

Signed: [REDACTED]



Rugeley Town Council

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices
7.30pm Wednesday 4th October 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors:-	P Ansell	C Barkas
	W Clark	A Cooney
	D Foceac	D Gaye
	I Gibson	C Green – part (Vice Chair)
	K Hart	I Hodgson
	R Hughes	G Kirkham
	O Lyons	A Miller
	I Pyke	N Stanley (Chair)

Also Present: S Buxton - Town Clerk
A Mantle – Administrative Officer
2 members of the public

Min No	Item	Action
91 90.1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllrs Davey, Lees and Sparkes	
92 92.1	Declaration of Personal & Prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda Cllrs Cooney, Green, Hart, Hodgson and Miller declared an interest in the town centre	
93 93.1	To receive requests for any dispensation Cllr Green - Christmas Cllr Hodgson – Christmas <i>Proposed: Cllr Cooney; Seconded Cllr Hart</i> Agreed to grant these dispensation Cllr Miller – Car parking <i>Proposed: Cllr Cooney; Seconded Cllr Green</i> Agreed to grant these dispensations	
94 94.1	Chair closed the meeting for public session A member of the public asked questions on the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Requirement for councillors to stand when speaking- Recording of meetings – can he record	Clerk for October meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking is free in Hednesford, has parking in Rugeley been raised with CCDC - Have the meters been changed and checked for anomalies - Does the council have a caretaker who can change light bulbs - Why weren't the agendas posted on Thursday morning - Are sub-committees open to the public - Very pleased to see the successful market last week 	
95 95.1	<p>Chair re-opened the meeting</p> <p>The chair re-opened the council meeting</p>	
96 96.1	<p>To consider approving and signing the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2023</p> <p>The spelling of Cllr Hodgson's name was corrected a number of times</p> <p>85.2 Induction of new councillors – Cllr Cooney had volunteered to attend informal meetings with new councillors</p> <p><i>Proposed: Cllr Green; Seconded: Cllr Pyke</i></p> <p>The minutes were agreed</p>	
97 97.1	<p>Matters arising not listed on the agenda</p> <p>80.1 Bank accounts</p> <p>It was proposed to make the following changes to the bank mandate:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove H Goodreid and replace with S Buxton - remove K Roberts and replace with M Matthews <p><i>Proposed: Cllr Cooney; Seconded Cllr Ansell</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - removed R Dipple, G Grant and N Mahon <p><i>Proposed: Cllr Anson; Seconded: Cllr Lyons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - add D Foceac as a bank signatory <p><i>Proposed: Cllr Cooney; Seconded: Cllr Loyons</i></p>	
97.2	<p>88.1 Business survey resending</p> <p>This is work in progress</p>	Clerk for Nov CEC mtg
98 98.1	<p>To note the minutes from the following committee meetings:-</p> <p>Rose Committee – 13th September 2023</p> <p>Community Engagement Committee – 13th September 2023</p> <p>Planning Committee – 20th September 2023</p> <p>Finance and Management Committee – 20th September 2023</p> <p>This item is withdrawn as the minutes have not yet been approved by the individual committees, and it will be considered at the November meeting.</p>	
99 99.1	<p>Training</p> <p>Councillors were in receipt of a report on the training courses booked so far and those requested for which dates were still to be arranged by SPCA. The clerk reported she has cancelled the one day's training for her and the Finance Officer with Rialtus as this is not felt to be required at the moment. It maybe that half a day is required at a later date.</p>	
100 100.1	<p>Appointment of internal auditor for 2023-24</p> <p>Blackrose have completed our internal previously and have asked if we require them this year. They normally make two visits, one in the autumn and one early in the new financial year. It was proposed we appoint Blackrose for 2023-24 as internal auditors</p>	

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	<p><i>Proposed: Cllr Hodgson; Seconded: Cllr Gaye</i> The motion was passed</p>	
<p>101 101.1</p>	<p>Chair and vice chair reports There was nothing to report</p>	
<p>102 102.1</p>	<p>Electricity Meters – Western Power refer the council to Engie to check the accuracy of the meters and whether anyone else could be tapping into our supply. Engie had said that they had no concerns regarding the supply and the meter readings did not give any cause for concern. They would charge if they came out to check the lines. This is also been the view of the Energy Box and the lighting contractor It was proposed that we need to get the lines checked <i>Proposed: Cllr Cooney; Seconded: Cllr Lyons</i> The motion was passed Smart meters – smart meters are fitted free of charge and a request has been sent to Engie Electricity contract – the contract we are signed up to is not the one we had agreed to, where the maximum tariff was fixed, but the tariff could fall if energy prices fell. The broker who we worked with prior to taking the contract out informs us that we are not his only client, who has not been charged correctly and he has raised a complaint. The contract with Engie is until March 2026 and we cannot get out early</p>	
<p>103 103.1</p>	<p>Council Security Councillors were in receipt of information from Cllr Cooney Cllr Green declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting There is concern re: the wall to the rear of Anson Street, and the council would be liable if someone were to hurt themselves. Agreed Cllr Cooney would find out who owned the wall and the legality of signage warning of the drop on the otherside. Cllr Green rejoined the meeting</p>	
<p>104 104.1</p>	<p>Council Contracts Cllrs were in receipt of a list of contracts agreed in March 2023 for the 23/24 financial year</p>	
<p>105 105.1</p>	<p>Transparency It was proposed to prepare a press release detailing the history of the fraud and actions taken and circulate it with the next newsletter <i>Proposed: Cllr Foceac; Seconded: Cllr Cooney</i> The motion was carried It was proposed to hold a meeting with PCSO Kevin Lee to discuss the fraud. The motion was carried</p>	

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	<p>It was proposed to hold an informal meeting of councillors, to discuss all the issues and innuendo surrounding the fraud, to clear the air, prior to issuing the press release <i>Proposed: Cllr Kirkham; Seconded: Cllr Cooney</i> The motion was carried</p>	
106 106.1	<p>Councillor drop in Session at Market(s) The item was withdrawn</p>	
107 107.1	<p>Street lighting Cllrs were in receipt of information on the proposals to upgrade the streetlighting from EON as part of SCC's 25 PFI to upgrade street lighting</p>	
108 108.1	<p>Car parking The Clerk reported Cllr Josh Newbury will be attending the December full council meeting</p>	
109 109.1	<p>Nolan Principles The item was withdrawn</p>	
110 110.1	<p>Items for future meetings Community Engagement Committee – 11th October - Mindfulness Garden – Cllr Cooney – tree maintenance - Broadwalk and damage to brook Finance and Management Committee – 18th October - Website – Cllr Kirkham – costs and service levels - Policy and Protocols re: recruitment incl interviews – Cllr Clerk - Electricity Contract with Engie Full Council – 1st November - Recording of meetings - Pedestrianisation and vehicle access - Listed buildings</p>	
111 111.1	<p>Date of next meeting The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7.30pm</p>	

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:35pm

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