



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

112/22 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chair Cllr D Mercer

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

Also present Locum Clerk, one member of the public.

Resolved. The council accepted valid apologies from Cllrs Dowell, Jacobs, J Lumley, C Pavelin. Proposed Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.

113/22 Declaration of members' interests.

There were declarations of interest from District Councillors R Lambourne, J Newport, C Roe, D Sperring, C Stanley, and Essex County Councillor J Newport. Cllr J Burton's son is a member of the football club discussed at minute 121/22.

114/22 Public forum

There was one member of the public present.

115/22 County and District Councillors' updates.

The Council were advised that Essex Highways have carried out a speed survey following complaints about speeding issues in Queen's Road.

County Council are in discussion with Essex & Suffolk DaRT concerning the No 3 bus route from Southend to Chelmsford.

Provision for School meals is under review as the County Council is looking to see what can be done to provide additional support during the summer holidays.

In response to a question about progress on the elective pothole repair scheme, it was confirmed that Essex Highways has allocated sixteen pothole repairs per County Councillor Ward. Should Town Councillors wish to prioritise any holes, please give the trackit number from the 'Report a Problem' website and the what3words location.

Rochford District Council confirmed that Norse Group have taken-over the waste and cleansing contract from Suez when the previous contract came to an end. The current cleansing staff have TUPE transferred into the new contract. Rochford Environmental Business Alliance have launched a programme to help local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

It was confirmed that there is a phone number for booking refuse spots at Rayleigh Recycling Centre.

Vice Chairman Cllr D Belton attended the RIB judging day on 8th July 2022.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended the women's festival at Rayleigh bowls club and the RDC Chairman's garden party at The Lawns, Hockley on 10th July 2022.

116/22 To receive an update on Highway Matters from County Councillor Lee Scott

County Cllr Scott was unable to attend an evening meeting, he is only available on 12th September morning until 11.30am or 10th October morning and afternoon until 1.00pm. The Locum Clerk will repeat the offer to attend an evening meeting reminding him about the highway damage and broken lighting poles. It was noted that some of the long-term breakdowns may be because of the difficulty in sourcing energy-efficient lighting to replace failed sodium lights.

It was suggested that Highways delayed inspection and marking of damaged road surfaces as the presence of marker paint raised false expectations of an imminent repair.

117/22 Minutes of Town Council meeting

Resolved. The Council approves the minutes of the Town Council meeting that was held on 13th June 2022 as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mercer carried unanimously.

118/22 Finance

- a. To receive a list of all payments up to the end of May 2022.
- b. To receive a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance of £290,449.62 in Unity Trust Bank and £16,846.43 in the NatWest Liquidity and Current accounts. Proposed Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.

119/22 Correspondence

A letter concerning the implementation of CCTV in Rayleigh was noted.

120/22 Consultations

None this month

121/22 John Fisher Playing field

The District Council's lease is with the Town Council's solicitor who has raised no concerns about the lease and saw no reason for problems to emerge. Concern was expressed about the lack of due diligence and requested further clarification on the condition of the site. Without further information, the Town Council might be liable for unforeseen costs. It was noted at the meeting that this item was an update and not intended for debate. The item is to be discussed at an Environment meeting, where it can be debated in the proper manner. Councillors were asked to note the distinction between the pavilion and the park. The Town Council is interested in the land, the Football Club is interested in the pavilion and use of the pitches.

122/22 Rayleigh in Bloom

The Council received a verbal update on Rayleigh in Bloom judging day, held on 8th July 2022. Cllr Ward reported that the judging day was very successful. The judges noted how

difficult it was to get back to normal after three years. Rayleigh in Bloom is about community and the judges were impressed with the degree of engagement and noted the number of people who spontaneously did work to improve their community. The Council recorded their thanks for all those who were involved, especially Cllr Stanley who planted the playing fields display. There will be weekly weeding sessions on Sunday mornings 9 till 10 with more information to follow. More tools may be required. The Council also thanked the contractors who have done well.

123/22 To receive an update on CCTV installation.

The clerk reported that following the agreement with RDC to secure the funds the clerk has been putting together a spec for contract finder. It was confirmed that Highways would not give permission to install equipment on street lighting poles.

124/22 To consider procedure for recording Councillor absence

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Councillors were responsible for their own actions, and provided apologies were received in good time, there was no need for a procedure or an agreement.

Motion. The council will accept apologies for carer commitments, work commitments holiday and sickness with the apology being sent to the Clerk or the meeting chair in advance of the meeting. With no proposer, the motion failed.

125/22 Review of Councillor's basic allowance

Cllr Waite's proposal to set up a working group to review allowances was deferred to the next Full Council meeting, in order to give councillors more time to study the proposal, as some had not received the information sent out earlier.

Motion. The Council will appoint a working group to review the basic allowance.

An amendment was proposed: The council will refer the matter to the personnel committee. It was agreed that the amendment to be carried forward as well.

126/22 Dementia Policy and funding.

To note published guidance and consider establishing a dementia friendly community.

The matter has been considered previously but is due to be revisited. Other Councils have made good progress with small financial input, but this has cost a lot of working hours. Cllr Brewer will be doing some further research and will report on potential projects. The Council should consider extending the work to all organisations that support people with Dementia and Alzheimer's along with the families that care for them. The matter will be considered at the next meeting

127/22 Homeless – clarification of procedure for management.

To consider the District Council's homelessness procedures. The Clerk confirmed that the Office is a place where residents can report homelessness. District Councillors confirmed that Rochford District Council is aware of those in the community who need help but would welcome information from residents who know of others who may also need help. The Council will consider signage in noticeboard advising people who to contact and what to do, including an emergency number.

- 128/22 To consider proposed changes to Working Group membership**
Resolved. Revision 1.12 of the membership list was approved as published. Proposed Cllr Mercer and carried unanimously.
- 129/22 The minutes from Planning Committee of 4th July were noted.**
- 130/22 The minutes from Environment Committee of 21st June were noted.**
- 131/22 The minutes from Personnel Committee of 21st June have not been issued and will be carried over to the next full council meeting.**
- 132/22 Items for next agenda.**
Cultural Heritage – report from Cultural Engine.
Review of Parish Basic Allowance
Cllrs Page and Brewer to invite Jane Bissett to discuss dementia care options
- Meeting closed at 8.39