



RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Town Council held on **Monday 14th March 2022**
The Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Bull Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 8JD

22/22 Those present and apologies for absence.

To note that Cllr Elizabeth Brewer has signed the declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Locum Clerk.

Chair Cllr R Milne,

Cllrs D Belton, S Belton, E Brewer, J Burton, C Callis, E Callis, R Dray, J Jacobs, R Lambourne, D Mercer, J Newport, S Page, C Pavelin, B Smart, D Sperring, C Stanley, J Waight, I Ward.

Resolved. The council accepts apologies for absence from Cllrs R Dowell, J Lumley C Roe, J Sawford. Proposed Cllr Milne and carried unanimously.

Cllr Jacobs raised a point of order to request the council joined in a show of solidarity with the Ukrainians fighting and dying for liberty, reminding Councillors that living in a free country should never be taken for granted. The Council observed a minute's silence.

23/22 Declaration of members' interests.

There were declarations of interest from District Councillors R Dray, J Newport, C Pavelin, D Sperring, C Stanley, I Ward and County Councillor J Newport. Cllr Sperring declared a specific interest as the District Council Portfolio Holder with responsibility for John Fisher Playing Field and the and Partnership Panel. Cllr Ward declared a specific interest as District Council Portfolio Holder for Planning with responsibility for Local and Neighbourhood Planning.

24/22 Public forum.

There were three members of the public present. One spoke in support of the proposal to introduce CCTV in partnership with the District Council.

25/22 District and County Councillors updates

County Cllr Newport reported that the locality fund for Rayleigh North could potentially deliver £20k but the criteria may have changed. A meeting will be arranged with Cllr Lumley to consider the matter.

26/22 Minutes of Town Council meeting

Resolved. The Council approves the minutes of the Town Council meeting that was held on 17th January 2022 as a true record. Proposed Cllr Page seconded Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.

27/22 Finance

- a. The Council received a list of all payments up to the end of December 2021.
- b. The Council received a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information for December 2021 and confirms that the account balance of £325,372.38. Proposed Cllr Ward seconded Cllr Page and carried unanimously.

- c. The Council received a list of all payments up to the end of January 2022.
- d. The Council received a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information for January 2022 and confirms that the account balance of £302,244.39. Proposed Cllr Ward seconded Cllr Page and carried unanimously.

28/22 Correspondence

None this month.

29/22 Consultations

None this month.

30/22 John Fisher Playing field

To note that the District Council is preparing a draft lease which should be ready for evaluation by late March. To be considered at the Environment Committee.

31/22 Purple Flag

The purple flag award will be referred to the Communities Committee. It was noted that Rayleigh may be too small to be awarded the flag, but there is much that can be done to improve the safety and perception of the Town.

32/22 Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that the whole project could take up to five years, so an initial evaluation of the costs and benefits is needed. The feasibility study will guide the council's intentions and give a focus to the required fifteen-year plan. Should the council wish go ahead it will be important to harness the interest and enthusiasm of the residents.

Having a neighbourhood plan would bring benefits:

Oversight and guidance for the planning authority.

Control of S106 and when the District Council's local plan is agreed, increase the CIL receipt from 15 to 25%.

More influence on planning.

However, there will be costs as well.

It does not give the Town Council the power to prevent development or work against the District Council's plan.

Although there will be grant funding available, it will not cover all the costs.

It would require a committed group of volunteers.

Unless adequately researched, the plan could fail at the final step.

Resolved. The Council will commission a feasibility study using third party specialist to advise the council on the benefits and potential methods for delivering a neighbourhood plan. Proposed Cllr Newport seconded Cllr Waight and carried unanimously.

33/22 CCTV.

Some Councillors were concerned that the Police may not want to be an active participant in the scheme. It was understood that the police are supportive, but it was noted that there was little interest in the previous CCTV system. With the new technology available, there is an opportunity for a fresh start and the Police would be keen to use the cameras providing the system is live and accessible in real time.

There was also concern that the running costs may increase if the system needed to be expanded, or if more surveillance was needed.

Although there were still problems to be resolved, it was noted that the council could accept the offer provisionally and allow time to undertake further research and due diligence. The proposer of the original motion put-forward an amendment.

Motion. It is proposed that the Town Council accepts the attached terms of Rochford District Council offer to install CCTV in Rayleigh Town Centre and instruct that work commence immediately. Proposer Cllr Lambourne.

Resolved. The initial motion was withdrawn by its proposer and an amended proposal was proposed by Cllr Lambourn seconded Cllr Stanley and carried unanimously.

Resolved. The Town Council accepts the attached terms of Rochford District Council's offer to provide a Grant to install CCTV in Rayleigh Town Centre, and we instruct that work commence immediately to prepare requests for tender for RTC to progress installation. Proposed Cllr Lambourne seconded Cllr Stanley and carried unanimously

34/22 The minutes from the Planning Committee were noted.

35/22 To minutes from the Environment Committee were noted.

36/22 To note the minutes from the Communities Committee meeting.

The Locum Clerk was asked to arrange for the notice board outside the civic suite to be removed.

37/22 The minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting were noted.

38/22 The minutes from the partnership panel meeting were noted.

39/22 To receive an update on the food support grant

At the time of the meeting, £1,980 had been allocated to forty-four adults and seventy-three children. The residuum of the money will be allocated before the end of the month. The council noted the disappointing lack of response of from some of the church organisations. Cllrs Smart, Newport, Sawford and the Locum Clerk were thanked for co-ordinating and delivering the service. A press release will advise the public.

40/22 Remembrance

To note plans for Remembrance Day and to appoint volunteers to co-ordinate the event.

The Council were reminded that remembrance is a civic event, not a Royal British Legion service, so it is managed by the Town Council. To be successful, it will need fresh volunteers to ensure the event carries on into the future. Cllrs Page, Ward, Milne, S Belton, E Callis and C Callis accepted the task.

41/22 Annual Town Awards

The closing date of 4th March for the Annual Town Nomination forms was noted. The Town Council sent forms to all schools, organisation and clubs via email and included the form on the Town Council's Facebook page and noticeboards. Only two schools have responded. The limited response could be a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, as events may not have been held or clubs/organisations may have not met. The Chairman of the Town Council has not been invited to many engagements over the last year, therefore it would be difficult for him to nominate a Chairmans Award winner.

It was agreed that the council wishes to get back to normal, and the presentations will go ahead as normal.

42/22 St George Flag Raising

Members agreed to hold a St George Flag raising at the Pavilion on Saturday 23rd April 2022 at 10.00am.

43/22 Chairman's Engagements

High Sherriff Awards on 3rd March 2022.

Rochford Civic Dinner which raised £5,000 for Ukrainian relief

44/22 Items for next agenda.

Cllr Jacobs speaking to Michael Gove MP, on levelling up the town, the environment and what can the town do to support refugees from the conflict in Ukraine.

Meeting closed at 8.55.