

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 AT 7PM.**

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

**In Attendance:** Sue Coles (Town Clerk)

**348/14 WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Councillor C Tennant.

**349/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**350/14 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M Tennant King item 16. Councillor R Taylor item 16.

**351/14 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

**RESOLVED:** under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from any item which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

**352/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor invited everyone to the Civic Awards which is to take place in the Council Chamber on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 6.30pm.

He stated that he had attended a WDH presentation of Switch & Save (given by Mr Kevin Dodd) a newly created provider of energy which is open to anyone to purchase gas, electricity and a substantial saving owing to WDH purchasing power.

WDH are also going to provide broadband cloud and a P.C. Tablet free of charge to all their tenants. Plus the new fleet of vans will be monitored with wifi.

The WDH Foundation Grant scheme is also being launched with the aim of assisting residents to train and find work. It will help with the purchase of tools and travel costs.

**RESOLVED:** The Town Clerk is to publicise these details on the website and newsletter.

**353/14 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT**

The Leader attended with the Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor the 8<sup>th</sup> Billie's Concert at St Wilfred's School and organised by Mr Ian Clayton in memory of his daughter.

The planning application for the Deanfield site was turned down.

At the Annual Town Meeting a question was raised about E-ACT and its future after having a below standard Ofsted report. It now appears that funding has been found to keep the academy open for the time being.

Councillor G Isherwood also asked Members to look out for new projects within the Town.

Councillor M Isherwood added that she had wanted the Millpond Meadows land to be planted with trees to mark WW1 commemoration with Wildliffe trees. After lengthy discussions with WMDC officers it has been agreed that the land could be used and Rowan trees would be planted and matched to the individual names of the soldiers who lost their lives. Councillor G Isherwood will arrange for a statue to be sited on the land and a commemorative plaque. The Historical Society has the names of all the soldiers.

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**353/14 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT Cont'd...**

Councillor M Isherwood advised that it may be possible to have an APP developed for IPHones which will show where the historical points of Featherstone are on a map and where the directions are to these sites.

Councillor Wright informed the Leader that there had been a survey on the land to the rear of Brooksbank Garage, North Featherstone which had left the land in a potentially dangerous condition and the Leader asked the Town Clerk to write to the Coal Authority to make them aware.

**354/14 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7pm. Minute numbers 309/14 to 325/14 be approved and signed.

**355/14 MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Minute numbers 326/14 to 336/14 be approved and signed.

**356/14 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS**

- a) WMDC Planning Applications and Decisions – the file was available for details
- b) Wakefield Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March to consider application 13/00006/MIN for mining operations of 1.16 million tonnes of coal and 100,000 tonnes of fireclay at Deanfield Surface Mine Scheme New Sharlston. This application was refused.
- c) The Planning Inspectorate – application by Knottingley Power Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Knottingley Power Project.  
<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/knottingley-power-project/>.
- d) Department of Transport Town & Country Planning Act 1990 stopping up of Highway at 11 Acton Lane, Featherstone.
- e) Post Office North Featherstone changes to services from a separate screened counter to a till at the retail counter.
- f) Resolve Public Affairs Public Exhibition for Five Towns Park.
- g) WSP Consultation of the proposal to extend the operations of the Yorkshire Common Permit Scheme.

**RESOLVED:** That items a) to g) be noted.

**357/14 CASUAL VACANCY ON NORTH WEST WARD**

Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings LGA 1972 c.70 if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority they shall unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority. Under the direction of the Leader the Town Clerk has already contacted Wakefield Electoral Services Office to announce the casual vacancy on the North West Ward. No-one has come forward to request an election and Wakefield have instructed the Council that it may co-opt a new Councillor.

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**357/14 CASUAL VACANCY ON NORTH WEST WARD Cont'd...**

**RESOLVED:** The Town will place notices around the town in notice boards, post offices and Library and an article in the newspaper plus website asking for letters of interest which will be brought forward to the June meeting of the Council where the Council will consider the applications and Co-opt to fill the vacancy.

**358/14 TERMS OF REFERENCES FOR COMMITTEES**

**MIN 319/14 refers.** The Council received a report from Councillor G Isherwood with a proposal to change the arrangements and structure of the current committee arrangements. The new Reservation of Powers of the Town Council 2014/15 with Committee Membership and working party terms of reference had been considered at the March meeting. It was

**RESOLVED:** That the Reservation of Powers of the Town Council 2014/15 with Committee Membership and working party terms of reference are adopted by the Council.

**359/14 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the current standing orders and financial regulations for the forthcoming year.

**360/14 POLICY FOR REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the policy for guidance on the arrangements for Remembrance Service each year.

**361/14 CIVIC SERVICE & CIVIC AWARDS**

Members discussed the policy and Councillor M Isherwood felt that the rules were not tight on the awards. Councillor Mulroe agreed and suggested that there is an annual rota for Children, Sporting and Community awards. Councillor M Isherwood said that it should be laid down that the awards are for exceptional duties for the town of Featherstone. Councillor G Isherwood also agreed that it should be far stricter than at present. Councillor Vickers wished that a set limit of how many awards are given each year and each nominator to give the reasons to win the Committee over. It was agreed that the Civic Awards should not be devalued and that they should be awarded as the final duties of the Civic Year.

It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Civic Service and Civic Awards Policy for the Civic Year.

**362/14 FINANCE REPORTS**

- a) List of Accounts totalling £3,693.39 was circulated with the agenda and a second list totalling £7,209.61 which was presented at the meeting.
- b) Income received report from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 totalling £53,000 which represented the Precept payment for the first half of the year with £1,000 of other income.
- c) The Town Clerk asked for approval of the purchase the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Charles Arnold Banker at a cost of £60.00. It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve payments and income as detailed in a) to c) above

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**363/14 GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

The Council had received three applications for Grants which could not be dealt with by the Grants Committee nor the Administration and Finance Committee.

(Councillors' M Tennant-King and R Taylor left the room during the discussions on a) and b) respectively).

- a) Featherstone Rovers Foundation have applied for a grant of £485.68 to assist with the purchase of new equipment for their successful parent and toddler group.
- b) Featherstone Lions ARLFC have applied for a grant of £480.00 for new kit for players representing the town.
- c) Normanton Police for assistance with a childrens play activity during the summer holiday for £200.00.

It was

**RESOLVED:** That the grants be awarded.

**364/14 WAKEFIELD COUNCIL – WORKING TOGETHER**

A letter was received from Joanne Roney CEO requesting support and discussion topics on ways that Wakefield and the Town Council could deliver future services. This was noted by the Council.

**365/14 REPORTS, IF ANY, FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:**

- a) Featherstone Regeneration Steering Group
- b) Town & Parish Council Liaison Group – next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014
- c) National Coal Mining Museum

It was noted that the Featherstone Regeneration Event held on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> April was classed as very successful with over 50 people attending. There were no other reports.

**366/14 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- a) Mr P D Roper has written to explain his non-attendance at the Gala and the Council meetings.
- b) David Cameron writes to inform the Council of the new incentive to take on more employees and receive a cash back for NIC bills. – Members requested that the Town Clerk investigate this further.
- c) Wakefield Council has issued the publication of official notices for the Council and European Parliamentary Elections on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.
- d) Wakefield Council has written to inform the Town Council on the latest guidelines for football posts.

All items above were noted.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm