

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
14 January 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllr P Byrne (Chairman), Cllr R Beattie, Cllr B Cross, Cllr A Fernley, Cllr H Howell, Cllr M Levell, Cllr R Levell and Cllr L Wilkes.

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Tucker, Clerk (Minutes)

1 Member of the Public

FC116.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr O Curtis, Cllr D Hughes and Cllr T Swailes.

FC117.24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting in compliance with adopted protocol.

A representative of Raunds Town Youth Football Club attended to speak upon agenda item FC124.24.

FC118.24 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

FC119.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY HAVE EITHER A DISLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHER INTEREST IN ANY ITEM THEN THEY SHOULD DECLARE THE INTEREST AND LEAVE THE MEETING FOR THAT ITEM.

None.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 4a, the order of business be amended as set out in the minutes.

FC120.24 Planning Applications Received for Consideration:

Cllr L Wilkes left the Chamber for the duration of the item and did not take part in the debate or vote thereon.

NE/24/01145/FUL | **Proposal:** Full Planning Permission. Installation of 3 containers to be used for changing room and toilet facilities, following the

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demolition of the old building which was destroyed due to an arson attack. (Section 81 E/24/0024/DN) | **Location:** Amos Lawrence Park Stanwick Road Raunds Wellingborough NN9 6DG

The Council considered the application for permission to install three containers to be used as changing room and toilet facilities at Amos Lawrence Park, following the demolition of the former facilities. The Chairman of Raunds Town Youth Football Club spoke in support of the application and responded to a number of member questions.

Members expressed support for the application, subject to the containers being designed to blend in with the surrounding environment, and appropriate arrangements being made for the regular emptying of the cesspit to ensure compliance with health and safety standards once the toilet facilities become operational.

RESOLVED that Raunds Town Council supports the application, subject to:

- (i) **The proposed container units being designed and finished to blend harmoniously with the surrounding environment, ensuring minimal visual impact and maintaining the aesthetics of the park; and**
- (ii) **The applicant being advised that, in respect of the toilet facilities to be installed, under the terms of its licence to occupy the land it is obliged to pay all costs associated with the supply and removal of water and sewage utilities to or from the property to the relevant suppliers.**

FC121.24 Council Minutes: To confirm the minutes of the following Council meetings:

- [Full Council](#) meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed as a true record.

FC122.24 Committee Minutes: To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- [Planning Committee](#) held on Thursday 19 December 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 December 2024 be noted.

- [Events Committee](#) held on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 7 January 2025 be noted.

FC123.24 Mayor's Report: To receive the Mayor's report.

RESOLVED that the digest of Mayoral activities for December 2024 be noted.

FC124.24 Unitary Councillors Report: To receive reports from Unitary Councillors.

Following an extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 9 January, North Northamptonshire Council had agreed to submit an expression of interest to pursue proposals to work with other South Midlands authorities on a devolution bid.

A meeting of the Executive is taking place on Thursday 16 January, at which the Council will be reviewing reports on the Post-Financial Settlement Budget Update and an Active Communities Strategic Framework.

RESOLVED that the Unitary Councillor reports be noted.

FC125.24 Budget & Precept 2025/26: To confirm the budget and precept requirement for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Council reviewed the detailed draft budget and precept requirement for the financial year 2025/26, as presented in the report. This included an overview of the financial pressures facing the Council, the modest growth in the tax base, and the proposed precept requirement of £662,539, reflecting an overall Council Tax increase of 2.99%.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **A budget of £737,369 for the 2025/26 financial year be approved; and**
- (ii) **A precept requirement of £662,539 for the 2025/26 financial year be approved and formally submitted to North Northamptonshire Council.**

FC126.24 Raunds Skate Park Update: To receive an update on the construction of Raunds Skate Park.

The Clerk provided an update on the progress achieved to date on construction of the skate park and pump track, and members were presented with the programme for the remaining works. Consideration was given to a proposed repositioning of the accessible footpath from the car park to the skate park, in order to avoid damage to nearby tree roots.

Members also reviewed initial options for planning an opening event upon completion of the project.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **The progress update and timeline for remaining works be noted;**

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- (ii) **A revised plan incorporating a minor amendment to the route of the accessible footpath be submitted to the planning authority;**
- (iii) **Quotes be obtained for the provision of coaching, demonstrations and entertainment at a future opening event; and**
- (iv) **An application be made to the unitary ward councillors for member empowerment funding towards the cost of running an opening event.**

FC127.24 Spotlight Newsletter: To review a draft of the Winter 2024/25 edition of Spotlight newsletter.

The Council reviewed the draft version of the Winter 2024/25 edition of Spotlight newsletter, and provided detailed feedback on the content, formatting, and overall styling of the publication. It was agreed to expand the newsletter by an additional four pages to accommodate the suggested changes and enrich the overall content, with a final draft to be circulated to members before publication.

RESOLVED that the proposed amendments to the draft newsletter be applied.

FC128.24 Annual Town Assembly: To consider provisional arrangements and promotional artwork for the Annual Town Assembly at Saxon Hall on Thursday 24 April 2025.

The Council reviewed the promotional artwork for the event and selected its preferred design, subject to a number of minor amendments. It was agreed to bring forward the start time of the event to 5.30pm and to adjust the running order of business to increase the engagement of attendees with the items on the agenda.

RESOLVED that the provisional arrangements for the Annual Town Assembly 2025 be approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.48pm.

Approved: (Town Mayor)

Meeting date.....11 February 2025.....(Council)

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