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

**Held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 6.30pm at Normanton Town Hall**

**Present:** Councillor D. Appleyard

Councillor R. Best

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Councillor Miss J. Botterill

Councillor Miss J. Farrar

Councillor J. Hepworth

Councillor F.D. Jones - Mayor

Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor Mrs M. Vickers – Deputy Mayor

Councillor A. Wassell

Councillor K. Wilson, JP

Councillor Mrs A. Wood

PS S Stones

PC S Hewitt

There were 7 members of the public present

**Councillors Absent:** Councillor G. Croft, Councillor S. Hudson, Councillor Mrs L. Masterman, Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, Councillor E. Moran.

**75. Mayors Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Mayors Chaplain to lead the Council in prayer. Reverend Alan Murray asked the Council to stand for a minute’s silence following the death of former Leader, Councillor Barry Smith who passed away in August.

The report on the Mayors engagements over the coming month was received.

**76. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for their inability to attend were recorded and approved on behalf of Councillor S. Hudson, Councillor Mrs L. Masterman, Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM and Councillor E. Moran.

**77. Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded to declare an interest on any item on the agenda in which they had an interest which was not already declared on their register of interests form.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor E Blezard

Planning - Non-Pecuniary Interest

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Planning Application at Pingle Field

Councillor J Hepworth

Planning - Non-Pecuniary Interest

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor B Mayne

Planning – Non-Pecuniary Interest

Planning Application at Pingle Field

Councillor A Wassell

Planning - Non-Pecuniary Interest

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor K Wilson

Planning - Non-Pecuniary Interest

Planning Application at Pingle Field

**78. Public Bodies**

There were no items of a confidential nature that required exclusion of the public and press.

**79. Members of the Public**

A representative of the community and also the Facebook group ‘Take Control of Our Town’ had provided a number of questions for the Police and other relevant bodies to answer following a series of drug and alcohol related incidents in the Town Centre. A full written answer to each question had been provided prior to the start of the meeting.

Follow up points included:

One person had recently been evicted but was living nearby. This has been left with the housing association as they have to follow their procedures relating to eviction.

This person has been making threats and damaging property – The police reiterated that this should be reported to the Police in every case.

PACT Meetings had not been well attended recently and there was concern that this was due to them not being properly advertised.

Had crime reporting increased recently with the recent Town Centre issues. The public are reporting issues on Facebook rather than to the Police.

Residents feel that since the Police Station closed that the Town has been forgotten. There have been more Police recently, but it needs to be ongoing.

Police Comments:

The Police reported that their new structure provided for 9 areas in Wakefield which had 1 Sergeant, 2 PCs and 9 PCSOs. The area for Normanton also includes Altofts, Whitwood and Featherstone. Two new PCSOs had recently finished training and would be out on the beat soon.

The NPT look at priority issues in neighbourhoods, but they do not have the same level of resources that they once did. There are serious issues around domestic violence, CSE and safeguarding which takes priority. All the other officers cover response which is for the whole of the district.

Whilst the police could not speak about particular individuals, they are aware of some issues and are working with landlords. Landlords do have a responsibility to deal with ASB.

PACT meetings are held every six weeks and the ward venue changes each time.

Shopwatch updates are provided every six months and provides details of convictions locally. They are not allowed to share information on suspects who have not been convicted.

Crime reporting hasn’t increased recently in light of Town Centre issues but there is a general trend of increased ASB locally and a general trend of increased crime. A lot of crimes are not reported.

Crimes and threats should be reported, and they have to be recorded on the system when received.

There is crime information on the website by street or by area. There is around 3 years of data.

Child ASB has increased and there has been a difficult gang of 13-19 year olds causing significant problems. Three of whom are going to court for serious offences. These young people are from a wide range of backgrounds, so it is important for parents to keep an eye on their children, to know where they are and who they are with. The police are looking at CCTV from different sources to identify these people and are working with the Youth Offending Team.

Looked after children are being put at risk by sharing photographs on Facebook and it is important that this is stopped.

The Mayor thanked the Police for their attendance and closed the public session.

**80. Minutes – Meeting of Council**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 (Minute Numbers 59-74; Pages 16-20) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne / Seconded by Councillor D. Appleyard)

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 20th July 2018 (Minute Numbers 17-24; Pages 6-7) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

**82. Minutes – Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 8th August 2018 (Minute Numbers 14-17; Pages 12-16) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs Mrs H.W. Jones / Seconded by Councillor Mrs K. Wilson, JP)

**83. Notes – Allotments Committee**

RESOLVED that the notes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee held on Wednesday 15th August 2018 be received and noted.

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

Deferred to a future meeting pending circulation of correct minutes.

**85. Correspondence**

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be received and actions noted:

1. KOYLI Memorial Association – Photograph of finished memorial;
2. Member of the Public - Quarry concerns – forwarded to Planning Enforcement;
3. NALC – briefing note on changes to standing orders;
4. WMDC Property Services – King Edward Street Land – further information requested.

**86. External Organisations**

There were no updates from members on External Organisations.

**87. Outside Bodies**

There were no updates from members on Outside Bodies.

**88. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the following lists of accounts be approved:

1. Invoices paid in August totalling £8,528.53;
2. Invoices for payment in September totalling £5,513.39;
3. Payments made by card totalling £957.36.

**89. Planning**

The Planning applications received since the last meeting were circulated.

RESOLVED that the planning lists be noted and that no objections be made.

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