

MINUTES of the meeting of **ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Heritage Hall, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm on Monday 20th January 2025.

PRESENT: Councillor Rees (Mayor) in the Chair
Councillors Adams, Antony, Beardwell, Brown, Freeman, Harrison, Haugh, Langdon, Lockett and Squire-Smith

In attendance: Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
County Councillor Hill, District Councillor Brownjohn
6 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded.

Jonathan Scott from the Evangelical Church led the meeting in prayer.

The Chair informed Members that former councillor Tony Hunter had recently passed away. Tony was Mayor of Royston Town Council from 2002 to 2003. A minutes silence was held.

The Chair reminded Members to be mindful of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declared by Royston Town Council when making decisions on behalf of the Council.

254/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A member of the public spoke in support of an application made to the Community Grants Scheme by the 2484 Bassingbourn Squadron, Air Training Corps. He thanked members for the opportunity to speak.

A member of the public spoke in support of an application made to the Community Grants Scheme by the Cruse Bereavement Service. He also thanked members for the opportunity to speak.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentations.

255/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillor Inwood (prior engagement) and Councillor Jani (childcare).

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Councillors Inwood and Jani for the reasons given.

256/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. No requests for dispensations were received.

257/25 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor detailed engagements and events that he had attended since the last Full Council meeting on 11th November 2024:

- Diwali Celebrations
- Christmas lights switch on event
- Christmas Fayre at Melbourn Springs
- Blake Close switch on event
- Carols with the Mayor in St John's Church (raising circa £900)
- Round Table sleigh ride
- Visits to various local care homes over the Christmas period.

The Chair brought forward item 10, Grant Applications, for discussion as the next item.

258/25 COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME APPLICATIONS:

- a) Members **RESOLVED** to award a £500.00 grant to the 2484 (Bassingbourn) Squadron, Air Training corps from the Community Grants Scheme.
- b) An amendment was proposed to increase the grant given to the Cruse Bereavement Service from £492.00 to £500.00. The amendment was seconded and carried. Members **RESOLVED** to award a £500.00 grant to the Cruse Bereavement Service from the Community Grants Scheme.

259/25 MINUTES:

An amendment was proposed that all apologies given at the meeting should be treated equally in the minutes. The Chair advised that this would mean that the minutes would not reflect what actually happened in the meeting. The amendment was seconded and carried.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11th November 2024 (minutes 202/25 to 211/25).

260/25 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes, which have already been adopted as a correct record, were adopted into the workings of the Council:

- a) The meeting of the Finance Committee held on:
 - 25th November 2024 (minutes 212/25 to 221/25)
- b) The meeting of the Planning Committee held on:
 - 2nd December 2024

261/25 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes, which have not already been adopted as a correct record, be adopted into the workings of the Council:

- a) The meeting of the Finance Committee held on:
 - 16th December 2024 (minutes 222/25 to 235/25)
- b) The meeting of the General Purposes and Highways Committee held on:
 - 16th December 2024 (minutes 236/25 to 246/25)
- c) The meeting of the Planning Committee held on:
 - 6th January 2025 (minutes 247/25 to 253/25)

262/25 ROYSTON MUSEUM TRUST'S REPORT:

The manager of Royston Museum delivered a report detailing the activities and achievements of the Museum over the last three months as well as upcoming events at the Museum. Councillors thanked the Museum Manager for her work.

263/25 NORTH HERTS COUNCIL CONSULTATION OF PROPOSED PARKING TARIFF INCREASES FOR 2025/26:

There was a lengthy discussion.

Members **RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to write to North Herts Council to find out exactly what the costs would be to keep the Free After 3 parking in Royston. A full breakdown of the costs is needed to ascertain where any liabilities lie.

264/25 PROPOSED NHDC OFF STREET PARKING PLACE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER CONSULTATION:

Members **RESOLVED** that no response would be given to the consultation.

265/25 BUDGET AND PRECEPT APPROVAL 2025-2026:

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

266/25 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the interim internal audit report 2024-2025 into the workings of the council.

267/25 BIODIVERSITY POLICY:

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy on Biodiversity and Action Plan into the workings of the Council.

268/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

There were none.

270/25 CLERK'S REPORT:

The Town Clerk reminded Members that they were invited to attend a Holocaust Memorial Day service in Priory Memorial Gardens at 10.50am on Monday 27th January 2025.

The Town Clerk also reported that the search for guides for the Cave had received a boost when both the BBC and ITV news had featured the story. She commended the Cave Manager for her presentation skills.

Date of next meeting: 27th January 2025

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46pm.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Chairman