**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORMANTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Tuesday 9th February 2016**

**Present:** Councillor D Appleyard

Councillor R Best

Councillor Mrs E Blezard

Councillor J Hepworth

Councillor S Hudson

Councillor F D Jones – Mayor

Councillor T Longstaff

Councillor Mrs L Masterman

Councillor B Mayne

Councillor Mrs P Mayne

Councillor Mrs A Moran

Councillor Mrs C Moran

Councillor E Moran

Councillor B Smith

Councillor A Wassell

Councillor K Wilson

**142. Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Member’s apologies for their inability to attend were recorded in the apology book.

The Mayors Chaplin led the Council in prayers.

**143. Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor reported that he would be attending the following events in the coming month:

9th February Camera Club Presentation Night

17th February Shafted at South Kirkby

18th March Mayors Charity Concert

**144. Members Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded of the requirement to make an appropriate declaration at the meeting on any item(s) in which they had an interest in accordance with the code of conduct.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Mrs E Blezard

Non Pecuniary Interest – Planning and diversion of footpath 31

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor A Wassell

Non Pecuniary Interest – Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

**145. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

There were no items of a confidential nature from which the public and press were required to be excluded.

**146. Members of the Public.**

There were no members of the public present who wished to ask questions.

**147. HS2 Update**

The Mayor introduced Rachael Blake of HS2 Ltd who provided an update on the HS2 project. Rachael provided handouts for members which provided an overview of HS2, the summary recommendations of the Rebalancing Britain report from 2014 which had previously been discussed. She then went on to talk in more detail about the announcement that was made on autumn 2015.

The Yorkshire Hub Report suggested that Leeds station required development to ensure that it can cope with growth and become a regional hub. It was suggested that the HS2 station should be integrated with the existing station to provide easy interchange. A decision on the full Phase 2 route was expected in autumn 2016.

Rachael and her colleagues then went on to discuss recruitment and training for the HS2 project.

50% of the current workforce are semi-skilled

20% of rail engineers are set to retire in the next 10 years

16% of the workforce are higher level technicians or engineers

4% of rail engineers are women – the lowest in Europe

It is anticipated that engineering employers will need an additional 1.82m people with engineering skills up to 2020.

The skills shortages have been identified as:

Civil Engineering

Higher Level construction and railway engineering

Archaeology

Ecology

Transport Planning

HS2 have developed an education programme which involves:

Improving the image of the sector

Stimulate interest in STEM

Inspire new people to join

Support careers guidance

Signpost career pathways

To assist in the delivery of the education programme, HS2 Ltd have engaged with High Schools around Yorkshire.

The National College for High Speed Rail opens in September 2017 in Birmingham and Doncaster which will attract new entrants to the industry, train and develop existing employees and will offer level 4 and 5 qualifications.

There will be a number of supply chain opportunities including design services, tunnels, surface route, stations, railway systems and rolling stock.

HS2 Ltd will continue to engage through open procurement tools, national and regional roadshows, market soundings and meet the contractor days. Supplier guidance is available online.

Members asked a series of questions including:

Is there equal pay for women and if this was the reason for so few women in engineering?

It was confirmed that there was equal pay but there was a lack of interest generally amongst women when it comes to sciences and engineering.

If HS2 Ltd had engaged with local schools?

It was confirmed that all schools had been contacted either directly or through the LEA but there had been little response from the Wakefield area.

What concerns have our residents expressed?

It was reported that the residents have expressed very similar views to the Town Council including:

The closeness of the route, loss of green spaces, concern about houses, moving the line, concerns about the landfill site, woods, noise, delay and effect on property prices, country parks, impact on the east Coast Mainline and the lack of economic benefit for our town.

Has terrorism along the line been considered?

This would be considered as part of the security of the line as a whole. Fencing has been included to prevent people accessing the tracks.

Will HS2 have a separate /additional entrance at Leeds Station?

YES there will be a separate entrance and links from within the existing station to the new service.

How soon is HS3 coming and what will the impact be on Leeds.

Transport for the North report looks at this in more detail. Planning is taking longer to ensure that it works in the long term. The HS3 rail element is now called Northern Powerhouse Rail.

Is the Crofton Depo to be used as a spur?

Nothing has been decided yet.

Will British companies be used for the supply chain?

This is a political decision. There are rules regarding procurement. The best thing is to make sure that British companies are aware of the procurement needs and ready to tender at the right time.

