

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE, ON WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2015 AT 7PM.

Present: Councillor K Hollis, Councillor G Isherwood, Councillor M Isherwood, Councillor R Martindale, Councillor D Stapleton, Councillor R Taylor, Councillor S Vickers (Deputy Mayor) and Councillor J Wright

In Attendance: Rev J Grosu, Sue Coles (Town Clerk), Mr P Needham and Ms J Ambrose, Mr M Waites and Mr D Vaux

195/15 WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Councillor C Tennant, Councillor M Tennant-King (Mayor).

196/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was 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. No questions were raised.

197/15 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

198/15 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

To consider, if thought fit, a resolution under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from items which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

199/15 NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM

Mr Phil Needham and Ms Jayne Ambrose were in attendance to inform Members about a creative project called the Featherstone Full English Fold Project 2015/16 involving Featherstone Schools, Wakefield Music Hub and the English Folk Dance and Song Society. The project is funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund. Ms Ambrose advised that the NCMM is looking at ways in which mining can be seen through folk songs and music and are using a musician to accompany the children when they visit the mine. Music is then further developed back at the schools. The NCMM are pleased that they are one of only three museums which are taking part nationally. The Coal Mining Folk Arts document was distributed to Members and Ms Ambrose was keen for Members to learn how the Council's funding is helping the schools. The music and literacy qualifications achieved through the project at Featherstone Academy will help the youngsters with their UCAS applications.

Councillor M Isherwood asked if the project would run only to next summer or into other school years and Mr Needham said it was hoped that the schools would expand it and it would go onto other levels.

Mr Phil Needham and Ms Jayne Ambrose were thanked for their attendance and a request was made for website links to be forwarded to the office in order that the Council could highlight the project through its website.

The Deputy Mayor asked that item 11 was moved forward on the agenda.

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200/15 SOUTH EAST LINK ROAD ACTION GROUP

A letter was attached to the agenda from Mr D Waites Chair of the South East Link Road Action Group (SELRAG) who attended the meeting with Mr Vaux to speak to Members concerning the campaign for a bypass at Ackworth which had been ongoing for 11 years. Over these years there had been a number of meetings some of which Councillors' G Isherwood and Taylor had attended. In 2014 WMDC indicated that there may be funding for a feasibility study but nothing further had come of this since officials and Members had changed due to cutbacks and elections. Mr Waites asked that Featherstone Town Council joins with them to put pressure on Wakefield Council to reconsider these plans. Leeds Council is receiving Government funding and also WMDC for transport issues. Mr Waites pointed out the success of the Green Lane Industrial Site project which has relieved traffic in Station Lane.

Members confirmed to Mr Waites and Mr Vaux that they were happy to support SELRAG in its campaign to seek a bypass for Ackworth.

201/15 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT

Members went to the Featherstone Literary Festival with the display boards for the Mill Pond Meadows Commemorative Project Stakeholder Consultation. During the day Councillor G Isherwood was introduced to the young people from Millennium House who had produced a book and took part in the festival by reading each page to the audience. He spoke to the tutor and asked if the Town Council can assist the group in any way. Councillor G Isherwood asked that the office supply a certificate of achievement and that the Mayor is asked to attend Millennium House to present it to them.

Councillor G Isherwood said that the Murder Mystery Tea Dance was brilliant although there were not many in attendance due to another popular event. The Christmas events were being planned and stressed that it was very important that all members helped in any way they could even if they were there just to welcome people to the event.

He further advised that the Remembrance Day Service Wreaths will be placed by The Mayor at the Memorial Garden, Councillor J Wright at the Miner's Memorial, the Deputy Mayor at Streethouse Memorial and Councillor G Isherwood at St Thomas Memorial.

202/15 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9th September at 7.00 pm., Minute numbers 150/15 to 171/15, be approved.

203/15 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee dated 9th September be accepted.

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204/15 QUESTIONS MAY BE PUT TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

None were raised.

205/15 MIN125/15 SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLANNING TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

An acknowledgement to the Town Clerk's letter has been received by WMDC but there has been no further response.

206/15 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

- a) WMDC Planning Applications and Decisions – Please see file for details
- b) Application at Park Lodge Farm, Park Lane, Pontefract. 15/01875/FUL for emergency standby electricity generation facility comprising: modern modular diesel generator units (up to 50 in total). This application had been missed by Members since it was submitted under Pontefract applications yet it was on the boundary of North Featherstone. Strong objections have been raised by Members' of WMDC and the Town Council
- c) Application at New Road, Featherstone, Pontefract. 15/02078/FUL for the construction and operation of a 20MW embedded Short Term Operating Reserve and Peak Power (STOR) generating plant and auxiliary equipment and access. Strong objections had been raised and submitted to Planning.
- d) Email from Messrs D & L Gouling concerning the closure of Yorkshire Bank and the resulting rundown building and others in Station Lane which are no longer in use and derelict. They ask whether any plans had been made for the shops and whether they are just going to be left. Councillor G Isherwood has been charged at WMDC with sorting out derelict land in Wakefield Area. He has asked other WMDC Councillors for a list of derelict land in their wards and discovered huge tracts of land which will be reported back to WMDC. He advised that there has to be a stick and carrot for developers with negotiation to clear these spaces. However derelict land is not empty shops and the Town Council can't do anything about these it is down to the owner and WMDC to take action.
- e) Ackworth Neighbourhood Area Application. Members had no objections.
- f) Any other planning matters received after the date of this agenda. None had been received.

207/15 CHRISTMAS TREE PROVISION

The Leader's Group met with Mr K Shaw from Plantscape with view to considering the hire of hanging basket Christmas trees over the festive period. The minutes given to the meeting contained an update in the cost of the trees after members discovered that 70 units would be better not the estimated 60 units in the discussions with Mr Shaw. The costs for 60 units (£56 each) for a one year contract and the costs for 70 in a fixed three year contract (£48 each) were the same at £3,360 therefore it was

RESOLVED: The Council is to order seventy (no. 70) basket trees at £48.00 each totalling £3,360 per year for a three year contract.

208/15 ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015.

The Annual Return has been signed by PKF Littlejohn LLP and no matters have been raised for the Council's attention. Members noted.

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209/15MILL POND MEADOWS COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT PUBLIC ART STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th October was circulated to Members with the recommendation from the Administration & Finance Committee. It was

RESOLVED:

- a. That £1,500 is allocated towards the Arts Council application for the purposes of matched funding.
- b. That a project group is formally formed with its own terms of reference.
- c. The Arts Council funding should be guaranteed however in the unlikely event the application fails that the Council is asked to guarantee the £6,000 in order that the Public Art Steering Group can proceed with the project.

210/15 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 Tennant was not present at the meeting.

211/15 REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE 2015

A letter of invitation and itinerary from The Royal British Legion for the service which takes place on Sunday 8th November 2015 was distributed to Members.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Date	FROM	COMMENTS
25 th Sept	Home Start AGM. Letter of thanks to the Mayor for her attendance.	Noted
Sept	Newsletter from Carers Wakefield	Noted
Oct	Newsletter from Mark Burns-Williamson West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.	Noted

212/15 Urgent matters for information only

The Deputy Mayor asked for an item on the Civic Chains' to be placed on the next agenda. He also advised Members that All Saints Junior School was 40 years old this year.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm