



NORMANTON TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2016/17

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Mayor of Normanton's Overview

Councillor David Appleyard

It has been a year since I began a wonderful journey as Mayor of Normanton with my wife Carol who has supported me as Mayoress. It has been an incredible journey visiting breath-taking places and meeting some brilliant people. There are so many highlights that we will remember.

We attended Halifax Minster on Yorkshire Day in August 2016 and there was a great feeling of pride from being part of the parade and from the magnificence of Mayors from all corners of Yorkshire. We were welcomed into the minster by representatives of the Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu and Jewish faiths, all declaring not only their Britishness, but also their pride in being Yorkshiremen. This was just the beginning of a never to be forgotten day.

The Service of Remembrance held in Wakefield Cathedral in November proved to be a very memorable and emotive highlight. During the Service, each member of the congregation was invited to place a lighted candle beside the altar. When the final candle had been placed, the Cathedral lights were extinguished and silence descended. It proved a very emotional moment to remember the fallen.

In July, it was my first opportunity to attend the Party @ Haw Hill Park. I was very impressed with the professionalism, not just by the artists, but also the organisation, security and smooth running of the event. The number of people attending was astonishing and thankfully the weather was very kind.

Gala Day was a great success as always, with people lining the route from Altofts to Haw Hill Park. The Mayor and Mayoress of Keighley fully embraced the day, greeting and talking to people along the route and throughout the day in Haw Hill Park. He was very upset when his transport arrived to return home.

The Christmas lights Switch On was the success we have become to expect. The number of people waiting to enter Santa's Grotto was staggering and with the arrival of Santa and his sleigh, it really felt that Christmas was almost upon us. It was also with pleasure and pride that I was able to entertain and promote the Town Council to our visiting Civic leaders.

Those events will always be remembered fondly by the Mayoress and myself.

During the year, I was fortunate to visit many local schools, care homes and organisations which allowed us to meet and witness amazing people doing amazing things. It was wonderful to reminisce with residents in the care homes, listening to stories told of long ago about people and life in Normanton and Altofts.

The schools of Normanton and Altofts were a joy to visit, especially at Christmas. The Nativity plays were wonderful and enthralling. The innocence of the Angels, Shepherds, Kings and animals, even the children waving to their parents and forgetting their words really portrayed the message and meaning of Christmas to all present.

The Easter Egg Competition prize giving proved to be more hands on. Little did I realise we were expected to know the words and actions to the "Chicken Song". Being the Grandmother of seven grandchildren, the Mayoress, with a look of glee, quickly sprang into action whilst I was aimlessly waving my arms around and miming. Whichever school was visited I was always astounded by the pride and dedication shown by all the staff.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that almost £5,000 has been raised for the Mayor's Charity Fund which will support the Yorkshire Air Ambulance as well as local good causes.

I must give my sincere thanks to the tremendous work of a small group of people from Normanton and Altofts, not forgetting my wife Carol who has worked tirelessly.

Firstly, I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to my charity appeal in any way, whether that is buying raffle tickets, attending events or making donations. I would particularly like to thank the Elders Association of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for their very generous donation to the Charity Fund.

Also, a huge "thank you" to Donna, Louise, Helen and Carley for making our year as Mayor and Mayoress of Normanton so unforgettable.

I wish to thank my fellow councillors for giving me the opportunity to have had such an astonishing year.

And finally, to Councillor Steven Hudson - I wish you and your Mayoress Leigh every success for the coming year.

The Work of the Town Council

Mrs Donna Johnston MILCM, Town Clerk & RFO

During the last twelve months the Town Council has continued to provide a high standard of events for the people of Normanton and Altofts. All of these events are provided free of charge and give families an opportunity to enjoy activities in their own area. This year we have further developed our events to ensure that they continue to be relevant and attract a family audience.

Events in the last year include:

Commonwealth Day; Party @ Haw Hill Park; Normanton Gala and Gala Sunday, including free funfair for children with special needs, bowls competition and Talk and Slide Show; Horticultural Show; Halloween in Normanton; Christmas Lights Switch On; Children's Christmas Party; Schools Carol Service; Christmas Celebration with Normanton Lions and Churches Together.

In addition to these events, we also held a number of Civic events including Civic Sunday and Remembrance Sunday.

We have continued to work closely with local Schools, and provide them with an opportunity to learn about the Town Council by offering visits to the Town Council Offices. The Schools visits in 2016 were supplemented with a presentation which highlighted the history of the Town Council as well as the services that are provided.

Our Committees have continued to work hard throughout the year in line with their Terms of reference.

We have continued to work with Wakefield MDC to promote Normanton Market to make it an attractive place to shop and have organised several Second-Hand Markets which have been very successful and which will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Town Council has provided support to residents in many ways including assisting with complaints about toilets, dog fouling and litter. We have shared these concerns with the District Council and achieved success in many cases. The Town Council continues to refer residents to the Food Bank which offers food and support to people in crisis.

