

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7PM.

Present: Councillor G Isherwood, Councillor M Isherwood, Councillor A Lapish, Councillor R Martindale, Councillor D Stapleton, Councillor R Taylor, Councillor C Tennant, Councillor M Tennant-King (Mayor) and Councillor J Wright

In Attendance: Rev J Grosu, and Sue Coles (Town Clerk).

150/15 WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies were received from Councillor K Hollis, Councillor S Vickers and WMDC Councillor J Cliffe M.B.E.

151/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting is to be opened for members of the public to address the Council on matters relevant to its business. However residents cannot take part in the main proceedings of the meeting, this is strictly limited to Councillors. Noted.

152/15 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

153/15 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

It was

RESOLVED: that under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from item 23, Staff appointments and other items which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

154/15 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Presentation of the Sporting Achievement award to Mr Jack Townend could not take place.

The Mayor attended the NCMH – Rugby League Heritage on Tour and her husband and consort took the tour down the mine whilst the Mayor looked at the displays which included an old t.v. news reel item from the 1952 cup final which included her father and miners from the town.

On Sunday 6th September she and four others undertook the Alzheimer's Memory Walk and raised £700.00. She reminded Members of the Mystery Murder Tea Dance on Saturday 19th September at 4.30pm when the dancers will be joined by a theatre company cast who will act out an Agatha Christie play and invite the participants of the dance to solve the death of one of the character players. Councillor C Tennant apologised for not being able to attend the event.

155/15 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT

Councillor G Isherwood asked all the Members' to look at and identify any Council priorities which should be considered to improve the wards making up the Town Council. He felt that WMDC will be asking in the very near future what the Town Council is looking at as its priorities and the Council should act now to compile a list ready for action. He suggested that a future newsletter contains a consultation to residents asking for their ideas and he asked ward members to bring back to the Council projects of up to £500 so that funding bids can be made. He himself highlighted Streethouse War Memorial and thought that pot holes and Christmas lights could also be such a project.

Councillor C Tennant suggested that the Council used the opportunity of Santa Day for such a consultation since this information would be needed to support the projects.

156/15 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th July at 7.00 pm, minute numbers 110/15 to 125/15.

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157/15 MINUTES OF THE LEADER'S GROUP MEETING

It was

RESOLVED: To receive the minutes of the Leaders Group meeting held on the 18th June at 12.35pm, Minute numbers 78/15(LG) to 79/15(LG).

158/15 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

It was **RESOLVED:** to receive the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee dated 8th July.

159/15 QUESTIONS MAY BE PUT TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

No questions were raised.

160/15 WAKEFIELD PLAY FORUM IN REFERENCE TO MIN 40/15

Members had expressed concerned that the Wakefield Play Forum had been disbanded and the Town Clerk had been asked to contact Ms Horobin. In a telephone conversation she advised that the Play Days for Featherstone Parish at Ackton and Streethouse were running through the school holidays from Monday to Wednesday alternating. No sessions were being held in Purston Park due to very poor attendance. The sessions will continue into September if funding allows and the group will disband at the end of September when the insurance finishes. Members noted the report

161/15 MIN125/15 SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLANNING TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

Mr N Rodgers declined the Council's invitation to attend this Council meeting. He advised that he is aware of the concerns of residents' regarding the use of Ackworth Road and Hall Street by HGV vehicles. Officers have reviewed the location and no alternative route exists which is suitable to divert traffic around the aforementioned streets. Pressure for the Highway Authority to serve a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) preventing HGV's using the roads is simply not an option. Current data concludes that the majority of drivers are driving within the speed limit and that accidents are low. Mr Rodgers will ask that a further survey is completed within the next financial year and that a report is offered to the Town Council for information.

Councillor Tennant said that he was disappointed by Mr Rodgers comments and in his opinion the HGV's could be re directed for the sake of £500 being spent. The 40 tonne lorries turning right from Wakefield up Hall Street was dangerous and a safety issue. Councillor Tennant wanted the Town Council to campaign for a 7.5 tonne limit. Councillor M Isherwood said there was a way of diverting the traffic and that Councillor Tennant was right the Council must be firm. Councillor Taylor also agreed and said it angered him that Mr Rodgers statement said that 'pressure for the Highways Authority to serve a TRO prevent HGV's is simply not an option' was unacceptable and he and Councillor G Isherwood were to campaign for this. Councillor G Isherwood said that Mr Rodgers was the Service Director and the information in the email would have come from a Highways Officer not from him. The Town Council needs to write to say that the comments are not acceptable and a press campaign needs to be undertaken.

Councillor Taylor advised that to do nothing was simply not an option. Councillor Tennant asked for a site meeting and Councillor G Isherwood advised that one had taken place when the agreement for a dropped kerb was made. It was

RESOLVED: To send a letter with the above comments to Mr Graham West, Councillor D Dagger and Councillor Martin Morley with a copy to Mr Rodgers

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162/15 FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPENSATION SCHEME

On the 1st January 2016 the deposit protection limit is reducing from £85,000 to £75,000. This will affect the security of bank deposit balances of both the Yorkshire Bank and Co-operative Bank. A further report will be given at the meeting. This item was referred to the Administration & Finance Committee.

163/15 CHRISTMAS TREE PROVISION FOR WARD 6

A quotation has been received from WMDC Building Services for a total of five Christmas trees for: Streethouse, Snyderdale, Ackton, North Featherstone and Purston. A tree to be funded by WMDC will also be installed at the bottom of Station Lane. It was

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the provision of five x 22 foot trees dressed with white LED lighting strings at a total cost of £7,500.
2. To approve the energy costs which are to be calculated from the official switch on date to 6th January for the load, usage and costs of energy.
3. To approve the timers set for 3.30pm to 2.00am
4. To approve switch on date as Wednesday 25th November 2015.

164/15 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

- a) WMDC Planning Applications and Decisions – Please see file for details
- b) West Yorkshire Combined Authority Single Transport Plan.
- c) Wakefield Community Infrastructure Levy Modification and Submission.
(Members have been forwarded via email the consultation details for online comments).
- d) WMDC Wind Turbine Practice Guidance is now on the Wakefield Council's website for information. This will be used when determining applications for wind turbines in the district.

Members noted the above and there were no further comments.

165/15 MILL POND MEADOWS COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT PUBLIC ART

STAKEHOLDER GROUP a resolution was received from the Administration and Finance Committee meeting held at 6pm It was

RESOLVED: That Codsteaks be appointed to consult residents and design an item of public art for the Town Council, subject to confirmation from Beam that suitable references have been received'.

166/15 ORGREAVE INVESTIGATION

The Leader of the Council Cllr G Isherwood has written a letter to Rt Hon Theresa May MP concerning the Orgreave Investigation, a copy of which was attached to the agenda for Members approval. At the meeting a reply was distributed from Mr Jason Connolly at the Home Office, London explaining that the IPCC review has been a complex exercise with an in-depth analysis of a vast amount of documentation from over 30 years. In the course of the review the IPCC examined thousands of pages of documents etc. On the basis of the review the IPCC published its rationale for not holding a review and this decision is a matter for the IPCC alone to make on the balance of the evidence is assessed during the scoping review. The Home Secretary is currently considering the findings and will set out the Government's position in due course. Members noted.

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167/15 REPORTS, IF ANY, FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

- a) Town & Parish Council Liaison Group-Meeting – no meeting
- b) National Coal Mining Museum – Councillor C Tennant advised that the director Margaret Foulkes had decided to retire with immediate effect, a decision which allowed her to further a personal project.

168/15 JUDICIARY OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A letter has been received from Lorraine Jeffrey JP concerning the proposed closure of Wakefield and Pontefract Magistrates' Court a copy of which was attached to the agenda. Councillor M Isherwood asked for the Town Council to respond and highlight that the only Magistrates Court will be Leeds with these closures and she felt it does not give justice to people in the area and they will not be able to afford to undertake the travel. She urged individual members to object to the closures. Councillor C Tennant said that witness' are involved in a lengthy journey and it is appalling that they are required to do so he stated that Pontefract Court is in good condition and it should be re-opened. Members agreed.

169/15 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Date	FROM	COMMENTS
August & September	Newsletters' from Mark Burns-Williamson West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner	Noted
July	NCMM – Rugby League Heritage on Tour	Noted
7 th July	Yorkshire Air Ambulance letter to thank the Town Council for the table to raise funds £148.15 at the Gala.	Noted
9 th July	Embrace the Middle East newsletter	Noted
15 th September	NHS Wakefield CCG. Annual General Meeting at Pontefract Town Hall at 5.30pm	Noted
Any other correspondence received		

170/15 GALA 2015 BALLOON RACE.

The closure date of the Balloon Race was 1st September the prize winner will be announced at the Tea Dance on the 19th September.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

171/15 TO REPORT ON ANY RECOMMENDATION/S FROM THE ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6PM CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM DEPUTY TOWN CLERK AND ANY OTHER STAFFING MATTERS.

The following resolution was received from the Administration & Finance Committee. It was **RESOLVED:**

- a) Mrs V Symons be appointed Interim Deputy Town Clerk for 16 hours per week (which allows 4 hours per week for training purposes). At the end of four months the Council will reassess the hours and the appointment.
- b) In February the Council will then reassess the need for an Administration Assistant.
- c) The Town Clerk is to be offered 4 hours per week over the same period to train Mrs Symons.
- d) The Council will conduct a review on the 1st February 2016.
- e) Councillor M Isherwood to discuss with the Town Clerk as to how the hours are to be worked out.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.