The Mayor thanked Rachael and her colleagues for the presentation

**148. Minutes of Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 8th December 2015 (Minute Numbers 131-141; Pages 44-46) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs P Mayne / Seconded by Councillor Mrs E Blezard)

**149. Minutes of Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 13th January 2016 (Minute Numbers 91-106; Pages 48-56) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs E Blezard / Seconded by Councillor B Smith)

**150. Minutes of Staffing Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on Monday 18th January 2016 (Minute Numbers 12-19; Pages 14-16) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs C Moran / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P Mayne)

**151. Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 29th January 2016 (Minute Numbers 22-34; Pages 8-11) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor B Smith / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P Mayne)

**152. Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence was received:

Yorkshire Local Councils Associations

Subscription increase – Received.

Funkee Monkee’s Childcare

Dog fouling complaint at Queen Elizabeth Drive – Received.

WDH

Response to dog fouling complaint – Received.

RATS

Great Heck waste tipped at Welbeck – Received.

FCC Environment

Response to Great Heck Waste tipped at Welbeck – Only non-hazardous waste in line with the relevant permits had been tipped. – Received.

RATS

Concern of Whales being disposed of at Welbeck – Received.

FCC Environment

Response to Whales being disposed of at Welbeck – It was confirmed that this was not the case. – Received.

Neighbourhood Co-ordination Officer – Anne Moran

Notes from Tasking Meeting – Received.

Additional Correspondence:

Wakefield MDC

Temporary Road Closure at King Street to allow gas main replacements – Received.

Wakefield MDC

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule approval

Mayoral Nominations

Councillor Mrs Carol Moran reported that two nominations has been received for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The nominations were as follows:

Mayor of Normanton 2016/17 – Councillor David Appleyard

Deputy Mayor of Normanton 2016/17 – Councillor Steven Hudson.

These would be referred to the next meeting of the Town Council for approval.

**153. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Butterflies Children’s Centre – The Rotary Club had presented a Rocking Horse to the sensory room which was very much appreciated.

It was reported that Jill Hickman had left and there would be a temporary appointment in the near future. Gill was presented with flowers from the Mayor when she left.

Freeston Foundation – A new building manager had been appointed. It was reported that Gary Firth had passed away which would leave a vacancy on the committee.

At this stage a minutes silence was observed for former Councillor Gary Firth.

Hopetown & Loscoe OAP – Residents have concerns regarding the Ashfield development and would like to meet with the developer.

Woodside Richmond Fellowship – There has been a change of staff. A meeting was to be arranged with the new team.

**154. Planning**

Planning lists were circulated as follows – No objections were received.

Validated Applications

14th December 2015

21st December 2015

4th January 2016

12th January 2016

27th January 2016

1st February 2016

Planning Decisions

7th – 11th December 2015

21st December 2015

21st December 2015 – 4th January 2016

11th – 15th January 2016

18th – 22nd January 2016

25th – 29th January 2016

Members requested that from May the Planning Committee is resurrected and meetings are to be held on a quarterly basis or more frequently if required.

The Road Safety Committee had their funding removed and were struggling to continue. The Town Council offered to provide administrative support to the group to ensure that it continues to meet. This committee would report to the Planning & Highways Committee on a regular basis.

**155. Flooding at Newlaithes Crescent and Wheatley Avenue**

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting to discuss flooding be received.

It was noted that the majority of the residents were now happy with the answers that had been received from Yorkshire Water.

No further complaints had been received.

**156. Application to divert public footpath 31 at Woodhouse Crescent**

RESOLVED that the application to divert public footpath 31 be received.

**157. Yorkshire Internal Audit Report**

RESOLVED that the report of the Internal Auditor be received and the recommendation of a twice yearly meeting be accepted.

**158. External Audit Changes – Sector Led Body**

RESOLVED that the report on the changes to the External Audit be received and that the Town Council join with the Sector Led Body for the appointment of an external auditor.

**159. Wakefield City Urban Design Framework**

Members considered the Wakefield City Urban Design Guide and were asked to submit any comments to the Town Clerk prior to the closing date.

**160. Wakefield District Residential Design Guide**

Members considered the Wakefield Residential Design Guide and were asked to submit any comments to the Town Clerk prior to the closing date.

**161. Meet ‘n’ Eats Diner**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs C Moran, reported on the success of the new Meet ‘n’ Eats diner which had been established for four weeks at the Woodhouse Community Centre.

It was being organised in conjunction with The Well Project and served a selection of soups, sandwiches, savoury dishes and buns. The food is healthy and home-made.

It has been very successful, attracting 40-60 people per week plus volunteers on a rota basis.

The Well Project had secured funding for the first twelve months and donations received on a weekly basis will fund the next year.

Members are welcome to attend the sessions either to volunteer with serving, washing up or just chatting to people.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

**162. Precept**

RESOLVED that the precept for the 2016/17 financial year will be set at £215,000 and that the remainder of the budget be taken from balances.

**163. Accounts paid in January**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts paid in January totalling £8,402.33 be approved.

**164. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment in February totalling £2,268.83

In the absence of any further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.