

WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016

PRESENT: Cllr H Chapman (Mayor) Mr B Ware
Cllr Kanabar Mrs S Clayton
Cllr N Harrington Mr K Ward
Cllr K Knight Mr I Leadley
Cllr N O'Byrne Mr I Mokes
Cllr D Frame Mrs I McLaughlin
Cllr V Hawkins Mr & Mrs S & B Clements
Cllr G Moss Mrs A Taylor
Cllr G Wilkinson Mr & Mrs N & J Staples
Cllr A Lamb Mr P Kirby
Cllr J Maltby
Cllr J Procter
Cllr J Trower

In Attendance: Barbara Ball (Town Clerk)
Margaret Holmes (Deputy Town Clerk)
Sally Brown (Admin. Assistant)

Cllr Harry Chapman, the Town Mayor, welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Bentley and Mr R Taylor sent their apologies. These were accepted.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 May 2015.

The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting were agreed as correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Old Station Car Park Lighting

Cllr Wilkinson told the meeting that the CCTV cameras were due to be installed in 12 weeks time.

4. REVIEW OF 2015/6

Cllr Chapman reviewed the past year in Wetherby. A copy of this review was available for all attendees at the meeting and will be attached to the minutes.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A local resident expressed concern about the number of cars solidly parking down one side of York Road even blocking entrances to businesses. The resident thought that the yellow lines that had been put on Audby Lane had just moved the problem to York Road. Cllr Lamb said that parking was an

ongoing issue in Wetherby, changes kept being made as things moved on. The police should be asked if there is anything that can be done especially with dangerous or obstructive parking.

Another resident queried the car parking at the Sports Centre and Swimming Pool. There are 2 separate car parks there but often these are full. The resident felt that there should be more signage directing people to the Old Station Car Park particularly if they were not regular runners, but just coming to Wetherby for a one off run.

Vandalism was of great concern to many people at the meeting. The Town Council's town handyman repairs any vandalism and graffiti as soon as possible and it is felt that this helps to prevent some incidents of further damage. However, it is still an issue. CCTV cameras were suggested and even though these are coming down in cost, unless the cameras are constantly monitored, they are not always helpful.

Several members of the local community felt that members of the police were not seen patrolling in Wetherby anymore and thought that there should be a more visible police presence.

Cllr O'Byrne thought it should be mentioned that the police worked where they were most needed and like all bodies, due to lack of funds, were working with reduced staffing numbers. Wetherby has one of the lowest crime levels across West Yorkshire, hence the fewer number of officers on patrol.

The Town Clerk told members that for the first time in two years the defibrillator outside the Town Hall had been used that afternoon. Cllr Harrington reminded everyone that the Methodist Church also had one.

A local resident who lived on Spofforth Hill queried the monies from 106 funding. He is anxious about the traffic situation at the Spofforth Hill development. He had been advised by the planning officer that he needed to speak to local Leeds councillors as a matter of urgency but phone messages had not been responded to. Cllr Procter apologised that he had not been contacted and explained that funds are not available until works starts and then are phased payments.

A local resident queried the use of herbicide in Sandringham Park. The Town Council do not have any herbicides at all. Cllr Wilkinson is meeting with Parks and Countryside in the near future and will put this issue on the agenda.

Another resident queried a letter he had received from Leeds City Council planning regarding modifications to the planning application for Spofforth Hill and wondered what these were. He was assured that these were minor modification regarding house type changes rather than any major changes to layout etc.

Dog fouling is another issue that a number of residents were concerned about. The underpass on Freemans Way and Westgate were both

mentioned as areas with problems. Enforcement officers from LCC are aware of these problems and have attended Freemans Way on several occasions. It is an ongoing problem which is constantly being looked at.

A resident of The Chase in Wetherby was concerned about the amount of traffic who could miss Sadlers Walk and ended up in the Chase cul-de-sac. There is one road sign but it is often missed. Cllr Wilkinson will take a look.

The ongoing damage to Crossley Park Fence was discussed. The fence is not the responsibility of either Wetherby Town Council or Leeds City Council but as it is a health and safety issue, Leeds City Council have agreed to do the work. Cllr Lamb will look at how far this has progressed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm