



RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022.
The Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Bull Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 8JD

45/22 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chair Cllr D Mercer

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

Also present Locum Clerk, four members of the public.

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

46/22 Declaration of members' interests.

There were declarations of interest from District Councillors R Dray, J Newport, C Pavelin, D Sperring, C Roe, C Stanley, I Ward and Essex County Councillor J Newport. Cllr Sperring declared a specific interest as the District Council Portfolio Holder for environment with responsibility for John Fisher Playing Field and member of the cross-party working group for Mill Hall. Cllr Dray declared a specific interest as a member of the Partnership Panel.

47/22 Public forum.

Two residents spoke on behalf of the Save Mill Hall Group with reference to the Asset of Community Value and the Environment Working Group terms of reference. The Group hopes the Town Council will give their view on the application. The Council were reminded that the building is an asset to the community and its salvation is supported by over 1,200 signatories. The Group would like the Town Council to give their endorsement to the bid to have the site declared an asset of community value. There are very such assets in the town: the Hall's facilities support local groups and is of a size that is appropriate to the growing population of the community. The Hall is for the community.

The Group would like the Environmental Working Group to take advice from climate change experts when looking at the Mill Hall development as preservation of an existing building can often be a better environmental option than demolition and new build.

48/22 District and County Councillors updates

Nothing to report.

49/22 Minutes of Town Council meeting

Resolved. The Council approves the minutes of the Town Council meeting that was held on 14th March 2022 as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.

50/22 Finance

- a. The Council received a list of all payments up to the end of February 2022.
- b. The Council received a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms the account balance of £282,305.80. Proposed Cllr Mercer seconded Cllr Dray and carried unanimously.

The Council noted that the 2021-2022 accounts will be closed on 25th April and the internal audit will be on 5th May.

51/22 Correspondence

None this month

52/22 Consultations

None this month

53/22 John Fisher Playing field

While the council is in favour of acquiring the land, there was concern from some councillors that there has been no up-to-date assessment of the land and buildings. The 2018 survey recommended that an asbestos survey be carried out, and there was no evidence that it had been done. Although the intention is to sublet the pavilion to the Rayleigh Football Club, there was concern that the Town Council had not received written permission from the lessor to sublet, and there has been no formal agreement with the Football Club that it wished to sublet. This means there is no legal agreement with any organisation willing to underwrite the repairs to the pavilion.

Councillors asked if the Football Club have the power to take on a lease. It was confirmed that the club can take on the lease and has expressed interest in adopting the property. Cllr Belton advised the council that the District Council is willing to provide a letter to grant the power to sublet. The Councillors were advised that their first step was to confirm that they are willing to take on the whole parcel of land before they could meet with a potential sub-lessee who can take on the repairs.

In reply to a question about the continuing insurance for the site, it was confirmed that continuous cover could be provided.

It was suggested that the Council should be spending money throughout the parish and not concentrating on one area.

A motion to defer the item was proposed by Cllr Stanley seconded Cllr Page, which failed with ten against and eight in favour.

The original motion was repropoed, and a recorded vote was requested by Cllr Waite.

Resolved. Subject to legal opinion, the council approves the lease for adoption and signature. Proposed Cllr D Belton with Cllrs S Belton, E Callis, R Dray, J Jacobs, D Mercer, S Page, C Pavelin, C Roe, J Sawford, D Sperring, I Ward in favour. Cllrs E Brewer, C Callis, R Lambourne, J Newport, C Stanley, J Waight were against and Cllr B Smart abstained. The motion was carried by twelve to six with one abstention.

- 54/22 To receive a report on a meeting with Michael Gove MP**
Cllr Jacobs reported that he met with Michael Gove M.P. and other Ministers to consider what support the Town Council can offer to assist with the humanitarian crisis and support to Ukrainian refugees. He was reassured that the United Kingdom would take the lead in humanitarian support. In response, other Councillors expressed disappointment with the Government's approach to issuing visas for refugees.
- 55/22 Fattorini regalia quote.**
Resolved. The council approves expenditure of £705.28 for two past chairman pendants. Proposed Cllr Mercer seconded Cllr Ward and carried with twelve in favour, four against and three abstentions.
- 56/22 To approve the draft terms of reference for the climate change working group.**
Resolved. The council approves the climate change working group draft terms of reference for publication. Proposed Cllr Mercer seconded Cllr Stanley and carried unanimously.
- 57/22 King George V field hires**
Jubilee Fun Day. To considering hiring the King George V Playing Field for a Jubilee Fun Day on Friday 3rd June 2022.
- Members noted that the only organisation to hire the field for a whole day are the Lions Club of Rayleigh for a fee of £750 plus vat. Before approving the hire, the Council requested more information. It was agreed that the hire form should be updated to reflect the information needed. The matter would be referred to the Environmental Committee.
- 58/22 Remembrance 2022**
Members noted that a meeting was held on 5th April 2022 with those members who had volunteered to take responsibility for arrangements for Remembrance Parade and Service. Cllr Sperring reported that following a successful meeting, the project is on track. There are currently four volunteers, but more are needed. Cllr Waite will join the volunteers.
- It was noted that the Town Council members would have reserved seating in the church service, but there will not be a reserved section for members at the outdoor service.
- 59/22 The Council received the notes from the Community Safety Working Group CCTV meeting.**
- 60/22 The minutes from the Planning committee were noted.**
- 61/22 The minutes from the Environment Committee were noted.**
- 62/22 The minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting were noted.**
To adopt the member officer relations protocol.
Resolved. The Council approves the member-officer relations protocol for publication. Proposed Cllr Mercer seconded Cllr Waite and carried unanimously.

63/22 Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman and other Councillors attended the Chairman's Charity dinner at Hazel's Meze Bar which raised £1,050 for his chosen charity. Cllr Page was thanked for organizing the event.

64/22 To note that the Mill Hall site has been nominated as an asset of community value.

Cllr Waite reminded the Council that a valid application must meet two statutory tests to be accepted as an asset of community value; the site must be within the Authority's area and its community value must be likely to continue in the future.

The Council noted that an application to designate the Mill Hall as an asset of community value had been received by the District Council. No formal consultation was required, but as part of the process, the Town Council confirmed that it had no objection to the order being made.

65/22 Items for next agenda.

Matching the expenditure on civic regalia with a charity donation to aid refugees.
Review of Councillor's basic allowance.
Census of cultural heritage.