

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING of FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD TOWN HALL, FEATHERSTONE ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT 7.00 pm.**

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**Present:** Councillor K Hollis, Councillor G Isherwood, Councillor M Isherwood, Councillor A Laphish, Councillor R Martindale, Councillor R Taylor, Councillor C Tennant.

**In Attendance:** Sue Coles Town Clerk.

**303/16 WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

It was proposed by Councillor G Isherwood that due to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor being unable to attend the meeting that Councillor K Hollis chaired the meeting this was seconded by Councillor Wright and agreed by all. Councillor Hollis accepted and took the Chair, she received the apologies from The Mayor Councillor M Tennant-King and Councillor S Vickers. Rev J Grosu the Mayor's Chaplin was also unable to attend this evening.

**304/16 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.

**305/16 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were declared.

**306/16 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 MIN 321 which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

**307/16 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

It was

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm, Minute numbers 277/15 to 291/15 be held until the February Council meeting for the Mayor to sign.

**308/16 MAYOR'S REPORT**

No report was received.

**309/16 LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT**

Councillor G Isherwood advised that the small hanging basket Christmas trees where such a success that the Markets Chairman and the Town Clerk are to compile a list of all lampposts and numbers with a view to increasing the order in November.

The Christmas events were fabulous and there was standing room only at the Civic Carol Service despite the bad accidents at Wakefield which prevent some from attending. The Town Clerk was asked to send a letter to the schools to thank them for their support.

The large Christmas tree at North Featherstone was subject to vandalism four times and Wakefield were called to repair the lights. Also a small Christmas tree was taken down and it was found in a resident's garden. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting in order to find a way to stop this vandalism.

Councillor G Isherwood has suggested that this years Civic Service and Awards should be held at All Saints Church and the office were trying to contact Rev Grosu in order to confirm this.

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**310/16 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:**

- a) To receive the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Councillor M Isherwood asked for an alteration to MIN 269/15 to read ....*The Committee was assured by Councillor G Isherwood and Councillor M Isherwood who were hopeful that the application to WREN for £50,000 would be successful and confident that the money could be found from another source should the funding streams alter as the project progresses....*

It was

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes a) with the amendment above and the resolutions contained within them be received by the Council.

**311/16 QUESTIONS MAY BE PUT TO THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE/S**

No questions were raised.

**312/16 FEATHERSTONE IN BLOOM CONTRACT**

Members are asked to consider the **RECOMMENDATION** from the Markets and Featherstone in Bloom Committee held at 6pm this evening. It was

**RESOLVED:** That Plantscape be awarded the contract for 2016-18.

**313/16 NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY**

A casual vacancy exists in the office of Councillor for the Central Ward of Featherstone Town Council notices are to be displayed from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and a notice had been placed in the Pontefract and Castleford Express local news column. A further report will be made at the February meeting. Members noted.

**314/16 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS**

- a. WMDC Planning Applications and Decisions – were available at the meeting.
- b. No other planning matters were received.

**315/16 DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS 2016/17**

A list of dates and times of meetings was attached to the agenda for Members approval. Councillor M Isherwood asked that the Administration and Finance Committee is held before the Council meetings in future so that where they fall on the Thursday (next day) after the Council meeting they are held on the Thursday during the week before. It was

**RESOLVED:** That the dates and times is approved and the August meeting date be cancelled if there was no business to discuss.

**316/16 COUNCIL TAX 2016/17**

Details of the Council Tax Impact has been received which shows that there is an increase in the Tax Base figures due to the two new housing developments. This therefore suggests that the Precept Demand to Wakefield Council can be increased to support the Town Councils administration without having a negative impact on residents. Due to this being a substantial change in circumstances the Council may wish to reconsider **MIN 234/15**.

Councillor M Isherwood advised that the Town Clerk had discussed this matter with her and if the Council agreed to raise the Precept request it would have no increase to any of the residents but the Council will be better off. Councillor G Isherwood congratulated the Town Clerk for highlighting this.

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**316/16 COUNCIL TAX 2016/17 Cont'd...**

Councillor M Isherwood proposed and Councillor R Martindale seconded and it was

**RESOLVED:** That the Precept demand for 2016/17 is increased to £109,000.

**317/16 NATURALISATION OF GREENSPACE PROJECT**

Costings from WMDC have been received for the grounds maintenance for Priory play area, Purston Park, Lister Close for a total of 16 cuts each. The Tank Field is to be planted up with woodland as previously agreed. Councillor A Lapish asked about the grass at Green Lane and she was advised that it will be cut as last year. It was

**RESOLVED:** That the mowing costs for 2016/17 of £4,275.00 be approved.

**318/16 REPORTS, IF ANY, FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:**

- a) Town & Parish Council Liaison Group – none
- b) National Coal Mining Museum – Councillor C Tennant

Councillor Tennant advised that due to the closure of Kellingley Colliery the memorial to Miners who had had lost their lives at the pit had been moved to NCMM Caphouse Colliery for safety. Residents have not been entirely happy with this decision however the memorial will be properly maintained and looked after as a result.

**319/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

<b>Date</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Jan 2016	West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner	Newsletter
Jan 2016	West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner	'Have Your Say' on line consultation
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Email from Featherstone Rovers Foundation	To thank the Council for the grant and the super Christmas Light Switch On
January	Healthwatch Wakefield	Trustees wanted; applications by 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2016
December	Christmas Cards	The Town Council has received Christmas cards and these were viewed by Members.

**320/16 Urgent matters for information only**

None were received.

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**321/16 NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC AWARDS**

Nominations were made by Members and the awards will be made at the Civic Service which is to be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 during the Sunday service at All Saints Church.

The Meeting closed at 7.50pm.