

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 5 October 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Marika Hillson	(Chairman of the Council)
Rupert Reichhold	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE	(Deputy Leader of the Council)

Rosalie Beattie
Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Wendy Brackenbury
Val Carter
John Farrar
Richard Gell
Roger Glithero
Sylvia Hobbs
Helen Howell
Dudley Hughes JP
Sylvia Hughes
Barbara Jenney
David Jenney
Lance Jones
Richard Lewis

Dorothy Maxwell
Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Sarah Peacock
Janet Pinnock
Ron Pinnock
Roger Powell
Anna Sauntson
Geoff Shacklock
Alex Smith
Phillip Stearn
Robin Underwood
Jake Vowles
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Colin Wright

169. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Helen Harrison and Marian Hollomon.

170. MINUTES

Subject to the amendment of the list of attendees to remove a second reference to Councillor Sylvia Hughes, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 were agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

171. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

172. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the following address to the meeting:

“Since my last report I have had the pleasure to represent the District Council at the 9th Business Dragons event which was hosted by ENC. This unique business platform encouraged teams of entrepreneurs from four local schools, Rushden Academy, The Ferrers School, Huxlow Science College and Manor School to pitch their ideas and business plans to a panel of local Business Dragons. We have also had the honour of attending the Mayor of Melton Borough Council and the Mayor of Rushden Town Council civic services

On 23 July, I had the honour along with Vice Chairman, Councillor Rupert Reichhold, in presenting long term staff awards to the staff at ENC. Our sincerest thanks to all those who were given awards for their hard work and long service. Later that day, the town Mayor of Raunds, Councillor Helen Howell, held her first charity event, which was a tapas night which raised much needed funds for her Firefighters Charity It was an excellent night with a great atmosphere.

After a holiday break we were invited to open the Irthlingborough Cricket Club under 9's Kwik Cricket Tournament on 9 August. 11 teams competed in the tournament which saw Finedon team win and Wollaston come runners up.

This year is a year of many significant anniversaries such as the Battle of Britain, Battle of Waterloo, the Magna Carta and also the 70th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day. On 15 August, along with the rest of the nation, we attended a service of commemoration for the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day at the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Northampton. Veterans and visiting dignitaries attended along with the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and the Mayor of Northampton. This was a moving service which gave an account of the brave deeds of Captain Lionel Matthews who steadfastly refused to make admissions under brutal torture to implicate or endanger the lives of his associates. Captain Matthews died at the hands of a firing squad and was posthumously awarded the George Cross for his actions in 1947.

On 18 August my guest, the Mayor of Irthlingborough, Councillor Short and I were invited to attend the opening of the newly refurbished Rushden Rugby Club which was opened in spectacular style by hosting a mini festival to celebrate the visiting Rugby world cup and rugby hero Jason Leonard. Huge crowds turned up and everybody had a unique opportunity to have their photo taken with the cup.

On 5 September we were honoured to open the Irthlingborough Carnival which was attended by thousands of people. On this note I would like to thank all carnival committees throughout the district for holding these annual events which brings our communities together.

Also on 5 September we took a picnic to the Rushden Proms in the park hosted by town Mayor, Councillor Kaye Rawlins. For those of you who have never attended it's a great night out with a great atmosphere and its held annually.

On 16 September, my guest, Mrs June Brightwell, our local Irthlingborough farmer, and I attended Farrington's Farm in Hargrave, along with Councillor Helen Howell, for a special occasion hosted by Farrington Oils, who had a newly expanded production facility and had landed new export deals to Asia. The occasion was attended by HRH The Duke of

Gloucester. As a businesswoman myself, it always gives me great pleasure to support local business and this expansion was good news for our district.

On 18 September, Irthlingborough town Councillor Isabella Rollings and I attended a presentation held at Northampton's Guildhall. Northampton Borough Council had been approached by the Russian Government to assist them with holding a reception and presentation to award the Ushakov Medal to 21 veterans in Northamptonshire for their services with the Artic Convoys in the Second World War. Councillor Rollings' father served with the Artic convoys during war. The medals were presented with letters signed by President Putin.

On a beautiful sunny day on 19 September, we opened the Nene Valley Festival at Stanwick Lakes, along with Andrew Langley, and local MPs Tom Pursglove and Peter Bone. The event which was organised through the Destination Nene Valley project, which saw an inspired programme of outdoor family events, guided tours, arts, workshops and much more. We are fortunate to have such a fabulous facility in the district and we should thank everyone involved for their hard work in delivering the festival.

