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

**Held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 6.30pm at Normanton Town Hall**

Present: Councillor R. Best

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Councillor Miss J. Farrar

Councillor J. Hepworth

Councillor S. Hudson – Mayor

Councillor F.D. Jones – Deputy Mayor

Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor Mrs M. Vickers

Councillor A. Wassell

Councillor K. Wilson, JP

**183. Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

**184. Mayors Announcements**

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

Mayor

14th/15th April Sports Acro’s Community Talent Competition -Freeston Academy

17th April Camera Club’s Annual Photographic Exhibition – St Johns Terrace WMC

23rd April St George’s Day Charity Concert – Ossett Town Hall

24th April Mayor of Normanton’s Coffee Morning – Town Hall

24th April Normanton FC’s Football Tournament – St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

26th April Mayor of Doncaster’s Race Night – Trades Club

2nd May Mayor of Normanton’s Presentation Evening – Parish Rooms

Deputy Mayor

19th April Wakefield’s Mayor at Home – Wakefield Town Hall

24th April Mayor of Normanton’s Coffee Morning – Town Hall

27th April Rotary Club’s 75th Charter Dinner – Kings Croft Hotel

28th April Hebden Royd’s 1960’s Charity Event – Hebden Bridge Town Hall

29th April Inner Wheel Club’s 75th Charter Celebration – Kings Croft Hotel

2nd May Mayor of Normanton’s Presentation Evening – Parish Rooms

The Mayor reported that this was his last full meeting as Mayor and would like to pass on his thanks to members of the Town Council who have supported him over the last year. The Mayor would be holding one final fundraising event which would be a coffee morning on 24th April and a presentation event on 2nd May.

The Mayor reported that he was looking for locations to install defibrillators in the local community.

Reverend Phil Maries led the Council in prayer.

**185. 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

**186. 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.

**187. Members of the Public**

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

**188. Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group**

Ruth Unwin was present from the Clinical Commissioning Group to give a presentation on changes within the NHS locally.

The CCG are part of the NHS and they plan services for the district and they have been working recently on raising awareness about changes at Pontefract Hospital.

If there are any local groups who may benefit from a supply of leaflets or a short talk then please advise them to contact Ruth.

Normanton is situated between both hospitals and this gives residents a choice on which hospital to attend.

The main changes to Pontefract Hospital happened 8 years ago and there are few changes to that service. The current marketing is to raise awareness following a consultation in the summer which highlighted that people do not know what services are available at each hospital.

There are around 44,000 patients seen at Pontefract which was consultant led and services provided by Junior doctors and nurses. The Hospital will now be GP led. Emergencies will continue to be sent to the most appropriate hospital for the nature of the injury sustained.

Heart Attacks and serious car crashes will continue to be sent to Pinderfields or Leeds.

There are no acute beds at Pontefract so admissions via A&E would be dealt with through Pinderfields. Only planned surgery beds are available at Pontefract.

Pontefract can still deliver treatment for fractures, minor head injuries, minor burns and stitches etc.

The staffing at each hospital has been planned to ensure that the right skills are available for the types of injuries presented. This means that people can be seen quicker.

Members of the Town Council raised the following comments and concerns:

* If ambulances are diverted to Pinderfields from the Pontefract side of the district this potentially leaves areas of Pontefract without ambulance cover.

It was reported that cover should be made available by YAS if ambulances have to leave a particular area.

* Concern was expressed about lives being put at risk if ambulances are not available due to being in Wakefield.

Ruth reported that they are constantly reviewing statistics and can see no potential changes in calls for service.

* It was suggested that people attending at Pinderfields with minor injuries should be sent to Pontefract to reduce waiting times for more serious injuries.
* Some members had positive experiences of Pontefract hospital which had provided quick and efficient service.
* The pharmacy at the hospital is closed after 5pm on a Friday and over the weekend. This results in beds being blocked as patients cannot be discharged without medication.

Prescriptions at Pontefract are issued by a GP so they can be obtained at any community pharmacist.

* Members of the public struggle to know where the out of hours pharmacists are located.

Hospitals should be able to advise of this and information is also available from 111.

* Family members struggle to get to visiting hours when they are in Pinderfields or Dewsbury, especially from the further away parts of the district and these people deserve a fully operational A&E department.
* The downgrading of Pontefract A&E has created a GP surgery under a different name. The people of the area deserve better.
* Patients have had to wait up to 4 hours for an ambulance which is not acceptable.
* The signage on main roads needs to be altered to show that there is not an A&E at Pontefract.

