

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, VICTORIA STREET, FEATHERSTONE ON WEDNESDAY
8TH JULY 2026 AT 7.00PM.**

Present: Councillor P Belbin, Councillor S Haslam (Mayor), Councillor J Hutsby, Councillor M Isherwood, Councillor H Symons, Councillor C Tennant, Councillor M Tennant-King and Councillor S Vickers

In Attendance: Mrs. V Symons (Town Clerk), Leanne Murphy (Town Council Administrator) and one member of the public.

Prior to the meeting commencing a Mayor Says Thanks presentation was awarded to Ava, who had designed posters and arranged a litter pick at Purston Park.

56/26 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action	Actioned By
The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from members with their inability to attend were received and accepted from Councillor K Law, Councillor D Longley, Councillor P McIntosh and Councillor R Taylor.		

57/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	Action	Actioned By
The meeting is to be opened for the public to address Members on matters relevant to the business of the committee. However residents cannot take part in the main proceedings of the meeting, this is strictly limited to Councillors.		
No members of the public were in attendance.		

58/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Action	Actioned By
None were declared.		

59/26 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960	Action	Actioned By
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 any Agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.	There were no items of a confidential nature	

60/26 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Action	Actioned By
It was: RESOLVED: To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council MIN 56/26 to 78/26 held on the 10 th June 2026 and approve the contents contained therein.	To be placed on the Town Council website	LM

61/26 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS	Action	Actioned By
Since the last meeting the Mayor has opened the Wheelfest event in Pontefract, Little Bakes for their re-opening, Normanton Civic Service, Active Minds session at the		

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community centre, and Girnhill Lane Infants School to discuss various projects, one including a scarecrow festival. Upcoming events included attending Girnhill Lane Infants school fayre and Featherstone Male Voice Choir concert. The Mayor also attended The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract. The Mayor was given a tour of the premises and he was able to hand over the grant cheque from the Town Council. The Mayor also will be attending a meeting with Farmer Copley's and Featherstone Male Voice Choir to try to hold a join event for the Mayor's Charity. Further details will be available in due course.		
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62/26 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT	Action	Actioned By
To receive a verbal report from the District Councillors on any matters relating to the Town. No District Councillors were present, so no report was available. Councillor Vickers was extremely disappointed to not have members present. Councillor Vickers added that it was the perfect opportunity for the District Councillors to see how the Town Council works. Councillor Vickers asked if it would be possible to show members who are present on the Town Council website. The Clerk advised she would look into this. Councillor Tennant advised that they are representing the Town at District level and its disappointing that they aren't showing up. Councillor Isherwood added that if there are concerns that Town Councillors receive this would be the opportunity to relay them to the District Councillors.		
63/26 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES	Action	Actioned By
Councillor Vickers advised that he had responded to all casework received and there was only one outstanding which was received prior to the meeting. Councillor Tennant-King advised that she had received a complaint with regards to a crossing that is needed on		

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Ackworth Road near Purston Park. Councillor Tennant-King had advised that there had been meetings take place in the past however informed the residents to speak with the new District Councillors as there is nothing more that the Town Council can do. Councillor Vickers had raised the issue of road signs being covered by trees/bushes. Photos had been taken of this and emailed to District Councillor Womack. Councillor Tennant-King advised that the new sign placed on Wilson Street car park had caused concerns by residents and business owners. Councillor Tennant-King had already requested clarification on the current situation. Councillor Isherwood advised that the Town Council should also send in the photos so that all members are kept informed.		
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64/26 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE	Action	Actioned By
This item was deferred to the next meeting.	Place on next Council agenda	VS

65/26 PURSTON PARK GARDENS AND FOUNTAIN	Action	Actioned By
The Town Clerk had requested meeting with WMDC Officers to find out the current situation with regards to the fountain. This was sent on 20th June and no response had been received. The RESOLVED: That Councillor Vickers is Featherstone Town Council's Armed Forces Champion.		

66/26 FIBROMYALGIA GROUP	Action	Actioned By
Following on from the May meeting, Councillor P McIntosh requested that this item is placed on the agenda for members to discuss. A verbal report was made at the meeting by Councillor McIntosh. It was: RESOLVED: That Councillor McIntosh set up her own group with a constitution and bank account.		

