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

**Held on Tuesday 10th October 2017 at 6:30pm at Normanton Town Hall**

**Present:** Councillor G. Croft

Councillor Miss J. Farrar

Councillor J. Hepworth

Councillor F.D. Jones

Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones

Councillor Mrs L. Masterman

Councillor B. Mayne

Councillor Mrs P. Mayne

Councillor Mrs A. Moran

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM

Councillor E Moran

Councillor R. Seal

Councillor B. Smith

Councillor Mrs M. Vickers

Councillor A. Wassell

Councillor K. Wilson, JP

**Members of the Public:** Paul Dainton

Joyce Dainton

Irene Vezina

John Churms

Maureen Froggett

Michael Froggett

Daniel South

Mary Iveson

**90. Welcome and Apologies**

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Denton Jones, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members apologies for their inability to attend were recorded in the apology book.

**91. Mayors Announcements**

The Deputy Mayor reported on the Mayoral Engagements for the coming month:

Mayor

9th - 20th October Local Democracy Visits

21st October Afternoon tea and cocktails at South Kirkby Town Council

24th October Mayor of Normanton’s ‘Meet the Mayor’ event

27th October Normanton Town Council Halloween event

3rd November 60’s/Motown charity night at Doncaster

12th November Normanton Town Council Remembrance Sunday

Deputy Mayor

9th - 20th October Local Democracy Visits

11th October Prize Presentation Evening at Freeston Academy

18th October Funeral

27th October Normanton Town Council Halloween event

5th November Annual Festival of Remembrance at Nostell Priory

12th November Normanton Town Council Remembrance Sunday

The Deputy Mayor thanked members of the council for their flowers, cards and kind words following the death of his daughter Susan.

The Mayor’s Chaplain, Reverend Alan Murray, led the Council in prayer.

**92. 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 J. Hepworth

Non-pecuniary Interest - Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

Councillor A. Wassell

Non-pecuniary Interest - Planning

Member of the WMDC Planning Committee

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

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

**94. Members of the Public**

Mr Michael Froggett expressed concern about the lack of signage for Normanton and Altofts on the new Wakefield Eastern Relief Road. It was suggested that this should be taken up with the Highways Department at WMDC.

**95. HS2**

David Griffiths-Allen and Tom Mothersole were in attendance from HS2 Ltd. David and Tom were part of the HS2 engagement team for the L4 Area which covers Hell Lane to Church Fenton. It was reported that in July 2017 the government announced the preferred route for HS2 which had not changed significantly in this area since the first announcement in 2007. HS2 will now take forward the plans to the design stage to present to Parliament. The aim now is to work with communities to develop the route and refine the design. HS1 received Royal Assent in 2017 and this took seven years. It is anticipated that it will take at least five further years until Royal Assent is received for HS2. Once Royal Assent is received it will take a further year or so of design and enabling works to ensure that utilities and highways etc. are ready for the build. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2024 with a view to the lines being open in 2033.

At the moment, HS2 are preparing for a hybrid design bid. The HS2 team is currently split into three focuses:

1. Engineering

Looks at respecting existing infrastructure and rights of way, and also considers new structures that may be needed along the route.

1. Environment

Considers air-quality, ecology, biodiversity and noise.

1. Engagement

Works with the other two focuses and brings local communities together, building relationships with HS2.

HS2 would like to establish how the Town Council would like to engage moving forward, if we would like regular written bulletins or for them to attend future meetings. Members felt that regular written updates would be useful but this should supplement attending meetings.

The floor was then opened to members of the Town Council and members of the public to ask questions of the HS2 representatives.

Questions from Town Councillors:

**Q.** How would someone from Normanton board the new trains? With the previous HS2 route, High Speed trains could be accessed by train and car at Meadowhall station, it will now take significantly longer to reach the centre of Sheffield and there had therefore been no improvement in journey times for our area.

**A.** It was reported that HS2 were working with Network Rail to improve connectivity in the local area and they would come back to us with the exact time savings that were anticipated.

**Q.** How long would it take to get from Leeds to London?

**A.** It was reported that this would be approximately one hour and 15 minutes, and it was accepted that there would be additional journey time to travel to Leeds or Sheffield. HS2 acknowledged that there will always be some communities that don’t benefit entirely.

**Q.** Will existing services from Westgate be affected?

**A.** It was reported that the classic rail network was the responsibility of Network Rail. There will be changes to timetables but they are working on this together and it is not their aim to reduce services.

**Q.** What is HS2 doing about bringing businesses to the north? There was a lot of statistics about getting to London quicker but nothing mentioned about improving the northern economy.

**A.** It was reported that Birmingham had seen some regeneration following the proposals for the High-Speed lines.

**Q.** Members reminded HS2 representatives that we are not Leeds and we will not have a HS2 station. How will HS2 benefit our area? We have already suffered seven years of blight on property prices due to the threat of HS2 and this will continue for at least a further five years. What is needed locally is East to West connectivity, not North to South. Members expressed concern about the lack of connectivity on the East-West corridor with airports at either end of the route that cannot be accessed by public transport.

**A.** HS2 reported that they were working with Highways England and the Northern Powerhouse who have agreed that the M62 is a key corridor. HS2 is a catalyst for change in jobs and the economy.

Comments from Stop HS2 Altofts and local residents:

The consultation process had been carried out in hotels outside of our area, making money for the consultants with each consultation day costing over £10,000. When members attended consultation events HS2 staff refused to accept their arguments, refused to take back comments to HS2 and refused to accept consultation forms. It was felt that the consultation events were really an information event and no form of consultation was involved.

Of the 10,000 consultation forms that have been handed in, no feedback or response has been provided.