This should have been completed last week but there was a problem with the contractor. It would be altered within the next week or so.

* How much is saving money driving these changes?

This is not finance driven. It is more streamlined and dedicated services available in specialist centres.

* It is distressing that people are receiving such a poor level of service from the NHS.
* People will choose to attend at Pinderfields because they can access all levels of service.

Ruth reiterated that emergency cases would not have been taken to Pontefract by ambulance for at least 8 years and that there are specialist centres at Pinderfields and Leeds to deal with specific conditions. Paramedics can start treatment in the ambulance on the way to the hospital to ensure that time is not lost.

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, summarised by saying that over the years, we have all been grateful of the services that we have received from the NHS in times of need and thanked Ruth for attending.

**189. Minutes – Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 13th March 2018 (Minute Numbers 164-182; Pages 53-58) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

**190. Minutes – Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 (Minute Numbers 100-110; Pages 50-55) 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)

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard offered thanks to the Town Clerk, Mrs Donna Johnston, for her assistance with the meeting and the minutes.

**191. Minutes – Town Hall Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Town Hall Sub-Committee held on Friday 16th March 2018 (Minute Numbers 8-12; Pages 3-5) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**192. Minutes – Allotments Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee held on Monday 19th March 2018 (Minute Numbers 17-22; Pages 15-16) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor F.D. Jones / Seconded by Councillor B. Mayne)

**193. Minutes – Property Management Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Property Management Committee held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 (Minute Numbers 19-30; Pages 10-13) 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)

**194. Correspondence**

The Town Clerk reported on several items of correspondence:

Normanton Lions Club

RESOLVED that a letter of thanks for tombola items be received;

Wakefield District CAB

RESOLVED that a response to Debt Advice Service query be received – members expressed their disappointment that the service was only available in Wakefield and asked for further information and clarification on the potential for returning the sessions to Normanton in the future;

Normanton FC

RESOLVED that a request to use Coal Owners Shield be approved provided that it is returned to the Town Hall after the event;

A Future in Sport

RESOLVED that a letter confirming their withdrawal from the Bronte Project be received;

Lee Brigg Infants School

RESOLVED that a thank you letter from the School Council be received;

Lady Muriel Byford

RESOLVED that a thank you letter following the death of her husband be received;

Christine Shakespeare-Ellis

RESOLVED that a copy of her book ‘The Altofts Heritage Story’ be received and a thank you letter be sent.

**195. Reports from External Organisations**

It was reported that the Meet ‘N’ Eats Diner were looking for volunteers to assist at the Brunch Club sessions during the School holidays. The next session is on Wednesday 11th April from 11am – 1pm.

It was reported that The Well Project had temporarily closed their Youth Club sessions.

RESOLVED that the reports be received.

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

The following reports were made:

Alice Bacon Memorial Trust

It was reported that a Blue Plaque had been created for Alice Bacon and permission was being sought to install it on the Town Hall. There was an event planned for 1st June where the plaque would be unveiled.

Members were pleased to support the installation of a plaque for Alice Bacon on the Town Hall.

Freeston Foundation

In between meetings at the moment but work regarding the disposal of the land is ongoing.

RESOLVED that the reports be received.

**197. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £13,213.21 and the list of card payments totalling £1,031.39 be approved.

**198. Planning**

The following planning lists were circulated for consideration:

Validated applications                                    Planning Decisions

12th March 2018                                           9th March 2018

19th March 2018                                           6th April 2018

9th April 2018

The Town Clerk reported that no comments had been received from members prior to the meeting.

Members expressed concern at the applications for a HMO at Empire House and felt that apartments would be a more desirable solution.

RESOLVED that the planning lists be received and that comments be made on the applications at Empire House in favour of apartments.

**199. Norwood Street Land**

Members considered the proposal from the Property Management Committee regarding the encroachment at Norwood Street.

The Property Committee had regard to the advice of the surveyor that a transfer of land would be the recommended course of action.

Members considered the report and the proposed resolution to transfer the land however an amendment was tabled to seek compensation from the developer and to enter into a lease for the land at a peppercorn rent.

The amendment was put to the vote and was carried.

RESOLVED that the report be received and that:

1. Compensation be sought from the developer for damage to the land;
2. A long term lease be offered for the land in question;
3. Initial negotiations with the developer be delegated to Councillor Mrs P. Mayne, Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, and Councillor A. Wassell.

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