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

**Held on Tuesday 14th February 2017**

**Present:** Councillor D. Appleyard - Mayor

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Councillor G. Croft

Councillor J. Hepworth

Councillor S. Hudson – Deputy Mayor

Councillor F. D. Jones

Councillor Mrs L. Masterman

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor B. Smith

Councillor A. Wassell

**138. Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from members for their inability to attend were recorded in the apology book.

**139. Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor reported that he would be hosting a Variety Charity

Concert on 10th March. Tickets were available at a cost of £6.00

including Pie & Peas.

The Mayor asked his Chaplin, Reverend Barry Owen, to lead The

Council in prayer.

**140. 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 A. Wassell

Non Pecuniary Interest – Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED that items on the Town Hall, the Budget and the Precept be taken in private on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**142. Members of the Public.**

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

**143. Police Update**

Inspector Paul Sullivan did not attend the meeting and therefore there was no report from the police.

**144. Kirkthorpe Weir Project**

The Chief Executive of Yorkshire Hydropower Limited, Mark Simon, was in attendance to give a short presentation on the new weir project in Kirkthorpe. Mark began by thanking members for the invitation to attend this meeting of the Town Council. He reported that his company, Barn Energy, is a business which develops renewable power stations. These could be solar-powered, in the south, or hydro-powered in the north. Mark is very proud of the work he has undertaken in Kirkthorpe and will be sending an invitation to the opening of the weir on 13th March. It was reported that the Kirkthorpe Weir project was the largest low head site in England, the largest weir in Yorkshire at 4.1 metres high which is twice the height of a normal weir. It was reported that the weir project was governed by environmental legislation, navigation legislation and also planning. Permission was granted in autumn 2014 and the scheme, which cost £5.3million, was delivered on time and on budget and went live on 18th November 2016.

The weir boards had been fixed and were now level and some other work had been undertaken on the listed sluices which needed some significant repair work before the weir project could begin. The government provides an incentive in terms of the feed in tariff and the weir will generate enough power for 2.2million units or 700 households. The weir will produce power forever, although there may be the need for occasional maintenance. At the moment, the weir project has a 75-year lease, and electricity is delivered straight

into the grid. The project is licensed with the Environment Agency and is taxed to ensure the restoration of biodiversity in the area.

Mark reported that they had installed the widest fish path in England. Mark had also delivered a similar scheme at Kilnhirst in Rotherham which allowed salmon, trout, eels and lamprey to move up the weir. It was reported that 15-20% of the costs of the weir project were for environmental protection and the scheme would generate around £500,000 of revenue each year. Mark feels that the project has restored the connectivity of the Calder. There was a third scheme planned for the Brotherton Weir at Knottingley. Members asked if the trees taken down were going to be replanted, Mark reported that this was not within his area of control however, they were in negotiations with Wakefield Council to establish what they required for the site, however it was their intention to seed the area with grasses. Members asked if any visitor information or picnic tables would be provided and it was reported that the visitor information boards were currently in the manufacturing process and again there would be discussions with Wakefield MDC regarding the installation of picnic tables if they were required.

The Mayor thanked Mark for his very interesting report.

**145. Minutes of Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 13th December 2016 (Minute Numbers 124-137; Pages 49-53) 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)

**146. Minutes of Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 (Minute Numbers 77-90; Pages 37-44) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**147. Notes of the Tree Report Working Group**

RESOLVED that the notes of a meeting of the Tree Report Working Group held on Friday 27th January 2017 (Minute Numbers 1-2;

Pages 1-2) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**148. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 6th February 2017 (Minute Numbers 43-52; Pages 19-23) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**149. Minutes of the Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 8th February 2017 (Minute Numbers 91-101; Pages 45-50) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard requested that the guest list for Mayor Making be altered to include Fearmasters and it was suggested that any additions should be discussed with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Special Projects Committee.

**150. Casual Vacancy Altofts Ward**

RESOLVED that the casual vacancy be advertised on the notice board and brought to a future Council meeting.

**151. Freeston Foundation**

RESOLVED that Councillor B. Mayne be appointed as representative to the Freeston Foundation.