On 19 September, Tony and I attended the 25th anniversary of the Irthlingborough Historic Society, which saw Councillor John Farrar deliver a great speech detailing the society's achievements over the years and congratulating all the members.

On 25 September, we were invited by Colonel Cullen to celebrate the 68th United States Air Force Birthday Celebrations at RAF Alconbury. This was an elaborate full evening dress affair and we were treated to a memorable evening of dining and dancing.

You all should have a flyer for the District Talent Contest to be held on 14 November, I would invite to please come along and support your town. As far as I know this has not been done before and this event will bring the District together for a unique event.

On 25 October, Reverend John Hall and myself will be holding a church service to collect aid for the Syrian refugees at St Peters CoE Church in Irthlingborough. I have heard an awful lot of talk on what we can't do for the refugees; this is something we can do. I have sourced an agency that ENC have vetted who deliver aid directly to the Syrian refugee camps and also are one of the few agencies that can deliver aid directly into Syria. Unlike many larger charities their overhead costs are minimal so funds will be used on aid not huge salaries.

So far we have the Church of England, the Salvation Army, the Methodists, Reverend Lees from the Rushden Gospel Church, who is holding a meeting tonight on how the community can help the Syrian refugees. We also have local schools supporting this aid church service. The agency has sent me a list of specific items that are urgently needed which are listed on the information sheets you all have.

We are all leaders of our communities and at the Rushden Mayor's Civic service on Sunday we were all reminded by Rev Hawkins that the community looks to us as leaders to lead them in acts of compassion to aid these people.

I end my report with this message which I pass on to each and every one of you as members of this Council to show compassion to these desperate people and take the opportunity to join with us in this service to raise aid for them."

The Chief Executive addressed the meeting to provide an update on the Government's proposed approach to the Syrian Refugee Crisis and the implications for the council and the district. In broad terms, he anticipated that there would be little impact on East

Northamptonshire directly as the Government proposed to locate refugees with existing Syrian communities within Britain and such communities did not exist within the district. Whilst a number of households in the district had volunteered to help house refugees, the Government did not believe that this would be required. It was reported that Northampton Borough Council had taken the lead in discussions with the Home Office on behalf of the other authorities in Northamptonshire. The Chief Executive confirmed that he would continue to provide Member Briefings as and when there were any developments to report.

173. LEADER'S ADDRESS

The Leader of the Council gave notice of his intention to call an Issues Debate meeting of the council on Monday 26 October 2015 to enable members to discuss and determine the future provision of leisure services in East Northamptonshire.

174. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Governance and Audit Committee – 15 July and 28 September 2015

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Colin Wright, were received.

(b) Planning Policy Committee – 20 July 2015

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor David Brackenbury, was received.

(c) Planning Management Committee – 22 July, 12 August, 2 and 23 September 2015

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, was received.

(d) Policy and Resources Committee – 27 July and 21 September 2015

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, was received.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

93 Minutes of Sub-Committees and Working Parties

1. That the increase to the Disabled Facilities Grant budget in the Approved Capital Programme, as a result of additional funds being received from Northamptonshire County Council, be approved

(Reason – for formal approval of the amendment to the Capital Programme Budget for 2015-16.)

2. That the Fees and Charges for 2015-16 be amended to include the insertion of a fixed fee for the provision of printing services to be levied to all external customers.
3. That the Council set a minimum fixed fee at £57.18, the equivalent of one hour's cost, and automatically increased annually in line with cost increases incurred in the delivery of printing services.

(Reason – to ensure that the Fees and Charges levied by the council fully recover the costs incurred in the delivery of printing service.)

143 Minutes of Sub-Committees and Working Parties

That an increase to the Approved Capital Programme budget in respect of the following items be approved:

- i) The late Nene Centre Roof invoice of £3,000 to be met from existing capital reserves.
- ii) An increase of £20,000 for the purchase of additional wheeled bins, to be funded through an additional revenue contribution to capital.

(Reason – to follow the formal process for approval of the amendment to the Capital Programme Budget for 2015-16.)

(e) Joint Standards Complaints Committee – 3 September 2015

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Andy Mercer, was received.

(f) Licensing Committee – 16 September 2015

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Barbara Jenney, was received.

175. OTHER REPORTS

(a) Licensing Panels

(i) Taxi and Miscellaneous – 6 July and 17 August 2015

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing (Taxi and Miscellaneous) Panel held on 6 July and 17 August 2015 were received.

176. MOTIONS

It was reported that no motions had been received.

177. QUESTIONS

It was reported that no questions had been received.

178. LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Chairman reported that Mark Baxter, Russell Edwards, Hilary Franklin and Sharon Prior had recently marked 25 years service with East Northamptonshire Council and invited Members to recognise the long and distinguished service provided.

RESOLVED:-

That the distinguished local government service of Mark Baxter, Russell Edwards, Hilary Franklin and Sharon Prior be recognised and an award be made to them in appreciation of their long service to the people of East Northamptonshire.

179. CHANGE TO CONSERVATIVE GROUP'S MEMBERSHIP OF LICENSING COMMITTEE, HOUSING POLICY WORKING PARTY AND LEISURE PROCUREMENT WORKING PARTY

The Leader of the Conservative Group reported the following changes to committee and working party membership:

- Licensing Committee – Addition of Councillor Pam Whiting
- Housing Policy Working Party – Addition of Councillor Helen Harrison
- Leisure Procurement Working Party – Councillor Peter Wathen to replace Councillor Lance Jones

RESOLVED:-

That the changes to the membership of the Licensing Committee, Housing Policy Working Party and Leisure Procurement Working Party be noted.

180. PROTOCOL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager outlining proposed criteria defined within a protocol for the award of the honour of Alderman of East Northamptonshire, in accordance with the provisions of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was noted that other councils which had adopted the practice of appointing Honorary Aldermen had done so on a strictly limited basis to recognise the exceptional service of people who have reached the end of their political careers. Discussions focused on the importance of establishing the a protocol which protected the scarcity value of the honour and the need to judge each application on its merits to determine whether the individual concerned had rendered 'eminent services' to the council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the protocol for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen for the district of East Northamptonshire be approved.

(Reason – to comply with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in appointing Honorary Aldermen.)

- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to include the Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen within the Constitution.

(Reason – to ensure that the Council's Constitution reflects the agreed protocol.)

181. LEISURE PROCUREMENT WORKING PARTY

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Head of Resources and Organisational Development which sought approval of the terms of reference for the Leisure Procurement Working Party which had been established at the annual meeting in May 2015.

It was noted that the working party had been established to provide strategic direction for the procurement of leisure management arrangements beyond 31 July 2016, when the current contract was due to expire.

With reference to the earlier announcement in respect of the Issues Debate arranged to take place on 26 October 2015, it was noted that the terms of reference were required to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements for the Leisure Procurement Working Party had been established.

Having regard to the comparatively short timescale in which to undertake the procurement exercise, it was further recommended that the Council agree to extend the current contract by up to nine months in order for a full procurement exercise to be concluded. It was also noted that the terms of reference should make it clear that Council would agree the award of the final contract after the procurement exercise had concluded.

RESOLVED:-

That the terms of reference for the Leisure Procurement Working Party be approved

(Reason – to ensure that governance arrangements for the Leisure Procurement Working Party are in place and leisure management arrangements are in place beyond 31 July 2016.)

- (i) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Chair of the Leisure Procurement Working Party to negotiate with Aspirations Wellbeing the extension of the current leisure services contract for a period of no longer than 9 months from the scheduled end of the contract on 31 July 2016.

(Reason – to enable a full procurement exercise to be undertaken in a timely manner and ensure the continuation of leisure services in East Northamptonshire until a new contract is awarded.)

Chairman

COUNCIL MEETING

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Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors:-

Marika Hillson	(Chairman of the Council)
Rupert Reichhold	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)

Rosalie Beattie
David Brackenbury
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Richard Gell
Roger Glithero
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Helen Harrison
Sylvia Hobbs
Helen Howell
David Jenney
Lance Jones
Dorothy Maxwell

Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Sarah Peacock
Janet Pinnock
Ron Pinnock
Roger Powell
Valerie Raven-Hill
Geoff Shacklock
Alex Smith
Phillip Stearn
Robin Underwood
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Colin Wright

198. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Boto, Glenn Harwood MBE, Marian Hollomon, Dudley Hughes JP, Sylvia Hughes, Barbara Jenney, Richard Lewis, Anna Sauntson and Jake Vowles

199. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lance Jones declared an Other Interest in respect of the Issues Debate on Healthy and Active Lifestyles on the grounds that he is a consultant to the Kier Group, part of which is a provider of leisure services to local government.

200. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the following address to the meeting:

“The Syrian aid church service was held yesterday at St Peters, Irthlingborough. Dr Omar Arabba attended from the charity, Hand in Hand with Syria and gave a short presentation on the work they have been carrying out since 2011. Church and Civic leaders from as far as Melton Mowbray and Godmanchester and our MP, Tom Pursglove attended.”

I had the charities details printed on the order of service so other Civic heads can continue to work with Hand in Hand with Syria and speaking to them, many wanted to do so, so the aid work will continue.

A considerable amount of donations were made which we will be transporting to the UK collection point in Birmingham tomorrow. The aid will then be transported to the Syrian refugee camps and also directly into Syria itself within a few weeks by the Charity itself. We also had cash and cheque donations which I will report on in the next meeting.

I want to thank everybody here that attended or supported the service it will make a huge difference to the refugees especially as winter approaches.

The acts have now all been nominated for the forth coming event for the 14 November. Irthlingborough's Mayor has nominated Tracey Barker, a classical singer. Oundle have nominated the Tap and Syn and bathwater band. For Thrapston we have Sophie Waring a 12 year old singer, for Rushden we have Tristan Knott a well known street dancer. Raunds originally nominated the fallen Mavericks which have had to be withdrawn and will now be represented by Bella Voce a duet singer and keyboard act. So we have a good variety of acts.

I have had a great response from well known celebrities for the raffle prizes which include Sir Michael Caine, Sir Tom Jones, Colin Firth, Kate Winslet and many more well known stars which I will leave as a surprise for the night. So please book your tickets for the 14 November and support your Town's nomination.

Another date to also put into your diaries is the Chairman's Civic Service which will be held on 13 December at 4pm. This will be a candle lit service and held at St Peters Church in Irthlingborough."

The Chief Executive did not make any announcements.

201. LEADER'S ADDRESS

"Good evening Chairman and Members,

Welcome to my debate titled "Healthy and Active Lifestyles".

I believe this is the perfect time to have this discussion for a number of reasons.

We are in the process of procuring a new leisure management contract. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport are drafting a cross-government strategy for sport. Sport England are also looking to start work on a new strategy. There has been concern raised about the drop in the number of active people, especially after all the money that was provided after the Olympic Games. There is going to be more emphasis on getting active outdoors.

The County Council are changing their structure which will alter the hosting arrangements with Northamptonshire Sport the local County Sports Partnership. It might form part of the Health and Wellbeing Community Interest Company along with parks etc.

Members are also aware that we are looking to add a sustainable extension to Rushden. This will provide many opportunities for the future in active recreation. We can build on the success of Stanwick Lakes and the Greenway.

We have not had a leisure strategy or any staff directly involved with leisure for some time. However, this is not just about sport and leisure; it is more about supporting active lifestyles. This is an opportunity to support our residents up and down the district in the long and short term, either through outreach work, grants or different facilities.

Most of the work will be done by the Leisure Procurement Working Party, the Terms of Reference of which have already been agreed by the Council, but this meeting gives us the chance to set the scene for the future.”

202. ISSUES DEBATE – ENCOURAGING HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Following on from the introduction by the Leader of the Council, consultants appointed by the authority to assist with the development of a strategy for leisure outlined a number of issues for discussion at the meeting, which were:

- What outcomes did the Council want to achieve
- What services were the already being delivered by the Council
- Short-term considerations
- Long-term considerations
- The next steps

Members were reminded that there were no statutory requirements on the authority in respect of the provision of sport, leisure and physical activity services, although the current Corporate Plan had identified outcomes related to ‘Good Quality of Life – Healthy and Safe’. Examples of strategies in place at East Cambridgeshire and Worcester were referred to and it was noted that consultation with partners, such as the Director of Public Health and Northamptonshire Sport had identified a number of common priority theme.

The consultants provided an overview of the services currently provided by the Council, detailing provision at the Nene Centre in Thrapston and the Pemberton Centre and Splash Pool in Rushden. With reference to outreach services, it was noted that these were mainly provided through a service level agreement with Northamptonshire Sport. It was noted that the district was the only lower tier authority in Northamptonshire without its own sports development and outreach function. It was also noted that there was significant unmet demand for health and fitness, as well as swimming lessons, and there was a need for outreach services to engage with those unable to access leisure facilities.

A summary of the current revenue cost of the service was also provided, setting out the cost to the council and the operational budget of the current contractor. Members were advised by the consultants that the Council would be able to significantly reduce the revenue subsidy through procurement due to the buoyant and competitive leisure operator market and reduced “head office” costs; however, the authority would need to allow for more funding for maintenance costs.

