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

**Held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 at 6.30pm at Normanton Town Hall**

**Present:** Councillor D. Appleyard

Councillor R. Best

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Councillor Miss J. Farrar

Councillor J. Hepworth

Councillor S. Hudson

Councillor F.D. Jones - Mayor

Councillor Mrs L. Masterman

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor Mrs M. Vickers – Deputy Mayor

Councillor K. Wilson, JP

Councillor Mrs A. Wood

David Griffiths-Allen – HS2 Ltd

Wole Odetola – HS2 Ltd

There were also 4 members of the public present

**Councillors Absent:** Councillor Miss J. Botterill, Councillor G. Croft, Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones, Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, Councillor E. Moran, Councillor A. Wassell

**105. Mayors Welcome and Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their support with the Halloween event and Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED that the list of Mayoral Engagements for the coming month be noted.

**106. Apologies for Absence**

RESOLVED that members apologies for absence were received and approved on behalf of Councillor Miss J. Botterill, Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones, Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM, Councillor E. Moran and Councillor A. Wassell.

**107. Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare an interest on any item on the agenda in which they had an interest.

RESOLVED that the following declarations be received:

Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

Non-pecuniary interest – Planning

Member of WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor J. Hepworth

Non-pecuniary interest – Planning

Member of WMDC Planning Committee

**108. Members of the Public**

A representative from the Stop Rudd Quarry Campaign thanked the Town Council for their support with the recent campaign.

**109. HS2**

Representatives from HS2 were in attendance to provide an update on the consultation process. Members suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak and ask questions of HS2.

The current consultation was looking at the design of the scheme and not the route. HS2 would like feedback on the alignment and a series of events had been held locally.

HS2 were fully aware of the opposition to HS2 in the area and it has been passed back. The route cannot be changed but where possible, changes could be made to the alignment through mitigation of the design.

The current consultation is running until 21st December and they are available to meet with smaller community groups if required.

Members of the Town Council and representatives of Stop HS2 Altofts asked a series of questions including:

* We would like more information about the location of viaducts and cuttings in the Normanton, Altofts, Sharlston and Warmfield area.

This would be sent after the meeting.

* Has any land been acquired through a CPO?

No land has been compulsory purchased as this power will not be available until after 2023. They can buy land under the discretionary scheme.

* What happens if people do not want to sell their land?

Once ascent is given, HS2 will be able to compulsory purchase land. The land will be made available as it is deemed to be of national importance.

* Will Newland Hall be affected?

Newland Hall is in a safeguarded area and there will be HS2 access over the land but there are no demolition plans.

* What is the timeline for approval?

The design will go to parliament in 2020 and discussed until 2023 with Royal Ascent in 2024

* Letters have been sent to residents that are not clear. There were red line maps provided which even the HS2 staff could not interpret.

Wole and David advised residents to let them know about specific issues so that they could investigate where the letters had come from.

* The information given to the public isn’t clear enough. The letters are difficult to understand and the public are having to knock on Councillors doors for help.

One to one meetings are available where required.

* Members reiterated once again that we do not need or support HS2 in our area.

The proposal came from the Conservative Government in 2010 through the DFT and has cross party support. The scheme is of national importance.

There will be a petitioning phase in parliament when the Hybrid Bill is submitted, and objections can also be made at that stage through Parliament and MPs.

* At a previous meeting HS2 were asked if any land had been bought and we were told no. It now appears that 11 pieces of land have been bought.

Voluntary purchases have been made but not CPO – apologies if there was a misunderstanding.

* The footpath survey was not correctly carried out and you gave an assurance that it would be done again if found to be wrong. It hasn’t been done again.
* We have completed consultation forms and no changes have been made. What is the point in saying it all again.

Changes were made as a result of the previous consultation including the rolling stock depot at Crofton. This consultation is looking at the alignment.

* Kirkthorpe will be cut in half for a long time while these works are carried out and there will be a track 68 feet above the motorway at Birkwood Road. This is not satisfactory for the local community.
* Birkwood Road being closed for twelve months will cause total chaos in the Town and is a vital route to the hospital at Wakefield. This could potentially put lives at risk.
* Has traffic volume been measured and the impact on the Town?

No – this would be done at a later stage. We are looking for feedback on the proposals at this stage.

* The impact of road closures should be investigated before the proposal is put for consultation.
* Where will the traffic be diverted if the road is closed?

We will have to look at that following the consultation.

* The answers to serious issues are being given much later in the process. There is a wider impact on our community than traffic. The construction traffic would also be using Birkwood Road.
* Could we extend the consultation?

No that is not possible.

The Mayor thanked David and Wole for their attendance and asked that a response to questions be provided to the Town Clerk along with a copy of the large-scale map of the proposal.

**110. Minutes – Meeting of Council**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 9th October 2018 (Minute Numbers 90-104; Pages 26-30) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Friday 5th October 2018 (Minute Numbers 37-49; Pages 11-13) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

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

**112. Minutes – Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Wednesday 17th October 2018 (Minute Numbers 18-23; Pages 17-23) were received as a true record and the contents therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. Blezard / Seconded by Councillor Mrs A. Wood)

The Chairman of the Special Projects Committee, Councillor Mrs E. Blezard, thanked the Staff and Councillors for their support with the Halloween and Remembrance events. It was reported that £313 was raised for the Poppy Appeal at the evening Church Service.

**113. Casual Vacancy**

It was reported that a letter had been received from Wakefield MDC confirming that the Normanton Ward vacancy can be filled by co-option. Members agreed to consider a policy on co-option at the next meeting.

**114. Transfer of Land at Norwood Street**

RESOLVED that Councillor B. Mayne and Councillor K. Wilson, JP, be authorised to sign the transfer deed on behalf of the Town Council, which would be witnessed by the Town Clerk, for the transfer of land at Norwood Street to Mr Parker.

In accordance with Standing Order 21(a) and (b).

**115. Correspondence**

Normanton Cricket Club

RESOLVED that the email be received and a letter of support be provided to assist them with funding applications.

Remembrance Sunday

RESOLVED that a letter from a former resident in relation to Remembrance Sunday be received.

**116. External Organisations**

There were no reports.

**117. Outside Bodies**

Freeston Foundation - Councillor K. Wilson reported that a new headteacher had been appointed after the previous headteacher left. The Foundation continues to provide additional items for school.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**118. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £13,070.76 be approved for payment.

**119. Planning**

The planning applications received since the last meeting were circulated and members expressed concern about the application at 11 High Street which appeared to indicate a change of a retail premises in the High Street Precinct.

Members requested that further information be obtained and an objection raised on this issue if a retail premises was to be lost.

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