

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7PM.**

---

**Present:** Councillor M Isherwood, Councillor R Martindale, Councillor W Mulroe, Councillor J Power (Mayor), Councillor D Stapleton, Councillor R Taylor Councillor C Tennant, Councillor M Tennant-King, Councillor S Vickers, Councillor J Wright.

**In Attendance:** Sue Coles (Town Clerk), Rev J Grosu, Members of Featherstone Main Brass Band and Mr Arnie Morgan of Featherstone & District Lions International Club.

**261/14 WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Councillor G Isherwood.

**262/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The meeting was opened for members of the public to address the Council on matters relevant to its business. No questions were received.

**263/14 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor B Mulroe, Councillor M Tennant King (Featherstone Rovers Volunteers) minute 278/14, Councillor C Tennant, and Councillor R Taylor (Featherstone Lions) minute 265/14.

**264/14 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

**RESOLVED:** That under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from items 18-20 (Donation to Featherstone Rovers Volunteer Development Project, Featherstone in Bloom Contract 2015 and Deputy Mayor 2014/15) which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

**265/14 PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUES**

Mr A Morgan was present at the meeting to receive a grant cheque on behalf of Featherstone & District Lions International Club for £500 for materials for the new Father Christmas Sleigh.

Members of Featherstone Main Brass Band received a cheque for £500 for the purchase of music stands, banners, music and t-shirts. They presented the Mayor with their first drum banner, already framed, for the Council offices.

Councillor C Tennant of Featherstone Lions ARLFC presented the Mayor with a photograph of the team in their new strip and a letter to thank the Council for the grant previously received.

**266/14 PRESENTATION BY Ms KATE WATSON**

Ms Watson Project Manager for beam arts people places had been invited by Councillor M Isherwood to present to the Council a potential project for public art at the Mill Pond Meadows site. She gave various examples of recent permanent art projects such as Barnsley Battalion and Health Centres in the area which were in various materials such as wood, textiles and stone work. Ms Watson suggested that a group is formed to put together design ideas for the project to be formulated over a period of time. Councillor M Isherwood advised that the completion of the project will be in line with the end of the 1914-18 war. Councillor S Vickers advised that the Council has experience of a project of the type with the Miners Memorial Wall which attracted free assistance from 'Nostell Brick Company which gave their furnace time.

Councillor M Isherwood added that the Council has already been working with the local schools on the tree planting. Councillor R Taylor felt that the sculpture should be an imposing piece which stands out at the gateway to the town. The Mayor thanked Ms Watson for her presentation.

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7PM.**

---

**267/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked Councillor S Vickers for supporting Millie's Miles. A Christmas tree had been purchased and placed in St Thomas Church for the Civic Carol Concert which is to be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and she hoped everyone will attend. The Mayor will be attending Farmer Copley's on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to sell her raffle tickets for the Bumper Prize Draw and she asked for Members to return their counterfoils in time for the Tea Dance on the 18<sup>th</sup> December at which time the draw will be made.

**268/14 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT**

In the absence of the Leader Councillor G Isherwood Councillor Mulroe read a report to the Council which thanked everyone for their support for Christmas Light Switch-On and Santa Day. Donations had been made to Off the Shelf Theatre Company which provided Micky Mouse, Mary & Joseph, plus Santa's helpers. The last remaining 16 individual chocolate boxes had been donated to Star House at Purston Park. Councillor G Isherwood asked that a letter is sent to the Library Staff to thank them for creating the Christmas grotto and also that a letter is sent to Ms Lisa Dobb praising the help her staff and the caretaker had given the Council in its organisation of Santa Day.

WMDC Councillors' G & M Isherwood are currently negotiating a grant for £7,000 from Wakefield Council towards the Millpond Meadows Art Memorial. Once the money has been agreed with Wakefield then applications can be made to WREN and other agencies. The Town Council should be very proud of what we are doing in Featherstone.

WMDC Councillors are attending meetings to negotiate the widening of the footpath along Ackworth Road it was hoped that a zebra crossing could be installed but it had been proven that there isn't a safe point to install one along the road. Councillor's Taylor and G Isherwood want to make the route as difficult as possible for the HGV's using the route which would force them to use an alternative one.

The British Coal application for Hell Lane, Charlston has been withdrawn. The off licence for Green Lane has been refused. Amey has removed the Town Council's solar Christmas trees from the traffic lights at Station Lane and these are being returned to the Town Council which is making arrangements for Plantscape to erect them on the basket trees in the Miners Memorial Garden. A meeting has been held with Quick Save who have agreed to place hoardings around the site but Councillors want access for the footpath and tidying up of the site.

Councillor G Isherwood sent his thanks to Councillor J Wright for his time as Deputy Mayor this year.