The recent footpath survey that was undertaken in Altofts was not undertaken correctly, and of the four points surveyed only one was on an actual footpath, the others were on private roads, farmyards and at the side of the cornfield. The maps provided were taken from aerial photographs and not definitive maps.

It was reported that the Crofton to Leeds section of the HS2 line contained 11 old pits. One field had a disused mine underneath it and this was close to where HS2 crosses the Calder across three bends. No one has provided answers on the visual blight HS2 are creating in this area. HS2 were asked if a tunnel under the M62 from Kirkthorpe could be provided rather than the massive bridge that had been proposed.

Many historic sites and historic boundaries will be affected by HS2 lines. It was suggested that electrification of the lines, improved rolling stock and improved East to West connectivity were more important than North to South connectivity. It was reported that we cannot even get to Featherstone from Normanton, which is our neighbouring town.

HS2 responded by saying they were sorry to hear these concerns and offered their apologies. There were some things raised in these points that should not have happened, although HS2 staff had been instructed not to take open feedback from consultations and that any feedback needs to be properly recorded and sent directly to HS2 Ltd. It was reported that some of the consultations had been booked in hotels due to last-minute changes to arrangements.

The footpath surveys would be redone if they had in fact been carried out in the wrong places and HS2 would look into this and provide a response back. HS2 have been working closely with the Leeds Access Forum and outlined promises regarding rights-of-way and will continue to have these conversations about footpaths in our area. They were currently preparing an environmental impact assessment which would take into account a wide range of environmental issues.

It was reported that the £56 million build costs did not even include rolling stock and clarification was sought on these figures.

There was concern regarding the width of the track, as previous answers had ranged from 16m to 19m plus fencing but no accurate width had been given which included fencing.

HS2 officers said that they would confirm this information, but they understood it to be 22m including fencing.

Members previously asked how many carriages would be on each train?

It was reported that the length of the carriages varied greatly to the ones that we see in service currently but that the trains would be approximately 400m in length.

There was serious concern about the exhumation of bodies buried under the route of HS2. There were a number of high profile people buried who may need to be exhumed and reburied. It was reported that there were heritage and archaeology teams working with HS2 and that any historical or Roman remains and artefacts would be displayed locally.

By the time HS2 opens in 2033, there is a risk that the technology would be behind the rest of the world.

It was reported that an innovation team will be looking at this and that the intention was to be a step beyond what is available in Europe at the time of opening. There would also be reports available on energy consumption and carbon footprint.

The Stop HS2 group summarised by saying we do not want HS2 in our area, we would like to see improvements to the existing infrastructure and improved East to West connectivity.

The Deputy Mayor thanked everyone for their comments and attendance and it was agreed that the contact details for the HS2 officers would be shared amongst those who attended.

**96. Minutes of the Council Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of Normanton Town Council held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 (Minute Numbers 74-89; Pages 19-23) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne)

**97. Minutes of the Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 6th September 2017 (Minute Numbers 40-51; Pages 19-23) 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)

**98. Minutes of the Property Management Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Property Management Committee held on Tuesday 19th September 2017 (Minute Numbers 11-18; Pages 7-9) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM / Seconded by Councillor Mrs H.W. Jones)

**99. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 (Minute Numbers 17-25; Pages 7-9) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

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

**100. Minutes of the Staffing Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 27th September 2017 (Minute Numbers 11-18; Pages 4-5) be received as a true record and the contents contained therein be approved.

(Proposed by Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM / Seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Mayne)

**101. Minutes of the Special Projects Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on Wednesday 4th October 2017 (Minute Numbers 52-62; Pages 22-28) 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)

**102. Correspondence**

1. Bryan Fraser

A request had been received from Bryan Fraser to consider relocating archive materials to the Town Council. This was deferred to a future meeting, pending further information on the materials that were to be relocated.

1. KOYLI Memorial

KOYLI Memorial Update - Photographs of the memorial were circulated to members.

1. Councillor Mrs E. Blezard

A Thank You card was read out from Councillor Mrs E. Blezard following her recent illness, which thanked members for their kind thoughts and well wishes during her illness.

**103. External Audit**

The Town Clerk reported that the external audit had been received from Littlejohn and there were no matters giving cause for concern and no matters affecting their opinion which were drawn to the attention of the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the report of the external audit to be received and the contents noted.

**104. Reports from External Organisations**

1. Meet ‘N’ Eats Diner

The minutes of the meeting of the Meet ‘N’ Eats Diner held on 13th September were not enclosed and therefore deferred to a future meeting.

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM reported that everything with the Meet ‘N’ Eats Diner was going very well.

**105. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Councillor K. Wilson, JP reported that the Freeston Academy had recently lost the sponsorship of the Wakefield City Academies Trust but the Governors were reassured that things would continue as normal.

Councillor Miss J. Farrar expressed concern about the failures of Wakefield City Academies Trust. Councillor Miss J. Farrar reported that she had attended a public meeting in Hemsworth recently and was appalled by the information that was circulated about Wakefield City Academies Trust and she felt that parents needed more of a voice and that the Freeston staff had been silenced. The unions and parents felt that schools should go back to local authority control.

Councillor Mrs C. Moran, BEM reported that a public meeting would be organised with Yvette Cooper, MP so that further information could be obtained regarding the situation with the Trust.

**106. Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for payment totalling £6,003.79 be approved for payment.

**107. Planning**

The following planning list was circulated to members:

Validated Applications Planning Decisions

2 October 2017 29 September 2017

18 September 2017 15 September 2017

5 September 2017 1 September 2017

9 September 2017

RESOLVED that the planning applications be received and no objections be raised.

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