outside Raunds, which has brought Raunds to many people's notice. Despite being one of the smaller towns that actively participate on the circuit, Raunds is now on everyone's lips – we have definitely gained a seat at the top table.

However, we cannot be complacent. The mayoral team has to keep at it. It's like a football team winning promotion to the Premier League and managing to stay up in the first season. The team has to do it all over again in the second season, as success in the first counts for nothing. In the same way, for the most part the chain gang changes every year, and new relationships have to be forged, and if the foot is taken off the gas even momentarily, relegation to the second or third table is inevitable and quick.

This is all well and good, and important too, but the primary role of the mayor is, in my opinion, to support individuals and groups with their activities within Raunds. Lee and I during the last 12 months have attended around 90 engagements in the town, which I don't think is too shabby considering that he runs his own business and I work three days a week. Whether it's been a school, a care home, an individual such as Imogen Roberts, a charity event or a civic event, the two of us, together with Magda and Helen, have done our very best to accept every invitation we have received. Indeed, at the end of every engagement, I have stressed that I welcome any excuse to invite the mayor to attend a function or celebration, because I have seen the enthusiasm that, especially children and older people, show when they meet the mayor. I say this not to be big-headed – it's a fact.

Magda and I have done too many things in the town to list them all, so I will focus on just four. The first is the period around Remembrance Sunday last year, which was, as you know, the centenary of the armistice that ended the First World War. It was a special time to be a mayor. I attended a number of commemorative flag raisings, plays, services, concerts, lunches and poppy appeal launches in the county, but the most memorable moment was unveiling the roll of honour in the Saxon Hall after our own Remembrance service on 11 November, to be followed by the beacon lighting in the early evening. It was spine-tingling and poignant.

Second is the town's civic service held last month. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of residents in the town, ranging from supporting local organisations such as the history society or Different Direction choir, or making tea at the film and coffee afternoons, or doing community work, such as litter picking, or staging the exhibition of Raunds in the First World War. They were all stars. And the afternoon was capped by the unveiling of the bench in the memorial garden, donated by TS Collingwood, which was commented on by several attendees as being just perfect.

The bench is in remembrance of the sacrifices made a century ago, and it would be remiss of me not to mention another act of remembrance much closer to home. In September, after a lengthy struggle with cancer, Cllr Marion Hind died. She had been on the council only a couple of years, but in that time, she had made a huge impact, touching the lives of many with her cheerful personality, her positive attitude to life and to her illness, and her sheer hard work. All on the council miss her, and we held a memorial service in St Peter's church a few days after her funeral. We are very pleased that Richard Hind is with us this evening, and we look forward to honouring her memory with the planting of a tree in the garden outside this building next month.

The third activity I want to mention is helping out at Jester's Bistro with the Macmillan Global Coffee Morning. I have always wanted to work in a restaurant for a limited time, because, having dined in a number of the world's finest restaurants over 2 decades while working with PwC, I reckoned I'd be quite good at it. Mark Brook at Jester's took me at my word, and I spent 4 hours serving first coffee and cakes, and then later, lunches. It was tiring, but rewarding and great fun. And, even though I say it myself, I was quite good.

Finally, Magda and I visited the four care homes in the town on Christmas Day. It seemed like a good idea in the planning, less so at 9.00 am on Christmas morning after a late night. We need not have worried. Armed with Santa hats and boxes of biscuits we set forth in the snow (well, you know what I mean) and spoke to as many residents and staff at each home as we could in half an hour. It was enormously rewarding, and we got back three hours later feeling elated. I fear we have set a precedent for future mayors...

In and amongst all this, Magda and I have tried to raise money for our chosen charity – the Stroke Association. We decided on this charity because of personal experience – my mother suffered a severe stroke five and a half years ago. Anyone of any age can have a stroke at any time. I believe we have been very successful, and I should like to thank everyone who has supported us in our endeavours during the year. With us this evening is Sue Bailes from the Stroke Association, and I am thrilled to be able to give her a cheque for £5000. Sue, please come up and receive this.

So much for last year. What about next?

Magda and I have decided to support two charities going forward – Prostate Cancer UK and Parkinsons UK. As with the Stroke Association, Prostate Cancer UK supports research into another illness that my mother suffered, although I should point out that my mother's cancer was of the colon, not of the prostate. Anyone of any age can be attacked by cancer at any time. The key, as you know, is early detection, and Prostate Cancer UK supports research in this area. [Put on pin]

As for the second charity, a couple of our friends whom we hugely admire are afflicted by Parkinsons Disease, which currently has no cure, and which more often than not proves to be fatal. It's high time that we understood more about this illness, and this is what Parkinsons UK seeks to do, as well as provide invaluable support to sufferers. I hope we receive as much support next year as we did the last. We hope to organise a number of events to this end, but I have so many ideas based on what we have seen in the last twelve months, such as quizzes, fashion shows, afternoon tea parties, concerts of local talent, last night of the proms concerts, cabaret dinners and pumpkin songs, that my head is still spinning. One or two dates are fixed, however, and they are listed on the flyer on your seat. In particular, please note the Burns Night dinner on 25 January 2020. The restaurant is ready, and the piper is booked, but book early as places are limited.

I should like to close with some thank yous.

1. The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Lee Wilkes and Helen Howell, have been a great support – for example, we would never have been ready on time for the wine tasting back in September without their help. I think we have been a good team, so thank you.
2. Second, all the town councillors, as they have been very supportive of what I have tried to do. Thank you everyone.
3. Third, the council staff, because they have been tireless in pushing forward the council's agenda and ensuring that our objectives have been achieved, in addition to supporting me as Mayor. Magda and Anja have a token of our appreciation for your help this year, if you would like to come forward please.
4. Finally, they say that behind every successful man there is a good woman. Gentleman, we all think this isn't really true, but occasionally it is, and I am relieved that in my case it really has been true, because Magda has been as much a part of my being mayor as I have myself. She has not just been an appendage but has established her own identity with the chain gang. Many a time I have appeared at a function in the town or in the county on my own (usually during the day as Magda has a full-time day job), when someone (usually the Mayor of Kettering or the Mayoress of Peterborough) has looked behind me in panic and said "Where's Magda?". Magda, on behalf of the town, thank you for being such a wonderful and hard-working mayoress.

Thank you.

On close of the meeting the Reverend Jon Aldwinckle said a prayer

The new appointed Mayor invited all to join him for refreshments in the Mayors Parlour.

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

