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

**Held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 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 S. Hudson

Councillor F.D. Jones – Mayor

Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones

Councillor Mrs L. Masterman

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor K. Wilson, JP

**Councillors Absent:** Councillor G. Croft, Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, Councillor E. Moran, Councillor Mrs M. Vickers, Councillor A. Wassell, Councillor Mrs A. Wood.

**120. Mayors Welcome and Announcements**

The Mayor of Normanton, Councillor F.D. Jones, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of Mayors engagements be received.

The Mayors Chaplain, Reverend Alan Murray, led the Council in prayers.

**121. Apologies for Absence**

RESOLVED that the following apologies were recorded and reasons approved:

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, Councillor E. Moran, Councillor Mrs M. Vickers, Councillor A. Wassell and Councillor Mrs A. Wood.

**122. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Non-Pecuniary Interest

Planning

Smiley SID

Small Grants – Alice Bacon Trust

Councillor J. Hepworth

Non-Pecuniary Interest

Planning

Smiley SID

Small Grants - Alice Bacon Trust

Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones

Non-Pecuniary Interest

Small Grants - Alice Bacon Trust

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Non-Pecuniary Interest

Small Grants - Alice Bacon Trust

**123. Members of the Public**

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

**124. Minutes – Council**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 (Minute Numbers 105-119; Pages 31-36) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Friday 18th January 2019 (Minute Numbers 50-60; Pages 14-16) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

**126. Minutes – Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 (Minute Numbers 29-34; Pages 29-34) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 25th January 2019 (Minute Numbers 25-40; Pages 8-12) 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)

**128. Correspondence**

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

1. Yorkshire Internal Audit – Interim Report.

Members of Council expressed thanks to the Town Clerk for her work on the preparation of the accounts for inspection by the Auditor.

1. WMDC – Confirmation of diversion of public footpath 31 at Woodhouse Crescent.
2. Councillor Mrs P. Mayne and Councillor B. Mayne – Thank you card
3. Wakefield CCG – Changes to Maternity Services at Pontefract – to be discussed further at the March meeting of Council.

**129. External Organisations**

There were no reports.

**130. Outside Bodies**

Freeston Foundation

It was reported that a new Premises Manager had been appointed.

**131. Accounts Paid in December and January**

RESOLVED that the lists of accounts paid in December 2018 totalling £12,773.78 and January 2019 totalling £6,965.28 be received and approved.

**132. Accounts for payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £8,957.62 be received and approved for payment.

**133. Casual Vacancy**

The Town Clerk reported that the Town and Parish Council elections are due to be held in May and members felt that there was not sufficient time to co-opt at this stage.

Members agreed to consider the draft Co-Option policies through the Leaders Group.

RESOLVED that the report be received and that:

1. The casual vacancy in the Normanton Ward be left vacant and filled at the next election;
2. The Leaders Group be tasked with drafting a Co-Option policy to be reviewed at the April meeting.

**134. Church Road, Altofts – Pedestrian Crossing**

Members discussed the issue of a pedestrian crossing at Church Road which had been raised by a local resident.

Councillor J. Hepworth, District Councillor for Altofts, reported that she had already been in contact with WMDC highways and requested that they consider the viability of the request.

Councillor J. Hepworth confirmed that she would keep the Town Council up to date.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the contents noted and that:

1. The Town Council awaits further information from District Councillor J. Hepworth.

**135. Wakefield MDC Capital Grants – Smiley SID**

RESOLVED that an application be submitted to Wakefield MDC Capital Grants for the purchase of a Smiley SID for use in Ward 3 and Ward 10.

**136. Wakefield MDC – Development Strategy, Strategic and Local Policies**

Members expressed concern about the loss of greenbelt land at a number of locations in the Normanton and Altofts area.

It was agreed that comments should be submitted to the consultation in respect of:

LP34 at Church Lane (Snydale Road), Normanton

This site removes vital greenbelt land and would have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the local area. This site would be an over development of the area which has already seen massive growth in recent years. The local infrastructure cannot cope with the addition of more houses. There is already a shortage of appointments at GP surgeries and school places. The highway network could not cope with additional traffic so close to the bypass and roundabout. Traffic wishing to access Wakefield, may choose to turn left and use Cypress Road and Queen Elizabeth Drive which would turn the route into a rat run for commuters.

LP39 at land west of Wakefield Road, Normanton

This site removes vital greenbelt land and would have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the local area. This site would be an over development of the area which has already seen massive growth in recent years. The local infrastructure cannot cope with the addition of more houses. There is already a shortage of appointments at GP surgeries and school places. The highway network could not cope with additional traffic and multiple access points would have a negative impact on Wakefield Road which is already busy.

LP45 Land at Altofts Hall Farm, Altofts

This site would be an over development of the area which has already seen massive growth in recent years. The local infrastructure cannot cope with the addition of more houses. There is already a shortage of appointments at GP surgeries and school places. The highway network could not cope with additional traffic and the site is very close to a local primary school. Members feel that this proposal would change the nature of the village of Altofts.

LP841 Travelling Show person accommodation at Station Road, Normanton.

Members believe that this site is located at Railway Terrace and not at Station Road. It is an existing site and has been utilised for decades. We would support the allocation of this land in the Development Plan on the basis of the terms already agreed with the occupier.

LP842 Travelling Show person accommodation at Station Road, Normanton.

Members believe that this site should not be allocated as a Travelling Show person site as there is a desperate need for the railway car park to be extended. The current site is being used for storage of equipment only and not residential accommodation. The allocation of this site for a Show person site would place limitations on future car park expansion projects.

RESOLVED that objections and comments be lodged in respect of the proposals listed above.

**137. Precept 2019/20**

RESOLVED that the Precept for the 2019/20 financial year be set at £289,600.

**138. Planning**

The planning applications received since the last meeting were circulated and members expressed concern about the large development at Mill Lane, in particular regarding the pollution levels at the site.

The Town Clerk circulated information on two replacement telephone masts at Lock Lane, Altofts and in the Industrial Estate. There were no objections.

RESOLVED that the reports be received and the contents noted and that:

1. An objection be submitted to Wakefield MDC as follows:

Members of Normanton Town Council are extremely concerned about the overdevelopment of Normanton, particularly in the Common Ward which has had numerous additional properties in recent years. A quick search of the Planning website shows 383 dwellings have now received planning permission in the lower Castleford Road area.

Members have serious concerns over potential pollution levels from the M62 and increased traffic levels from development in the vicinity. The combined effect of the additional vehicles will have a negative effect on existing and future residents in the area, particularly upon our young children.

There have been various studies on the negative impact of Nitrous Oxide from vehicles, particularly on the young and the elderly. The impacts of Nitrous Oxide and noxious particulates in the air on child lung development is well documented.

‘New fears of the harmful effects of traffic emissions are raised today in a major study linking motorway pollution with permanent and life-limiting damage to children's lungs. People who live within 500 metres of a motorway grow up with significantly reduced lung capacity, and even children who have never experienced asthma are at risk, scientists warn.

Environmental campaigners described the research published by the Lancet as a "bombshell" and the Liberal Democrats said it provided fresh impetus to reduce car emissions.

The study is the first to link permanent lung damage, which can shorten life expectancy, to traffic pollution. Previous research by the same scientists showed that children who grew up in areas of high pollution and car fumes were more likely to develop asthma. But the new study provides strong evidence that car emissions stunt crucial lung development in children between the ages of 10 and 18.

At the end of the study they found "pronounced deficits" in lung development among children who lived closest to motorways - under 500 metres.

Phil Gervat of the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection said: "We've known for a long time that it [car pollution] affects health, but not long-term lung development. This is a major study and deeply significant. This has permanent effects on children's health and the government is going to have to think again on their policy."

Dr John Moore-Gillon, president of the British Lung Foundation, said the study "demonstrates the urgent need for more initiatives to reduce harmful emissions and improve the quality of air." ‘

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2007/jan/26/pollution.transportintheuk>

School Governors have confirmed that 10% of children at Normanton Common Primary School who already use inhalers or have an asthma plan. This development can only make matters worse.

Reports suggest that the effect of Nitrous Oxide and particulates have a detrimental effect on the elderly also.

‘A Canadian study found that people who lived within 50 metres of a busy road were 7% more likely to develop [dementia](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dementia/about/) than people who live at least 300 metres away.

A study of 6.8 million people adds to evidence that living close to heavy traffic may have an effect on dementia. A study discussed last year [found evidence that particles caused by air pollution can physically make their way into human brains](https://www.nhs.uk/news/neurology/pollution-particles-in-the-brain-linked-to-alzheimers-disease/).’

<https://www.nhs.uk/news/neurology/people-who-live-near-busy-roads-have-higher-dementia-rates/>

The report by Dragonfly, commissioned by the developers to attempt to mitigate the impact on health, may not take into consideration the development of the area as a whole and is only specific to around 20% of the development in the locality. The report does refer to mitigation measures that can be considered, but many of these are outside of the developers and WMDC control. However, one aspect mentioned in the report relates to the installation of vehicle charging points within each dwelling and we feel that this should be made a condition of any future planning approval in all new houses in the WMDC area. This, we believe, would encourage residents when exchanging their vehicles, to choose a hybrid or electric vehicle in place of petrol or diesel.

This particular development is wedged between the busy M62 motorway and Castleford Road and any future residents, we consider would be at risk. It is in effect the straw that broke the camel’s back when it is in addition to the existing 383 dwellings already planned.

The infrastructure in the area could not cope with the additional burden of 276 properties. The local schools and doctors’ surgeries are at capacity and the public transport network does not meet the requirements of our existing residents.

The visibility from Mill Lane onto Castleford Road is appalling due to the vehicles parked by Hunts Pipelines and turning right towards the Town Centre is hazardous.

There should be a redesign of the road layout to improve visibility and traffic lights to allow access to Castleford Road.

In conclusion we believe that this proposal is premature and the recommendations for mitigation as set out in the Dragonfly report should be put into place prior to any further development being approved in the area.

Wakefield Council’s Planning Policy CS10 states that new development is required to: ‘Minimise the risk from all forms of pollution and contamination on existing and future occupants, the wider community and the environment, particularly within the defined Air Quality Management Areas along the M1, M62 and A1 corridors and in the urban areas in the western and northern parts of the district’

Under Policy D20 the Council will only permit development which is likely to cause pollution or result in exposure of occupants to pollution if the proposals can demonstrate that appropriate measures can be implemented to ‘minimise emissions to a satisfactory level that protects health, environmental quality and amenity’.

We do not feel that the Dragonfly report goes far enough to mitigate the impact of pollution for future and existing residents of the area.

If at some stage in the future, the pollution issues have been addressed through the suggested mitigation proposals and air quality monitoring can demonstrate that pollution levels are satisfactory, we would still have serious concerns for the safety of road users and the road layout at the Mill Lane / Castleford Road junction.

We respectfully request that Wakefield Council decline this application for the reasons outlined above and that the application is considered by the full planning committee and not determined under delegated authority.

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