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

**Held on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 6.30pm at Normanton Town Hall**

Present: Councillor R. Best

 Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

 Councillor Miss J. Botterill

 Councillor J. Hepworth

 Councillor S. Hudson – Mayor

 Councillor F.D. Jones – Deputy Mayor

 Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones

 Councillor Mrs L. Masterman

 Councillor B. Mayne

 Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

 Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM

 Councillor Mrs M. Vickers

 Councillor A. Wassell

 Councillor K. Wilson, JP

Public: Michael and Maureen Froggett

 Paul and Joyce Dainton

**141. Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members apologies for their inability to attend were recorded in the apology book.

**142. Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor reported that he would be attending the following engagements over the coming month:

Mayor

Friday 2nd March Mayor of Normanton’s Charity Concert at St John’s Terrace WMC

Deputy Mayor

Friday 23rd February Mayor at Home in Doncaster

Members requested that Councillor B. Smith be sent a letter from the Council wishing him a speedy recovery following a recent illness.

The Mayors Chaplin led the Council in prayers and the Council observed a minute’s silence for Sir Lawrence Byford, a former Normanton resident who had passed away recently.

**143. Members Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded of the requirement to make an appropriate declaration at the meeting on any item 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

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor J. Hepworth

Non-pecuniary Interest - Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor A. Wassell

Non-pecuniary Interest - Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED that item 23 relating to land at Norwood Street be taken in private due to the confidential nature of the issues to be discussed.

**145. Members of the Public**

Michael Froggett raised concerns about the new Eastern Relief Road which was lacking in signage including signs for towns as well as speed limit signs.

It was suggested that this should be reported to WMDC.

**146. HS2**

The Mayor welcomed David Griffiths-Allen and Wole Odetola from HS2 who were in attendance to provide an update.

It was explained that there had been a slight change in staffing to align with the District Council boundaries. Wole would now be covering the Wakefield District and David would be focussed on the Leeds area.

Wole explained that he was here to talk about the next stage in the project. He had already been involved in discussions in the South East and he understands the strong feeling about the HS2 proposal. He reported that he was not here to change anyone’s mind, just to

provide an update on what’s next in the process. Wole explained that he was not able to take HS2 away but he would ensure that all our questions are answered through the process.

HS2 would be considered by Parliament and HS2 are not empowered to make the final decision. You can still oppose the project with your MP but Wole urged people to still get involved with the design process. He said that it was better to have influenced the design with local knowledge if the scheme did still go ahead. There would be two public events in late spring and autumn.

**Q:** Why are there more tunnels in the south but in the north there were more cuttings, embankments and bridges.

**A:** This is due to the topography of the area. The mining history of this area poses a higher risk of explosions from methane gas.

**R**: There is more likely to be subsidence on a built-up line than explosions.

**Q:** Will the Carillion collapse have any impact on the project.

**A**: There will be a minimal impact from Carillion due to clauses in contracts that included companies going out of business. There were several companies involved in the project.

**Q**: These staff changes do not offer our local community the stability it needs.

**A**: Wole has been involved in discussions with WMDC and it was felt to be more productive to align staff with District boundaries.

**Q**: Why don’t HS2 use the existing infrastructure.

**A**: The existing lines are not straight enough and would reduce the speed and effectiveness of the service.

**Q**: The new service isn’t much quicker than we have at present and may be longer with travel to Leeds or Sheffield.

**A:** HS2 would free up capacity for other services on local lines and remove congestion. HS2 may not be faster but it has increased capacity which is the main aim. It will hold around 1100 passengers on each train.

**Q:** Will trains from Wakefield be cut as a result of HS2.

**A:** We are still working with Northern about the scheduling of other services.

**Q:** How many carriages will each train have.

**A**: This is not known but it is anticipated that the train will hold 1100 passengers.

**C**: The height of HS2 above the M62 is 68ft including all infrastructure.

**Q**: Has any land been purchased north of Crofton.

**A**: No.

**Q**: The footpath survey which was undertaken was a shambles. We were advised at the last meeting that these would be done again if they were found to be incorrect.

**A**: The surveys may not have been for footpaths, they could have been for dormice or badgers. This will be investigated and a reply will be sent back.

**Q**: Local services are poor; this funding could be better utilised on improving local services.

**A**: Transport for the North are working on improving local services.

**Q**: What is the width of HS2 at the point where it splits before the M62.

**A**: It splits after the M62, not before.

**R**: The track clearly widens just before the M62 and we would like to know the width at this point.

**Q**: The proposed time savings are a nonsense for people in this area.

**A**: This is why we are looking at a parkway station in South / West Yorkshire.

**R**: Small towns and villages like Hemsworth do not have the infrastructure to cope with the demands of a parkway station.

**Q**: Who will benefit from this scheme.

**A**: There will be a national benefit. A good investment in the rail network will attract labour from anywhere in the country. It will create jobs and prosperity.

