

NORMANTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

c/o Normanton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ
Tel: 01924 893794 E: enquiries@normantontowncouncil.co.uk

Tuesday, 11th March 2025

The **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday 8th April 2025** commencing at **6.00pm** at **Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ**.

Residents of the Normanton and Altofts area are welcome to attend the meeting to ask questions.

Alison Bones

Councillor Alison Bones
Mayor of Normanton 2024/25

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING **AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2024. **ENC A**
2. Mayors report on the last 12 months.
3. Issues raised by residents.

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

8th May 2024

Present: Mayor of Normanton – Councillor C Appleyard
Town Clerk – Donna Johnston
17 Electors

1. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2023.
The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 21st March 2023 were received as a true record.
2. Mayors report on the last 12 months.
The Mayor provided a report on the activities of the Council over the last twelve months:

I am delighted to present this report on the Council's activities to the Annual Town Meeting 2024.

Following on from the success of the new style Annual Meeting held last year, we have decided to continue to use this meeting as an opportunity to reach our community groups and residents by offering a Coffee Evening with an opportunity for local groups to have a stall to promote their valuable work.

Normanton has a fantastic community spirit, and we want to celebrate that.

Over the course of the last twelve months, the Town Council has continued to provide its regular range of events and services.

EVENTS

We were delighted to host our regular calendar of events in 2024 including the Gala Weekend, Flower Show, Halloween, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas events.

We were blessed with a glorious Gala Weekend with weather that was perhaps slightly too warm, but we shouldn't really complain.

SERVICES

The Woodhouse Community Centre was not used as widely as we had hoped during the earlier part of the year, so we took the

decision to make it free to use for local businesses, community groups and residents. This decision has resulted in many more bookings and the building is now a vibrant hub with many regular users.

Our Hanging Baskets added a much-needed splash of colour and we have secured a number of new sponsors. We now have a waiting list for sponsorships.

We have continued to deal with grass cutting at Woodhouse Community Centre and Norwood Street using our own staff which has been successful and the grass at Potts Terrace continues to be cut by WMDC and paid for by the Town Council.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

We have continued to support Community Groups by providing £5,872.49 in funding through the Small Grants Scheme. These grants provide much needed funding to small community groups in our area who do a wonderful job on a voluntary basis, particularly during these uncertain times.

Grants awarded in 2023/24 include:

Meet n Eats Diner	£500.00
The Well Project	£500.00
Altofts Bowling Club	£489.29
Normanton Knights ARLFC	£500.00
1 st Normanton Scouts	£500.00
Friends of Altofts Library	£383.20
Alice Bacon Memorial Trust	£500.00
The Well Shop	£1,100.00
WDH Community Event	£400.00
Wakefield Wildcats Netball Team	£500.00
The Brig Bike Hub	£500.00
	£5,872.49

The remaining budget balance of £627.51 has been earmarked for Small Grants in the coming year should anyone require emergency funding.

REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY

During the last twelve months the Town Council has been working on the following issues:

- Planning objection – Welbeck Landfill Site
- Planning Appeal Submission – Welbeck Landfill Site

- Planning objection – Altofts Hall Farm
- Planning objection – Wharfedale Drive
- Objections to telephone masts at Kingston Drive, Beckbridge Court and High Green Road
- Normanton Cemetery – Met with bereavement services to explain concerns and agree a plan of action.
- Road Safety concerns – Wakefield Road traffic calming.
- Broad Flags – Vehicle storage and highway concerns.
- Halifax Bank – requesting a review of banking facilities in our area.
- CCTV – Visit to CCTV department and concerns raised regarding improvements to the coverage for Normanton.
- Consultation on Electric Vehicle Charging Points.
- Climate and Ecology bill
- Woodhouse Business Centre roof complaints referred to Wakefield Council.

TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

The refurbishment of the Town Hall commenced in January 2022, and we were extremely disappointed that the work was not completed by the agreed finish date.

Following issues with the original contractor, we do still have a few jobs to finish but these are being dealt with by the Property Committee.

The main aim of the refurbishment was to make the building accessible under the Equality Act so that all members of our community can access services and events at the Town Hall.

To achieve this, we:

- Created a ramped access at the front of the building which is compliant with legislation for wheelchair use and also provides easy access for pushchairs and people with mobility issues who might not be able to use the steps.
- Installed a lift which gives access to the Council Chamber on the first floor meaning that residents with mobility issues can attend meetings of the Council.

- Installed disabled toilets on the ground and first floor to ensure that visitors to the building have all the facilities they may require. These toilet areas also feature baby changing facilities.

Our second aim was to create useable community spaces and meeting rooms that are available for the community to use, whether that is a meeting space for organisations, community events or a space for private functions.

To achieve this, we:

- Created two large multi-purpose community rooms on the ground floor.
- Created a servery area which is accessible from each community room to facilitate the service of drinks during events.
- Created a smaller meeting room on the ground floor for 6-8 people.

In order to provide this usable community space on the ground floor, our administration offices were relocated to the first floor, in a section of the building where it is not possible to create access for disabled people and would otherwise be an unusable space.

Our third aim was to make the building more efficient with energy usage and hopefully reduce our carbon footprint and future running costs.

To achieve this, we:

- Installed replacement energy efficient windows on the first floor.
- Installed insulation in the ceiling void to prevent heat loss.
- Disconnected from the old, unreliable gas boiler which we had no control over.
- Installed new energy efficient heating and cooling systems so that we only pay for the power that we consume, as opposed to the percentage of total bill method which was previously used for our utilities.

This project was funded through savings achieved as a result of careful budget management and our specifically earmarked reserves. We did not increase the precept to fund the refurbishment works and have already budgeted for the ongoing maintenance costs within our existing budget.

We have also not taken on any loans to fund the works.

We have a vast number of community groups using the building at no charge including monthly Coffee mornings, weekly bingo sessions, and community group meetings.

COUNCILLORS

There were elections in 2023 which resulted in a few new faces joining the Town Council. I would like to thank all the Town Councillors who have served Normanton Town Council over the last twelve months and express a warm welcome to our new Councillors. Our Councillors are unpaid, and they serve because they want to make a difference and because they want Normanton and Altofts to be a good place to live and work.

STAFF

We have a very small team of dedicated staff in the office who carry out all the administration for the Council from organising meetings and taking allotment rent to organising events and inspecting allotments. I would like to place on record my thanks to them for their work during a challenging year.

MAYORS CHARITY FUND

I have raised over £4,000.00 during my year and the final total will be announced in the next week or so.

My main charities are the Alice Bacon Memorial Trust, the Prince of Wales Hospice and other local good causes.

I have had a good year as Mayor and thank the Council for their faith in me to fulfil the role to the best of my ability.

3. Issues raised by residents.

Residents raised the following issues:

It was reported that The Well-Loved Shop had their window smashed recently as well as the Coral Bookmaker. It was simple vandalism, and no entry was gained into the properties.

The Police explained the number of officers they have covering the area which explained why it wasn't always possible to get to all reports.

It was suggested that the MUGA at Haw Hill Park requires lighting.

It was reported that the 'no dogs' sign needed to go back on at the MUGA and Tennis Courts.

A fence was to be installed at the Cycle Track to make it safer for young children.

The District Councillors for Normanton reported that they had been working on the following issues:

Bollards in the High Street, Fly tipping, Banking issues, road safety on Wakefield Road, herb planters for people to pick herbs, high street improvements such as block paving to be reinstated after works, improvements to the park pond and a 20mph zone at Benson Lane.

Councillor C Appleyard was thanked for her service as Mayor of Normanton over the last twelve months.

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