

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, WILSON STREET COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM.**

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**Present:** Councillor K Hollis, Councillor G Isherwood, Councillor M Isherwood, Councillor D Stapleton, Councillor R Taylor, Councillor C Tennant, Councillor M Tennant-King (Mayor), Councillor S Vickers, Councillor J Wright.

**In Attendance:** Sue Coles (Town Clerk) and two residents.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Mayor Councillor S Vickers welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Councillor A Lapish, Councillor C Woodhead and Councillor M Tennant-King.

**2. MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING HELD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were approved and signed.

**3. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor Cllr Steve Vickers updated everyone on the events held this year for his fundraising and was very pleased with the amount raised for The National Autism Society the total will be announced at Mayor Making and a cheque will be presented to the representative. He announced the Mayor for 2017/18 will be Councillor M Isherwood and Deputy Mayor for 2017/18 will be Councillor C Woodhead.

The Annual Town Gala is getting better year on year as the Council strives to improve it even further. The organisation for 2017 was almost finished for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Swimming Gala was a huge success and once again the competition between the schools was intense.

There had been four Tea Dances which have served both as a social meeting place and an opportunity to raise funds for the Mayor's Charity.

A competition was held for all junior school children in Featherstone to design a birthday card for the Queen's 90th birthday. This was specially printed and presented to the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Yorkshire Mayor Stan Hardy who attended St Thomas School on the Queen's behalf to receive this. The winner was Jaycee McPhail from the school and at the Civic Carol Service she was presented with a book token from the Town Council and a letter from the Queen thanking her for her card.

There are three exciting projects currently being undertaken by the Council; the first is the leasing of the Community Centre from WMDC which would have been a lost resource for the town if WMDC had been allowed to continue with the closure. The second is The War Horse project which is attracting local, national, and international interest with the appointment of internationally acclaimed artists Cod Steaks, to design and produce a magnificent sculpture for the town. Local school children have already attended workshops with the artists this has been reported in the local press and our newsletter. The third project is for an 'APP' which is to be created for iPhone and Android phones which will guide residents and visitors to walk around the historic sites in Featherstone and listen to Mr Ian Clayton's narration.

He advised the meeting that the precept had been increased this year but that it had been kept to an absolute minimum of £0.25p per month for a Band A property and £0.37p per month for a Band D property. The increase will allow the Town Council to takeover and reopen the Community Centre for residents to use.

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The Council is pleased to continue its support for the National Coal Mining Museum and sponsors schools to take the children on trips to see the history of Featherstone.

The Mayor also asked for it to be placed on record his thanks to Sue and Vicky in the Council office who have supported the work done by the Councillors all year long. He would also like to place on record his thanks to all the Councillors serving this Town Council and their help through his year.

He reminded everyone that the Civic Service is to be held in the Methodist Chapel on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April where he will be presenting the Civic Awards.

**4. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's report was attached to the agenda and covered all the aspects of the last year.

**5. ACCOUNTS 2015/16 WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING.**

A copy of the audited accounts from 2015/16 was made available for everyone attending.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

Mrs Earnshaw of Victoria Street asked as to when Wakefield Council will finish the paths in the town and Councillor R Taylor advised that the new financial year has now started and the works will resume in June. When the works are finished the new HGV limit will come into force. Mrs Earnshaw also reported that the two anti-social motorbikes are being ridden very noisily around the town at high speed. Councillor G Isherwood said that this had been reported to the police.

**7. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.40pm