**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORMANTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Tuesday 12th April 2016**

**Present:** Councillor D Appleyard

Councillor Mrs E Blezard

Councillor J Botterill

Councillor G Croft

Councillor J Farrar

Councillor J Hepworth

Councillor S Hudson

Councillor F D Jones – Mayor

Councillor Mrs H W Jones

Councillor B Mayne

Councillor Mrs P Mayne

Councillor Mrs A Moran

Councillor R Seal

Councillor A Wassell

Councillor K Wilson

**Public:** Inspector Geoff Carter – Normanton NPT

**187. Welcome & Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Member’s apologies for their inability to attend were recorded in the apology book.

The Mayors Chaplin led the Council in prayers.

**188. Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor reported that he would be attending the following events in the coming month:

17th April Civic Service at Featherstone

19th April Presentation of Commerative Pens

21st April Mayor at Home – Wakefield

21st April Queens 90th Birthday Event

24th April St Georges Day Parade – Morley

27th April Small Grants Presentation Evening

29th April Mayor at Home

29th April Fundraiser at Haven Lodge Care Home

5th May Mayor’s Presentation Night

The Mayor put forward his final comments at the end of his fifth term as Mayor of Normanton

“Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way from selling tickets to washing up.

Thank you to those who have served as Mayoress.

Thanks to Donna, Louise and Carley for their support and to Reverend Alan Murray for his work as Mayor’s Chaplain.”

**189. Members Declarations of Interest**

Members were reminded of the requirement to make an appropriate declaration at the meeting on any item in which they had an interest in accordance with the code of conduct.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor A Wassell

Non Pecuniary Interest – Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor Mrs E Blezard

Non Pecuniary Interest – Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

**190. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

There were no items of a confidential nature from which the public and press were required to be excluded.

**191. Members of the Public.**

There were no members of the public present who wished to ask questions.

**192. Normanton NPT**

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Geoff Carter of the Normanton NPT. Inspector Geoff Carter explained that he covered the eastern side of the district which included Normanton.

Inspector Carter joined the police in 1990 and he has seen significant changes during that time. In Normanton the local police station had been closed and replaced by a new Divisional HQ between Normanton and Featherstone.

The Wakefield District was one of the first to benefit from Neighbourhood Policing. This arose from funding made available following the closure of the mines. Policing was then revamped by Sir Norman Bettison to be more neighbourhood driven.

In recent years, money has been taken out of policing by the government cuts. Neighbourhood policing remains a core function and the service is still evolving to meet the cuts.

The main changes have been at senior level with a reduction in the number of inspectors and sergeants.

There are currently 4 PCs and 7 PCSOs covering Normanton and Featherstone. They are supported by 24/7 cover from Response Officers.

Inspector Carter was confident that the police can deliver what is required even though they are still evolving.

The Normanton NPT is performing well and is lower in crime than in other areas.

Officers are getting out into the community to connect with people in their own area. This is done through street PACTS.

It was reported that reports of Anti-Social Behaviour are down 23% although complaints about off road bikers have increased.

Police confidence (perception) is down but satisfaction is above 90% which indicates that people are generally happy with the service when the police have been needed.

Crime Statistics (1-12 April 2016)

18 Crimes Recorded

2 Burglary Dwelling (Down 9)

5 Non-Domestic Burglary (Featherstone Allotments)

5 Shoplifting (Up 2)

5 Theft from Motor Vehicle

1 Theft of Motor Vehicle

The main issues being dealt with by the NPT are Anti-Social Behaviour, Neighbour Issues and Drug Dealing.

Councillor J Farrar asked if Anti-Social Behaviour stats were down because the police won’t venture to areas where the problems are happening. Inspector Carter reported that calls to Service were down therefore the public were not complaining about anti-social behaviour. If there were problems in a particular area, the police could look at working with youth teams rather than a strong police presence which may have a better effect.

Councillor Mrs H W Jones expressed concern about cars using the park for drug dealing. Inspector Carter said that it could be innocent but that he would look into it.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Carter for attending and for his interesting presentation.

**193. Minutes of Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 (Minute Numbers 169-186; Pages 58-64) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs P Mayne / Seconded by Councillor Mrs A Moran)

Subject to amendment at item 171 – Declaration of Interest by Councillor F D Jones, Member of NASCA, Non-Pecuniary.

**194. Minutes of Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 9th March 2016 (Minute Numbers 116-127; Pages 64-69) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs E Blezard / Seconded by Councillor Mrs H W Jones)

**195. Minutes of Consultative Group**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Consultative Group held on Thursday 10th March 2016 (Minute Numbers 43-47; Pages 44-50) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs H W Jones / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P Mayne)

Members commented that it was an excellent presentation on a wide reaching service.

**196. Minutes of Property Management Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a Meeting of the Property management Committee held on Wednesday 16th March 2016 (Minute Numbers 9-17; Pages 4-6) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs E Blezard / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P Mayne)

**197. Minutes of Staffing Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 30th March 2016 (Minute Numbers 19-26; Pages 17-18) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor A Wassell / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P Mayne)

**198. Minutes of Special Projects Committee**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**199. Community Infrastructure Levy Update**

A briefing on CIL was circulated at a recent Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting.

Normanton is in the middle of a 3 tier system and is rated at £20/m2 for residential developments.

Normanton Town Council will be eligible for 15-25% of income generated under CIL from 1st April 2016 for local priorities.

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

**200. Market Service Level Agreement**

A draft of the Market Service Level Agreement was circulated with some alterations suggested to WMDC.

Subject to the amendments identified, members were happy to proceed.

RESOLVED that the Leaders Group be authorised to sign the Service Level Agreement on behalf of the Town Council.

**201. Mini Mayor Policy**

This item was deferred to a future meeting for further consideration.

**202. Proposal to Close Small Pharmacies**

It was reported that there was to be cuts in Government Funding to small pharmacies which may put some at risk of closure.

A petition was being circulated in local pharmacies.

RESOLVED that the report be received and that members be urged to sign the petition.

**203. Correspondence**

Chris Saddler – Haw Hill Park

RESOLVED that a letter of support be sent to Chris Saddler to be used for funding bids at Haw Hill Park.

Kevin Fisher – Defibrillator

An email was received from Kevin Fisher of WMDC Property Services offering to pay for the installation of an electricity supply for the defibrillator.

RESOLVED that the email be received.

**204. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Butterflies Children’s Centre

A new co-ordinator has been appointed – Sam Palmer

Freeston Foundation

A new Head Teacher has been appointed – Mike Tarr

Butterflies Parents Forum

The group Offered thanks to the Mayor for attending the recent Easter Egg Hunt. 160 people attended and £169 was raised.

Councillor J Farrar thanked the Councillors who gave personal donations for her visit to the refugees in Calais.

Meet ‘n’ Eats Diner – Minutes 21st March 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes be received and the contents noted.

**205. Planning**

Planning lists were circulated as follows – No objections were received.

Validated Applications

8th March 2016

21st March 2016

29th March 2016

Planning Decisions

22nd February – 4th March 2016

21st March 2016

21st – 25th March 2016

**206. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £15,813.69 be approved for payment.

In the absence of any further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.