

**Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 7.00pm
based at the Social Centre, Westfield Lane**

Present:	Cllrs R Brown B Capstick M Gray R Hayhurst J Thomas S Tulley E Tunstall J Tunstall	Mayor
In attendance	Mrs C L Baxter Mrs J A Patton	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was rescheduled from Friday 3rd May 2013

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr P Jordan – Holiday
Cllr T Walker – Work commitments

2. Members to give one minute silence in memory of Bethany Jones

Resolved. The Town Council members and officers present gave one minute silence as a gesture of respect to the memory of Bethany Jones who was sadly taken in the tragic M62 accident on Friday 26th April 2013.

3. The Mayor to make an address following the tragic events of Friday 26th April 2013

The Mayor prepared and read the following statement:

A tribute to Bethany Jones 1994-2013

South Elmsall is a close knit community and shares both good and bad news. Living in the shadows of Frickley Colliery has made comradeship so much more important to all members of our community.

On Friday 26th April 2013 there was a smile on the faces of a party of twenty young women who were out to paint the town red before one of their friends settled down to married life with her future husband Mr Gary Leafe. To see them all dressed in pink for their trip to Liverpool must have been a wonderful sight with all their smiles and pretty faces.

Sadly they were scarcely out of our village when a terrible accident on the M62 was to leave our village in shock at the devastating news that their bus and a lorry had been involved in an accident leaving trainee nurse Bethany Jones dead and nineteen others were injured, some of them very serious.

The accident has reached out and touched most families in our thoughts are with them at this sad time. Our thanks go out to the medical and rescue teams who worked so hard and skilfully to do all they could to save and treat everyone involved in this deadly accident. Bethany Jones was 18 years old and a trainee Nurse, studying at Leeds University.

Bethany was not only a beautiful young girl; she as a very talented young woman and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.

The thoughts and deepest sympathies of our Town Council are with the family of Bethany and we wish a speedy recovery to all the injured at this saddest time in the history of our village.

At this point I would like to hand the floor open to anyone who would like to say a few words.

Cllr Robert Brown (Mayor of South Elmsall)

4. To consider appropriate ways for the Town Council to show its respect and honour the memory of Bethany Jones

Resolved. The following suggestions were made by members of the Town Council.

Cllr R Brown would like the Town Council to purchase a trophy to be presented to St Wilfreds School in memory of Bethany Jones. The trophy would be awarded each year to an outstanding student of the School.

Cllr R Hayhurst is organising a dance night at the Grove in South Kirkby to raise money for the accident fund.

Cllr J Thomas is organising a dart throw and competition where a world dart champion will attend the Recreation Club, with all proceeds going to the accident fund.

Cllr J Thomas is also organising a bowling competition to be held on 1 August 2013 with all money raised going to the accident fund.

Cllr R Brown will be holding a charity coffee morning on 10th May 2013 with half of its proceeds going to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Cllr B Capstick is organising a fun day in partnership with WYPolice, WDH and WMDC. All proceeds from refreshments will be going to the accident fund.

Cllr B Capstick asked the Town Clerk to contact Gleeson Homes and request they make a charitable donation to SECF Ltd for the accident fund.

The Royal British Legion has kindly offered to hold a concert with the proceeds from ticket sales going to the accident fund.

Cllr S Tulley suggested the Council names the new Hall at the Westfield Centre in memory of Bethany Jones. The Bethany Jones Hall.

The Town Council agreed to use the registered charity fund to hold all monies in relation to the fund. The bank details are:

South Elmsall Community Facilities Ltd registered number 1151800. The Town Council will make a donation of £500.00 toward the fund.

5. To consider the passengers along with their family and friends following the motor accident of 26th April 2013

Resolved. Members considered the impact of the accident on passengers and their families.

Sympathies and well wishes were received from:

Hemsworth Town Council

Normanton Town Council

Featherstone Town Council

Thorpe Audlin Parish Council

The Town Council thanked the neighbouring Councils for their support and concern for all involved.

6. The Leader of South Elmsall Town Council – Stephen Tulley to give closing speech on behalf of the community of South Elmsall

Cllr S Tulley reported:

I have been extremely humbled by the people of our community who have rallied around and come together during this very sad period of time. It shows that there is still a significant amount of togetherness and cohesion within this town.

I have visited Leeds General Infirmary for the last 8 days to check on family members who were involved in this terrible accident, which happened on the M62 on Friday 26th April 2013. I feel very proud to be able to represent South Elmsall and I intend to support and look after all the people involved in the accident along with their families for the many months and years to come.