We were lucky in 2016 to receive visitors from Canada. Former Normanton residents Mr & Mrs Foley travelled to the UK to York to visit family and contacted the Town Council as they wanted to visit and learn more about Normanton since they left in the 1960s. Mr & Mrs Foley were treated to tea and cakes with the Mayor and presented with a small gift bag of Normanton memorabilia to take back to their family in Canada. The Woodhouse Community Centre continues to provide attractive accommodation which has recently been

redecorated. The Meet 'n' Eats Diner which was created in partnership with The Well Project continues to thrive and now serves over 60 people per week and is completely free.

The Town Council organised a 'Sloppy Slipper' event at the Woodhouse Community Centre in partnership with Normanton Home Safety Committee. The event was supported by many local organisations and was well supported by the community who were able to attend and get a new pair of slippers with the aim of reducing slips and trips in the home.

The Town Council has sought to support the views of residents by lodging a further objection to HS2 which proposes to blight our area and surrounding villages. The Town Council is firmly of the opinion that HS2 is not required and the funds should be invested into developing the existing rail infrastructure.

We have continued to support Community Groups by providing over £5,000 in funding through the Small Grants Scheme and Youth Activity Fund. These grants provide much needed funding to small community groups in our area who do a wonderful job on a voluntary basis. Thanks should also be recorded to Arif Ahmad from the Amadiyya Muslim Association who provided £500 will also be invested locally as part of the Mayors Charity Fund.

During 2016/17 we have been in discussions with Wakefield MDC over the transfer of Normanton Town Hall. We see the Town Hall as an asset for the community and would like to see it protected for the future. We also see the Town Hall as a hub for information which the public should be able to access and make use of.

For that reason, we have chosen to increase the precept for 2017/18 to pay for the improvements required to bring the building up to modern standards. The precept increase may seem a lot in percentage terms but in reality, it is only an increase of £7.64 per year on a band D property which is 15p per week.

We hope that the public will benefit from the building being restored and accessible and are keen to get started on the project.

The Mayor has worked throughout the year to raise the profile of Normanton throughout the District and

beyond. The Mayor has raised over £4,500 for his charity Fund which will support the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and local good causes. My best wishes to Councillor David Appleyard as he takes some well earned rest and to Councillor Steven Hudson who will take over as Mayor and Councillor Denton Jones who will be Deputy Mayor in 2017/18.

Normanton Town Council YEAR END 2016/17

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2017

31st March 2016

31st March 2017

Operating Income

208,193	Administration	215,342
0	Town Hall	0
0	Civic	0
3,086	Grants & Donations	0
3,587	Woodhouse Community Centre	5,859
1,665	Services	1,206
6,851	Special Projects	5,544
0	Allotments - General	0
425	Allotments - Cypress Road	524
200	Allotments - Edward Street	200
1,825	Allotments - Ellins Terrace	1,893
30	Allotments - Gilcar Street	60
1,110	Allotments - Gladstone Street	1,150
815	Allotments - Heys Buildings	1,019
680	Allotments - Newland Lane	769
440	Allotments - Norwood Street	565
25	Allotments - The Grove	25
1,562	Allotments - Wentworth Terrace	1,629
230,494	Total Income	235,784

Running Costs

0		0
97,062	Administration	109,421
16,276	Town Hall	19,244
5,060	Civic	4,812
8,428	Grants & Donations	9,104
9,107	Advertising & Promotions	8,589
7,729	Woodhouse Community Centre	14,059
2,230	Services	2,488
54,684	Special Projects	51,059
314	Allotments - General	300
323	Allotments - Cypress Road	335
2,428	Allotments - Ellins Terrace	2,633
0	Allotments - Gilcar Street	0
393	Allotments - Gladstone Street	2,190
309	Allotments - Heys Buildings	3,064
210	Allotments - Newland Lane	311
251	Allotments - Norwood Street	5,115
0	Allotments - The Grove	91
4,883	Allotments - Wentworth Terrace	2,114
209,686	Total Expenditure	234,930

General Fund Analysis

162,412	Opening Balance	183,219
230,494	Plus : Income for Year	235,784
392,905		419,003
209,686	Less : Expenditure for Year	234,930
183,219		184,074
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	0
183,219	Closing Balance	184,074

CITY OF WAKEFIELD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH BUDGET STATEMENT - NORMANTON

ESTIMATES 2017/18

	£ p
<u>Expenditure</u>	
1) Cemeteries & Crematoriums	0
2) Sport & Recreation	0
3) Parks & Open Spaces	1,400
4) Allotments	12,220
5) Community Centres & Village Halls	8,745
6) Libraries	0
7) Markets	500
8) Administration	33,980
9) Salaries & Wages	92,792
10) Contribution to Reserves	
11) Other (Please State)	
Town Hall	61,209
Events and Floral Displays	63,550
Grants and Donations	9,100
Promotion and Communication	9,700
Elections and Civic Expenses	6,720

Total Expenditure	299,916
<u>Income</u>	
1) Fees and Charges	17,060
2) Contribution from Reserves	17,856
3) Other (Please State)	
Total Income	34,916
TOTAL PRECEPT (Expenditure - Income)	265,000



CONTACT DETAILS

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Town Clerk & RFO

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