

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE ON 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014 AT 7PM**

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

**In Attendance:** Sue Crouch (Town Clerk), Ms V Symons, Miss S Shutt, Mr G Hope with their families and WMDC Councillor J Cliffe M.B.E.

**266/14 WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Councillors D Herrington and S Vickers

**267/147 PRESENTATION OF CIVIC AWARDS**

The Mayor congratulated Miss Sarah Shutt on her extensive swimming achievements which include many Mosaic World and European records he presented her with a certificate and crystal glassware.

The Mayor also congratulated Mr Gary Hope for his achievements in football representing Great Britain in the Special Olympics competitions and presented him with a certificate and crystal glassware.

The Mayor said that it was great to have talented people in Featherstone who are very worthy of the Council's Civic awards. Both Miss Shutt and Mr Hope had been nominated by Councillor M Tennant-King who said it was nice to acknowledge their achievements.

**268/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The meeting was opened for members of the public to address the Council on matters relevant to its business but no comments were made.

**269/14 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

**270/14 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 item 19 Recruitment Panel which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

**271/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor will attend the Normanton Rotary Dinner.

There is a campaign starting to improve the rail line to and from Kirkgate Wakefield, Leeds, Pontefract and Knottingly.

The British Gas mains repairs are taking longer on Pontefract Road due to it being constructed of concrete. The traffic delays will be addressed when WMDC Councillors speak with Wakefield shortly.

**272/14 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT**

WMDC Councillors have arranged a meeting concerning Ackworth Road.

Councillor G Isherwood asked for Members support for a publication to commemorate WW1 he envisaged a good quality A5/20 page booklet which would be put together to be distributed to the school children to honour the Featherstone soldiers. This matter is to be placed on the next Administration & Finance Committee agenda for approval of costs and the formation of a working party to organise the design.

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**272/14 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT Cont'd...**

Councillor Tennant said that the WW1 diaries written by the soldiers in the war have now been released into the press and he feels that it is vital to commemorate the war; there are many people in Featherstone who are linked to the hostilities. The Mayor said that he can remember the wounded ex.soldiers living in the town and grew up with them, our children and grandchildren have no first-hand experience. Councillor Mulroe added that anyone serving in the forces deserve the highest accolade. All Members supported the idea.

**273/14 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7pm, Minute numbers 236/13 to 241/13 be approved.

**274/14 MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Heritage & Culture Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 6pm, Minute number 242/13 to 249/13 be approved.

**275/14 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7pm, Minute numbers 250/13 to 265/13 be approved.

**276/14 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS**

- a. WMDC Planning Applications and Decisions – details were given to Members at the meeting.
- b. Stopping up of Highway at 11 Ackton Lane.
- c. Stopping up of Highway at Farm Road, Moor Road, Vicarage Lane, Albert Street, Crossley Street and Victoria Street
- d. HS2 ENGINE FOR GROWTH  
Councillor Tennant stated that the money spent on HS2 would have been better spent on Local Infrastructure and allow the Five Towns better access to Leeds and Wakefield

**RESOLVED:** Members noted all of the above applications.

**277/14 WDH LICENCE FOR NOTICE BOARD**

The licence for one notice board on the land adjacent to Greenside, Featherstone presented and approved by the Council and signed.

**278/14 WAKEFIELD LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT**

Two letters received from Wakefield Council were attached to the agenda with information on Council Tax Support and its implication to the District. Along with this an Appendix D Precept Total for Featherstone and its impact on Council Tax Bills which showed a -£0.28p reduction for Band D property representing a -1.07% decrease for bills 2014/15 was also received.

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the information

**279/14 FINANCE REPORTS**

- a. List of Accounts totalling £10,486.21
- b. Income received report from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 totalling £618.39.

**RESOLVED:** Members approved the payments and income received.

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**280/14 WAKEFIELD COUNCIL NEW PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR EVENTS**

A letter from Wakefield Council giving details to the changes to applications for events such as the Gala at Purston Park was noted by Members.

**281/14 REPORTS, IF ANY, FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:**

- a. Featherstone Regeneration Steering Group. The hippodrome site is in its later stages of organisation. The site currently is collecting litter.
- b. Town & Parish Council Liaison Group – next meeting now February 2014
- c. National Coal Mining Museum. Councillor Tenant has received an invitation to the Pit Profiles Exhibition taking place shortly and there is to be a commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the miners' strike which started on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1984.

**RESOLVED:** Members noted

**282/14 EMAIL ADDRESS**

The email address [featherstonetc@btconnect.com](mailto:featherstonetc@btconnect.com) has now been deleted. Members noted.

**283/14 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Nov 2013	Wakefield Metropolitan	Civic Carol Service at Wakefield Cathedral 18 <sup>th</sup> December
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Normanton Town Council	Normanton Town Council, Churches Together and Normanton Lions Club Annual Christmas Celebration.
	Various Christmas Cards	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Methodist Church	Letter to thank the Council for the donation for refreshments at the Christmas events.
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2014	Historic Towns	Reports and Newsletter

**284/14 RECRUITMENT PANEL**

Further to Minute 196/13 for the Employment of Administration Staff the interviews have now taken place and Ms Vicky Symons, who was present at the meeting, has accepted the position subject to Council approval.

**RESOLVED:** That Ms Vicky Symons be appointed for a period of 6 months, initially, to the post of Administration Assistant

**285/14 CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm