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

**Held on Tuesday 14th March 2017**

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

Councillor R. Best

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Councillor Miss J. Farrar

Councillor J. Hepworth

Councillor S. Hudson – Deputy Mayor

Councillor F. D. Jones

Councillor Mrs H. Jones

Councillor Mrs L. Masterman

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM

Councillor E. Moran

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor B. Smith

Councillor A. Wassell

Councillor K. Wilson, JP

**162. Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to representatives of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Inspector Paul Sullivan.

Apologies from members for their inability to attend were recorded in the apology book.

**163. Mayors Announcements**

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

**Mayor**

Saturday 18th March Normanton Sports Acro Talent Competition

Sunday 19th March Normanton Sports Acro Showcase

Monday 20th March Dr Jackson Cancer Fund AGM at Kings Croft Hotel

**Mayoress**

Tuesday 21st March Inner Wheel Club International Service Meeting

**Deputy Mayor**

Saturday 1st April Hebden Mayor’s 1940’s Charity Do

Councillor Mrs C. Moran led the Council in prayers. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community representatives also offered their own prayer from the Holy Quran.

**164. 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 E. Moran

Pecuniary Interest – Special Projects

Fairground Operator at events.

Councillor A. Wassell

Non Pecuniary Interest – Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

**165. 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.

**166. Members of the Public.**

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

**167. Police Update**

Inspector Paul Sullivan thanked members for the invitation to attend the Council meeting and went on to explain a little about his background in policing and the issues affecting the NPT at the present time.

* Inspector Sullivan covers Normanton, Featherstone, Pontefract, Knottingley, Castleford and the South East;
* There have been huge changes due to budget cuts;
* There are less officers but the demand is the same;
* The Inspector puts resources where they are needed;
* Priorities are the most vulnerable, safeguarding, CSE, modern slavery, missing children, elderly, disabled and minority groups;
* There are 2 PCSO’s working alongside children’s homes;
* All areas want the same attention from the NPT but the crime statistics for Normanton are much lower than Pontefract, Castleford and the South East;
* The NPT know who the criminals are in our area but need evidence to get them to court;
* They use Intensive Offender Management to track and monitor known criminals;
* There are more body worn cameras being used to assist with convictions. Assaults on officers has decreased due to this technology;
* Launching a new operation called Selecta DNA which uses a water spray to tag offenders. This shows up under UV Light and can assist with conviction;
* Two known offenders are now in prison and two are on curfew;
* Crime in the area has dropped;
* The Inspector will continue to listen to issues and try to deal with them.

Members asked a series of questions including:

* What is being done to target mobile phone usage?

This is being addressed as part of a district wide ANPR operation alongside the national awareness campaign following changes in the law.

* What are the Health and Safety risks of the DNA Spray?

There are no known risks, it is essentially water.

* Do you have access to Specials and can they attend parades?

Specials are managed separately but there is no objection to them attending parades if they volunteer.

* Would a youth shelter with Wi-Fi be a solution to ASB?

This has been effective in other areas but Wi-Fi needs to be turned off at night to prevent further ASB.

Members were concerned about the risk of grooming and CSE if young people were not supervised.

* What prevention work is being undertaken in schools?

There are two schools’ officers on sick at the moment. Once they return it is hoped that this could return.

Members felt that young people were committing crimes and early intervention was essential.

There was also concern about parents being supportive of police action and taking responsibility for their children which does not happen in all cases.

**168. Elders Association of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community**

Arif Ahmad thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to attend and told members about their association.

The association was a world-wide organisation in 200 countries. There were 130 branches in the UK including special groups for men, women and elders (over 40).

Their motto is ‘Love for All, Hatred for None’.

A peace walk is arranged each year and last year raised £504,000. The target for 2017 is £750,000.

£50,000 is set aside to be donated to Mayoral Charities and they will also support any UK Charity. Their biggest donation in 2016 was £93,000 to the Poppy Appeal.

Arif presented the Mayor with a cheque for £500.00 towards the Mayor’s Charity Fund along with a copy of the Quran. A goody bag was also provided for members of the Town Council.

**169. Minutes of Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 14th February 2017 (Minute Numbers 138-161; Pages 54-61) 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)

**170. Minutes of Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 (Minute Numbers 102-113; Pages 51-58) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. Blezard / Seconded by Councillor K. Wilson)

**171. Minutes of the Property Management Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Property Management Committee held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 (Minute Numbers 23-34; Pages 14-18) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**172. Minutes of the Staffing Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 (Minute Numbers 49-59; Pages 26-28) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne / Seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Jones)

**173. Minutes of the Town Hall Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Town Hall

Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 (Minute Numbers 1-8; Pages 1-2) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor B. Mayne / Seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Jones)

**174. Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 (Minute Numbers 23-30; Pages 8-10) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**175. Casual Vacancy Altofts Ward**

It was reported that the Casual Vacancy would be advertised as a co-option on the notice board from 14th March with a closing date of 6th April 2017.

**176. Citizens Advice Bureau**

RESOLVED that the report from Citizens Advice Bureau on usage during 2016 be received.

Members raised concerns about the number of issues relating to financial assistance, debt and benefits. It was queried if the debt advisor scheme could be re-instated or more specialist advice given.

**177. Correspondence**

RESOLVED that a letter from Joanne Roney be received.

RESOLVED that a letter regarding dog fouling from Mrs Webster be received and referred to the District Council.

RESOLVED that a letter from Zurich Insurance confirming the closure of the Norwood St Fire Claim be received and that a letter be sent to the tenant to have the plot cleared up.

**178. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Welbeck

An application was being submitted to extend the licence after some uncertainty over the life of the site.

Freeston Foundation

New library has now been opened. The work was completed on time and on budget. Grants are still available to former students.

The prize for presentation was being looked into.

Hopetown TARA

Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd November 2016 were received.

The Well Project

Notes of a meeting held on 7th February 2017 were received.

Kirkthorpe Wier

Members reported that the Wier opening had gone very well and had been well received and reported by the media. The scheme will provide environmentally friendly power for 800 homes. School educational sessions were being planned.

**179. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £9,277.72 be approved for payment.

**180. Planning**

RESOLVED that the following planning lists be received with no objections.

Validated Applications: Determined Applications:

21st February 2017 13th – 17th February 2017

28th February 2017 20th – 24th February 2017

27th February – 3rd March 2017

Members raised concern about the possible sale of land for development at the Junction of Mill Lane and Castleford Road.

It was suggested that contact be made with Wakefield MDC to raise concerns regarding traffic, sightlines and over development.

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