

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS
TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM
AT THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor V K Paul)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor G Salmon)	
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor C O'Rourke		Councillor B Spencer
Councillor Mrs A Gardner		Councillor S Prosser
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor Mrs J Bone (until item 14)
Councillor G Kelly		Councillor N Brown
Miss Alicia Schofield (Town Clerk)		David Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)
Mrs Emily Arrow (Assistant Clerk)		

4 members of the public

24/669. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr P McCann, Cllr P Tomas, Cllr A M T Reading, Cllr Mrs C Reavey

24/670. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr H L Jackson and Cllr Mrs J Bone – as members of the Unitary Council they will consider all matters at Unitary level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the Unitary tier. Therefore, they cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by the decisions of this Council.

Cllr H L Jackson – item 24 - Cllr Jackson owns a plot at the cemetery.

24/671. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That with the following amendment the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th June 2024 be signed by the Mayor as being a true and correct record

For agenda item 24/663. 5 and 5A College Street Window Replacement

Additional wording is added– "...noting that it is not the lowest price and is accepted because of the preference to use acoya. Cost to be met from EMR Asset Maintenance / Refurbishment."

24/672. **PUBLIC FORUM**

A member of the public enquired about whether trees are replaced by the council where it has been necessary to cut down an existing tree. They also queried the need for more CCTV and additional security to mitigate shoplifting in the town.

A member of the public spoke of pigeon control measurers with reference to considerations at a previous meeting regarding a request to work to a tree.

24/673. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor will report on his July engagements at the next meeting.

24/674. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Police Report

Link to crimes for May 2024:

[Local Crime Information for Market Square, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, NN10 8BT -](#)

[May 2024 \(streetcheck.co.uk\)](http://streetcheck.co.uk)

66 crimes for the month of May: -

- Anti-social Behaviour - 15
- Criminal Damage / Arson – 5
- Drugs – 1
- Other -1
- Other theft - 5
- Public Order – 1
- Shoplifting – 16
- Vehicle crime -2
- Violence / Sexual offences - 20

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk's report be received and noted.

24/675. **QUESTIONS**

None.

24/676. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

Cllr Mrs J Bone reported in her capacity as Police Liaison Representative. Cllr Bone indicates that she will share notes with the councillors following her latest meetings. She also reports we have a new incoming PCSO and she intends to meet with them soon. Cllr Bone mentions that the new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is keen on a PCSO presence at council meetings, with the understanding that there are a handful of PCSO's covering large areas so they will not be able to attend every meeting, but they will endeavour to be present once or twice a year to directly answer queries.

24/677. **REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS**

A report was circulated with councillors.

24/678. **FINANCE**

24/678.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 30th July 2024**

RESOLVED:

That the accounts for payment of £154,151.94 as at 30th July 2024 be approved for payment.

24/678.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 30th June 2024**

RESOLVED:

That the bank account reconciliation as at 30th June 2024 be signed by the Mayor after being checked by Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.

24/678.3. **To receive and note the budget report as at 30th June 2024**

RESOLVED:

That the budget report as at 30th June 2024 is received and noted.

24/678.4. **To approve the following expenditure:-**

RESOLVED:

- (i) That expenditure be approved for the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) Operational Inspections training and exam for the Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities Supervisor at a cost of £890. That expenditure be approved for the recertification training and exam for the Town Clerk at a cost of £300.
- (ii) That expenditure for 85m of wooden post and rail replacement fencing to the boundary of the footpath, Higham Heights, be approved at a cost of £3250. Cost to be met from EMR Section 106 Maintenance.

- 24/679. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
To receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees: -
- 24/679.1. **Planning and Development Committee held on 9th July 2024**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 9th July 2024 be received and adopted.
RESOLVED:
(i) That the council submit a request to North Northamptonshire Council for Tree Protection Orders (TPO's) on the line of lime trees on the western side of Midland Road.
- 24/679.2. **Environment and Recreation Committee held on 9th July 2024**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 9th July 2024 be received and adopted.
- 24/680. **GREENSPACE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUNDING**
RESOLVED:
That support be given to the four identified projects as listed below and submitted to North Northants Council for application to their £1.5million UK Shared Prosperity E3 funding:-
- Tenter Close/Toll Bar green –Provision of benches.
 - Castle Fields - New interpretation signage across the site.
 - Improvements around Riverside Park to include an accessible path and interpretation signage for wildlife and biodiversity.
 - Tree planting at the dogs off lead area, Stanwick Road.
- 24/681. **COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND WELLBEING HUB WORKING PARTY**
- 24/681.1. **RESOLVED:**
That the minutes of the Community Library and Wellbeing Hub working party meeting held on 31st May 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/681.2. **RESOLVED:**
That the minutes of the Community Library and Wellbeing Hub working party meeting held on 15th July 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/682. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP**
- 24/682.1. **RESOLVED:**
That the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group meeting held on 26th June 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/682.2. **RESOLVED:**
That the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group meeting held on 15th July 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/683. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**
RESOLVED:
That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the following items of business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the next item.
- 24/684. **REQUEST FOR MITIGATION WORKS, TREE RELATED SUBSIDENCE**
RESOLVED:
That the council undertakes the mitigation works requested in conjunction with realignment of the boundary fence.

24/685.

CEMETERY APPEAL

RESOLVED:

That the request submitted to waive clause 9.3 of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to allow the pre-purchase of a grave space is declined.

24/686.

REOPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That, the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be readmitted to the meeting.

24/687.

ITEMS TO REPORT

Cllr Mrs A Gardner reported a recent encounter with an organisation working to install bleed kits across the local area and spread awareness with free critical bleed control training. They have requested the council consider the installation of a bleed kit somewhere in the town, with all maintenance to be undertaken by the organisation. The Clerk will liaise with the organisation to facilitate a future agenda item.

Cllr C O'Rourke reports an increase in Voi Scooters being left in green spaces and across pavements causing a nuisance. He asks that usage statistics are again requested of the company for the local area.

Cllr C O'Rourke also reports on the state of the local Greenways, which are very overgrown.

Cllr B Prigmore reports on the state of the general green spaces and verges in the town. Many pathways and road verges are overgrown. He asks if there is a way of requesting that North Northants Council carry out more frequent or severe cutting-back of vegetation to keep on top of it. This is a matter that can be directed to the North Northants Unitary Councillors.

Cllr V K Paul reports a member of the public had approached him about installing a pedestrian crossing close to Chowns Mill. This is a request the council submitted previously and information is to be shared with Cllr Paul.

Mayor

Date