**Q:** Can the Europort use HS2 to export goods from our area.

**A**: There will be no freight on HS2 but more capacity will be freed up on local lines.

**C:** It seems that the HS2 project is very London centric. People will be moving down South not to the North.

**Q**: We feel that no one is listening to us – We do not want HS2 in this area.

**A**: We are listening – the rolling stock depot was moved away from Crofton due to public pressure.

**C:** We need better short connectivity.

**Q:** How much will it cost to travel on this service.

**Q**: Why do we not receive any feedback from consultation forms.

**A:** We do not generally reply to each response but a summary can be provided.

**C**: The venue for future consultations must be easily accessible to our local community.

**C**: We would like the Secretary of State for Transport to attend a future meeting to hear the concerns of our residents.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and questions and allowed the officers from HS2 to leave before continuing with the meeting.

**147. Minutes – Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 12th December 2017 (Minute Numbers 125-140; Pages 39-43) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved subject to the amendment of minute 130 to show that the previous minutes were proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM and seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne.

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

**148. Minutes – Consultative Group**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Consultative Group held on Tuesday 12th December 2017 (Minute Numbers 16-20; Pages 23-33) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones / Seconded by Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM)

Members felt that the meeting had been very interesting and informative.

**149. Minutes – Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 13th December 2017 (Minute Numbers 73-85; Pages 35-42) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. Blezard / Seconded by Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones)

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on Friday 15th December 2017 (Minute Numbers 19-28; Pages 6-8) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**151. Minutes – Allotments Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee held on Tuesday 19th December 2017 (Minute Numbers 13-16; Pages 13-14) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor A. Wassell / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne)

**152. Minutes – Highways & Environment Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Highways & Environment Committee held on Thursday 18th January 2018 (Minute Numbers 19-25; Pages 11-13) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne / Seconded by Councillor K. Wilson, JP)

**153. Minutes – Finance & General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 31st January 2018 (Minute Numbers 34-44; Pages 14-17) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**154. Approval of Absence**

The request was deferred to a future meeting pending the form being received.

**155. Correspondence**

 RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be received:

Department for Education

Update on Freeston Academy Sponsorship by Outwood Grange Academy Trust.

Shirley Gavin

Thank you letter.

Wakefield MDC

Update on missing parking machine at Thompson Street.

KOYLI Memorial

Update on progress with the statue.

The AA

Confirmation that Altofts will feature in the new Concise Road Atlas.

Meet ‘N’ Eats Diner

Thank you letter for the Christmas gifts.

Wakefield MDC

Lease for the Town Hall.

Prince of Wales Hospice

Thank you letter for Small Grant and offer of a visit to the hospice.

**156. Reports from External Organisations**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Meet ‘N’ Eats Diner held on 18th January 2018 be received.

**157. Reports from Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies**

It was reported that the Freeston Foundation had met with the CEO of Outwood Grange and it had been confirmed that the name ‘Freeston’ would be included somewhere in the school name. They would also allow the logo to be used on correspondence and signage. All funds and land holdings would remain with the Freeston Foundation.

There had been some concerns raised from Jags who currently supply uniform for Freeston. It was thought that she would not be able to continue but as a registered Trutex stockist, it had been confirmed that she would in fact be able to sell the new uniform. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Outwood Grange and Trutex to thank them for their support and commitment to our local businesses.

It was reported that Welbeck would be altering the contours of the reinstatement due to the lack of waste being deposited at the site. Tipping will continue until 2025 and it will take a further 2 years for the restoration.

The Town Clerk attended the Town & Parish Councils Liaison Group. The meeting had been very informative and featured a presentation from the NHS as well as ‘My Account’, the new system for reporting issues to WMDC.

**158. Precept**

RESOLVED that the precept for the 2018/19 financial year be set at £280,300 which represents a 4.98% increase.

**159. Accounts Paid in January**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts paid in January 2018 totalling £3,897.87 be received and approved.

**160. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £7,895.27 be approved for payment.

**161. Planning**

The following planning lists were circulated for consideration:

Validated Applications Planning Decisions

8th January 2018 5th January 2018

22nd January 2018 19th January 2018

5th February 2018 2nd February 2018

RESOLVED that the planning lists be received and that no objections be raised.

**162. Planning – Newland Park**

The Town Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Planning regarding an application at Newland Park.

It was reported that there had been shooting carried out on the site under the 28-day rule but that an application would be submitted for a number of activities including fishing, shooting and events.

It was suggested that this should be kept under review and that any complaints of noise nuisance should be directed to Wakefield MDC.

**163. Land Issues – Norwood Street**

This item was taken in private due to the sensitive nature of the issues.

It was reported that a potential land encroachment issue had been discovered and referred to our solicitor and surveyor.

Further reports would be brought to Council as soon as they are available.

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