A number of longer-term considerations were highlighted in respect of:

- population growth in the south of the district and potential regeneration in Rushden
- the ageing facilities at the Pemberton Centre and Splash Pool, which would require significant capital investment for them to be maintained
- a new centre to replace the Pemberton Centre and Splash Pool at some point in the future would be likely to result in a significant revenue payment to the council by the operator, and would require major capital investment
- the need to carefully consider how any such capital investment would be financed

Having considered the presentation by the consultants, Members proceeded to consider three debating points, beginning with “What does the Council Want to Achieve through Sport, Leisure and Physical Activity Services?”

Members were broadly supportive of the priorities that had been set out by the consultants as follows:

Corporate Outcome	Related Service Outcome
Good Quality of Life – Healthy	High levels of participation in sport and physical activity of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the population as a whole • those at risk of ill-health through obesity or lack of exercise; and • older people at risk of ill-health or social isolation
Good Quality of Life – Safe	High levels of participation in sport and physical activity of young people at risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour
Good Value for Money	Good value for money for taxpayers and customers
High Quality Service Delivery	Excellent customer service in all aspects of leisure provision
Effective partnership working	With Northamptonshire County Council, town and parish councils, health, police and voluntary sector partners

The debate also covered the need to engage private sports clubs to maximise engagement in the development of an overall strategy for sports and leisure across the district. There was wide acknowledgement that the process of procuring a new leisure contract would not simply be concerned with the management of buildings and facilities, but more on the potential for a positive impact on the community. Members identified that the service would need to cover the entirety of the district from north to south, be inclusive, affordable for the council and for customers, and delivered in partnership with a particular emphasis on education and social care.

In order to assist the Leisure Procurement Working Party in assessing potential operators and their bids, the council debated the following points:

- Does the Council want to introduce a sports development/ outreach function as part of the new leisure contract?
- Does the Council agree that the Working Party should procure a service comprising of leisure facilities and outreach services to achieve its desired outcomes, including securing lower overall revenue costs?

Members debated a number of issues in respect of the above points covering the feasibility of leisure facilities running a surplus and the existing high quality provision of sports and leisure facilities at venues such as KC Active in Kings Cliffe, which had benefitted from grant funding from Sport England. A similar point was made about the need to avoid duplication through closer working with partner organisations. Reference was also made to the level of deprivation in parts of the district and the learning that could be taken from Area Based Initiatives which had previously been established. Any future provision of outreach services

should be joined up and it was considered that an analysis of health and wellbeing would be vital in determining what additional services could or should be provided.

Noting the predominance of the River Nene and various lakes across the district, it was considered that swimming lessons and education about water safety should form the cornerstone of leisure within East Northamptonshire.

Members were in broad agreement that the authority should introduce a sports development and/or outreach function as part of the new leisure contract and supported the view that the Leisure Procurement Working Party should procure a service comprising leisure facilities and outreach services to achieve the outcomes identified.

The final point of debate concerned whether the Council wished to include an evaluation of the capability of operators to design, build and manage new facilities. It was noted that this would ensure that the council had a suitable operator in the event of the need arising to replace any of the existing leisure facilities within the next 5 to 10 years. There was broad agreement that this provision should be included within the specification. Members were mindful of the potential opportunities that this may offer in the future in respect of regeneration of current sites in Rushden, in particular. Changes in the demographics of the district and population growth associated with key developments such as the sustainable urban extension at Rushden East were also mooted as key considerations for developing a strategy for the delivery of leisure and physical activity.

Reference was also made to the benefits of using a service provider with a specialism in using technology to analyse data to target customers who did not attend regularly and that this would be particularly beneficial in respect of targeting infrequent users, which could generate income and improve health and wellbeing. A key element of this would be to ensure that services were affordable for those on lower incomes who would benefit most from accessing leisure and physical activity.

RESOLVED:

- i) That, having regard to the specific links with the existing Corporate Plan outcomes, the Leisure Procurement Working Party draft the specification for the procurement of a Leisure Contract to ensure that the future service covers the entirety of the district from north to south through outreach provision and existing facilities, be inclusive, affordable for the council and for customers and be delivered in partnership with all organisations working towards improved health and wellbeing.
- ii) That a Leisure Strategy be prepared having regard to the priorities identified.
- iii) That a sports development outreach function be included within the specification and strategy for leisure.
- iv) That an evaluation of operators' capability to design, build and manage new facilities be included within the specification for the future service.

Chairman