67/26 SCHEME OF DELEGATION	Action	Actioned By
The Town Council were asked to review the terms of reference document attached to the Agenda. It was:	To be placed on the Town Council website	LM/VS

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RESOLVED: That members reviewed and accept the Scheme of Delegation including Committee Terms of Reference.		
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68/26 FRIENDS OF PURSTON PARK AND FOUNTAIN	Action	Actioned By
Following on from the May meeting the Town Clerk had received correspondence from WMDC advising that they are in no position to take over the maintenance of the fountain, they have no funding available for this. Councillor Vickers advised that the previous District Councillors contributed greatly to the fountain and in summer it is a meeting place for a lot of residents. Councillor Vickers suggested that the fountain and the maintenance is taken to the Pride in Place board for the upkeep and maintenance over the next 10 years. The fountain is well liked in the Town and is good for people's mental health. This would be a quick win for the Pride in Place committee. The Town Clerk advised that there is still no resolve in regards to the water and electric situation. Councillor Haslam advised that the Pride in Place board could explore more sustainable ways of working the fountain. It was: RESOLVED: That Councillor Symons brings this up at the next Pride in Place meeting and reports back to the Town Council.	Councillor Symons to request that Pride in Place look into the possibility of maintaining the fountain.	HS

69/26 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES	Action	Actioned By
To consider the establishment of regular Town Council surgeries to provide residents with an opportunity to raise issues, seek advice and engage with Town Councillors. A number of Town Councillors have expressed an interest in holding informal surgeries within the community. While such engagement can be beneficial, it is important that any arrangements are formally agreed by the Town Council to ensure consistency, transparency and appropriate governance. Please find attached a draft Surgery Protocol and risk assessment. It was: RESOLVED That the Town Council approves the principle of holding Town Council surgeries for residents and attached protocol. Agree the format, frequency and locations of such surgeries and risk assessment. The locations and times are as follows: Wednesday – All Saints Church 10.00am – 11.15am		

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Thursday – Methodist Church 10.00am – 11.15am Saturday – Featherstone Library – 10.00am – 11.30am.		
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70/26 VEXATIOUS POLICY	Action	Actioned By
To review and approve the Town Council's Habitual/Vexatious Complaints Policy. Changes/amendments can be made at the meeting. Councillor Belbin advised that he had read through the policy and felt that this was something that the Town Council should have in place. It was RESOLVED: That the policy is approved by members at the meeting.	To be placed on the Town Council website.	LM/VS

71/26 COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCESS	Action	Actioned By
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The Town Clerk has sought advice from the Yorkshire Local Council Association (YLCA) in relation to access to Featherstone Community Centre. This was attached to the agenda. It was requested that on the next community centre agenda the application form is placed for review.		

72/26 PRIDE IN PLACE	Action	Actioned By
Unfortunately Councillor Symons had submitted his apologies for the meeting this evening however he had sent a written report which was read out to members. The next meeting will take place on Friday 12 th June.		

73/26 SCULPTURE WALL	Action	Actioned By
Unfortunately there was no further update available at the meeting		

74/26 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS	Action	Actioned By

APPLICATION NUMBER	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	WMDC DECISION (if applicable)
26/00430/FUL	43 Meadway, Streethouse	Part demolition of existing ground floor and construction of two storey side extension	Approved
26/00486/FUL	23 Wentbridge Road	Detached garden outbuilding	
26/00770/FUL	Rosemount, Ackton Lane	Removal of existing conservatory single storey extensions to side (western and	

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		eastern elevation) extension of existing dormer to rear.	
26/00776/AGR	Ravensknowle Farm, Pontefract Road	An agricultural building	
26/00772/FUL	Rosemount, Ackton Lane	Change of use of commercial out building to residential annex in connection with existing dwelling with external alternations	
26/00271/FUL	1 Newlove Close	Proposed single storey extensions to front and side	Approved
26/00455/CPL	5 Eastbourne Avenue	Proposed rear dormer and external fenestration alterations and alterations to existing soil vent pipe.	Approved

b) ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE OF THIS AGENDA

c) LICENSING MATTERS (IF ANY)

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75/26 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED There had been no items of correspondence.	Action	Actioned By
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76/26 URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION NO DECISIONS CAN BE MADE	Action	Actioned By
Councillor Vickers asked members to note that there had a pyramid ring found underneath a church bench. It seems that there is an increase use of these. Councillor Vickers would be raising this at the next PACT meeting to ensure that the Police are aware. Councillor Longley asked if the Town Council could consider looking into the Armed Forces Covenant Bronze Award Scheme. This is entry-level tier of the UK government's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) – This would be placed as a future agenda item.		

77/26 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS TO BE ADVISED TO THE CLERK	Action	Actioned By
None		

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL		

78/26 CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETINGS	Action	Actioned By
The next meetings of the Town Council will be as follows: Admin & Finance – Wednesday 8 th July 20256at 6.00pm Community Centre Management Committee – Wednesday 8 th July to follow Admin & Finance		

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Full Council – Wednesday 8 th July at 7.00pm		
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Closure: 8.10pm