**269/14 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

It was

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7pm, Minute numbers 203/14 to 221/14 be approved

**270/14 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:**

- a) To receive the minutes of the Events Committee
- b) To receive the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee.
- c) To receive the minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee

It was

**RESOLVED:** To receive the minutes a) to c) above.

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7PM.**

---

**271/14 QUESTIONS MAY BE PUT TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

No questions were received.

**272/14 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS**

- a) WMDC Planning Applications and Decisions – Please see file for details
- b) Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Notification of Appeal 13/00006/MIN Proposed Deanfield Surface Mine Scheme, Land either side and including part of Hell Lane near to new Sharlston. – Application Refused.
- c) Locating Private Sewage Pumping Stations – Government legislation means that from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 all eligible private sewage pumping stations in Yorkshire will automatically transfer to their ownership.
- d) Mobile Networks ‘What They Are and How They Work’.

It was

**RESOLVED:** Members noted

**273/14 FINANCE REPORTS**

- a) Lists of Accounts £7,895.60 and £399.83, total £8,295.43 were received before the meeting and approved.  
Discussion ensued on the merits of the two types of Youth Ambassadors badges and it was agreed that the identity badges worn by the Councillors and staff would be more appropriate but for this year the ones received would be used.
- b) Income received report totalling £5,265.17 was noted.

It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve payments and note income.

**274/14 PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2015/16**

**MIN 231/14.** To consider the recommendation from the Administration and Finance Committee that the precept request to Wakefield Council is to remain unchanged in 2015/16 at £104,000.

Councillor M Isherwood stated she is recommending this amount to council because the people in Featherstone were struggling to pay bills. Although there was slight shortfall of £4,000 it was manageable by the council which had reserves to cover the amount.

Councillor Mulroe stated that WMDC Councillors are more privy to the details of services which the Town Council may be forced to take over in future years. Councillor Taylor replied that should WMDC threaten cuts to services it is for the Town Council to decide as to whether to take them over or not. Councillor Vickers stated the Town Council shouldn't have to take on any WMDC service cuts. Should there be a project which needs considering to keep a service in the town then the Council will give it due consideration at the time. Councillor Taylor just wanted to make it clear that WMDC budget cuts were un-presented at £38M and he is not suggesting that the Town Council needs to take anything over which WMDC chooses to offload.

It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Precept demand for 2015/16 at £104,000

**275/14 REPORTS, IF ANY, FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:**

- a) Town & Parish Council Liaison Group
- b) National Coal Mining Museum

It was noted that no further meetings have been held.

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7PM.**

---

**276/14 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

<b>Date</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
13.11.14	Prince of Wales Hospice	Annual Santa Dash
<b>No other correspondence had been received</b>		

**277/14 Urgent matters for information**

Nothing was received.

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**278/14 DONATION TO FRIENDS OF FEATHERSTONE ROVERS VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

(Councillor's Mulroe and Tennant-King left the room and did not take part in the discussions).

A report was attached to the agenda for Member's information and that whilst the Council has the powers to make a grant, under the Local Government Misc. Provisions Act 1976 or alternatively under the Free Resource s137 L G Act 1972. In awarding a grant out of public monies the Council should establish specifically what the money is to be used for, before it is carried out and should not be used for work already completed. An inspection of the stand by Members of the Council prior to work commencing would have been preferable and a final account submitted along with invoices as evidence of expenditure. If Members do not satisfy themselves on the checks and go ahead to award a donation for works already completed they may be failing to safeguard the use of public funds.

Members discussed at length the application for a donation of £1,500, which was to assist with the works to erect and furnish two all seater football stands. Since the application was for work already carried out to the power supply from the emergency services mast on Featherstone Rovers land it was

**RESOLVED:** To turn down the application and inform the applicant that this was because the work has already been completed. The Town Council would be happy to consider another application for work yet to be carried out in the future. Voting recorded as For: JW, RM, SV, MI, DS. Against: JP & RT. Abstained: CT.

**279/14 FEATHERSTONE IN BLOOM CONTRACT 2015**

A report was made to the meeting regarding applications from companies wishing to tender for the 2015 contract for the supply of hanging baskets, planters and up keep of the Miner's Memorial. Of a total of three tenders sent to suppliers only one had been returned. It was

**RESOLVED:** That the contract for 2015/16, which may be extended for further years thereafter, (subject to satisfactory performance) is awarded to Plantscape.

**280/14 DEPUTY MAYOR 2014/15**

Councillor J Wright has resigned as Deputy Mayor and the Mayor Councillor J Power, on behalf of the Council, thanked him for his time in the position. It was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor M Tennant-King is appointed to the position until May 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.