**152. Community Infrastructure Levy**

A report was circulated on the Community Infrastructure Levy which detailed the scheme and charging levels. It was reported that a total of £84.50 had been generated in Normanton since April 2016 although no payments had yet been received. It was reported that, once paid, this fund could be held for up to 5 years to enable the Council to spend the funds on a substantial project.

Planning lists were also circulated and were received as follows:

Validated Applications:

13th December 2016

19th December 2016

9th January 2017

30th January 2017

6th February 2017

Planning Decisions:

5th – 9th December 2016

12th – 16th December 2016

19th December 2016 – 6th January 2017

9th – 13th January 2017

16th – 20th January 2017

23rd – 27th January 2017

30th January – 3rd February 2017

6th February – 10th February 2017

No objections were made.

**153. Dyspraxia Training**

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk, Chairman of the Staffing Committee and a member of staff be approved to attend the Dyspraxia Training Event at a total cost of £300.00.

**154. Correspondence**

KOYLI Memorial Appeal

RESOLVED that the update from the KOYLI Memorial Appeal be received.

**155. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Meet ‘n’ Eats Diner AGM

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meet ‘n’ Eats Diner AGM held on Thursday 19th January 2017 be received.

Meet ‘n’ Eats Diner

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Meet ‘n’ Eats Diner held on Tuesday 24th January 2017 be received.

Freeston Academy

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard reported that refurbishments had been completed at the Freeston Academy and there would be a grand opening in March which will be attended by Yvette Cooper.

**156. Accounts Paid in January**

A list of accounts paid in January was circulated and had been previously been approved by members of the Leaders Group in the absence of a Council Meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts paid in January totalling £9455.15 be received.

**157. Accounts for Payment in February**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment in February totalling £2159.80 be approved for payment.

**158. HS2**

A report was circulated setting out the questions from the current public consultation, alongside excerpts from the consultation documents, plans of the route, a review of the HS2 consultation by Councillor G. Croft and comments from the Stop HS2 Altofts Group.

Members wished to re-iterate the Town Council’s opposition to HS2. It was suggested that members could, if they wished, submit individual responses to strengthen the case against HS2. Members felt that the funds should be spent on improving East-West connectivity and improvements to the existing rail services including improved rolling stock. The effect on our area is that properties continue to be blighted which is unfair on our residents and consideration should be given to improving the East Coast Mainline. The funds that are being used to support HS2 could be invested into not only improving our existing rail infrastructure but also assist in the gaps in funding in adult social care. Members felt that HS2 is likely to be subsidised for the wealthiest people in society and would offer no real benefit to the residents of our area, of whom many of which would be impacted.

RESOLVED that a response be submitted to HS2 expressing the Council’s opposition.

**159. Town Hall**

A business plan was circulated for the future management of Normanton Town Hall. The plan set out the current situation and the history surrounding the Town Council’s use of Normanton Town Hall. It explained the lack of community buildings in our area and the need for community space to be available locally for our many community groups. The offer from Wakefield MDC was for a 99-year lease on a peppercorn rent with Normanton Town Council

taking over full responsibility for all repairs and maintenance. The report explained that the Town Council was in the best position to manage Normanton Town Hall as they had experience in managing buildings, managing finance and health and safety issues and the Town Council felt that the community supports the retention of Normanton Town Hall as an asset for the people of Normanton following its recent consultation with community groups in our area.

RESOLVED that Normanton Town Council takeover the running of Normanton Town Hall on the basis of a 99-year lease at a peppercorn rent assuming all future repair and maintenance costs.

**160. Budget**

A report was circulated setting out the budget for the next five years incorporating the additional costs of running the Town Hall, increased costs for staffing, the website and pensions. The budgeted income and expenditure left a shortfall of around £283,000.00 and members felt that this should be subsided by utilising an earmarked reserve over the coming four years. The budgeted expenditure for 2017/18 was £299,916.00 and budgeted income was £17,060.00. Members agreed to make up the short fall by increasing the precept and utilising reserves.

RESOLVED that the budget be approved.

**161. Precept**

RESOLVED that the precept for 2017/18 financial year be set at £265,000.00. This represented a 20.78% increase which represented an increase of £7.64 per year on a band D property and £5.09 per year on a band A property. A full press release would be made available to Councillors and local press detailing the reasons behind this decision and the actual cost to our residents.

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