



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 19th September 2017 at 7.00pm

Held at: Salvation Army Hall, Huddersfield Road, Mirfield

Councillors Present:

M Ibberson(Deputy), D Pinder, J Nottingham, J Hirst, S Guy, K Sibbald, M Bolt, V Lees-Hamilton, J Taylor, K Taylor, S Benson, A Burton

In Attendance:

Clerk: Lisa Staggs

Public: T Ghee (Kirklees), J Arnold & M Tupman (Environment Agency), T Hillas (WSP Group), M Steer & D Taylor (British Bung), B Hurren, H Marr, G Marr, P Tyler, C Tyler, P Moorhouse, A Smithson, R Vischer

Press: None

MTC94/2017 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Deputy Chairman Cllr Ibberson welcomed Cllrs and members of the public and guests.

MTC95/2017 Public Question Time:

NONE

MTC96/2017 Apologies For Absence

Councillors to send apologies and reasons for absence to the clerk or chairman for approval

Cllrs: M Burton, C Walker, P Blakeley, P Tolson

MTC97/2017 Declaration of Interest

Councillors to declare an interest, if applicable to any item on the agenda including any pecuniary interests whether they have been declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or Members Register of Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Pinder declared RBL Mirfield, Mirfield Rifle Volunteers & Mirfield Community Partnership as personal interests

Cllr K Taylor declared Heavy Woollen Planning and Kirklees Licensing as pecuniary interests.

Cllr Ibberson Proposed to suspend standing orders and bring forward MTC102 Cllr Lees-Hamilton Seconded Vote: All in favour

MTC98/2017 Confirmation of Minutes

To approve minutes of the ordinary meeting of **5th September 2017** as a true and correct record including payments of **Nil**. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the minutes were a true and correct record Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC99/2017

Matters Arising From The Minutes:

To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.

1. To receive an update from the Clerk on Public Toilets closure – Defer
2. To receive an update from Clerk & Cllr Tolson current position Upper Hopton Recreational & Cricket Ground relating to Fields In Trust – Defer
3. To receive an update from the Clerk relocation of benches - Defer

MTC100/2017

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment:

SEPTEMBER		
Payee	Description	Amount
Clerk L Staggs	September Salary	£ 730.25
HMRC	September PAYE	£ 189.82
St Marys	1 x September Room Hire	£ 21.00
Just Gardens	August Maintenance	£ 80.00
Just Gardens	Extra Pruning of trees	£ 60.00
Just Gardens	September Maintenance	£ 80.00
NPower	Supply electric Christmas Lights	£ 418.99
TOTAL		£ 1508.06

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** items 1-7 payment en block Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded**
Vote: All in favour

8. To receive a bank reconciliation to 31/07/17 & 31/08/17 – **Noted**
9. To receive a spend/income comparison with the adopted budget - **Noted**

MTC101/2017

Planning

1. To consider planning applications received from Kirklees Council.
2017/92976 – Defer
2017/92997 – Defer
2017/93093 – Defer
2017/92979 – Defer
2017/93091 – Defer
2017/93125 – Defer
2017/93121 – Defer

Cllrs to submit comments for their own ward if submissions required before the next meeting.

2. To consider planning decision notifications from Kirklees Council:
No Comments/Noted
3. To consider potential controversial applications: **None**

MTC102/2017

Community

To receive information on the following items and decide any action where necessary.

1. To receive presentation from Kirklees Flood Management & Environment Agency and discuss the Mirfield & Ravensthorpe Flood Review report and any other issues relating to this and discuss and agree any action necessary – Tom Ghee Kirklees Flood Management, Trefor Hillas WPS Group (who conducted the report), Joanna Arnold & Mark Tupman Environment Agency are present. Tom reports that following the 2015 December floods, he commissioned WSP to review the Jacobs Report, extend the flood study originally for Ravensthorpe to Mirfield & include

comments & requests from members of the public and ask WSP to consider other options. Trefor explains that the Flood Risk Management report must be to a National Standard, which is then presented to the Environment Agency to overlook with a view to securing any government funding. To secure funding there must be a demonstrable flood risk i.e. £1 spent - £8 back or 4:1 cost benefit. Firstly, significant impact reducing flood risk. Secondly, some effect, less severe reduction of flood risk. There are 2 options: 1. Constructing flood walls 2. Constructing storage areas. With regards the second option, the land suitable for storage is already flood plains as far as Brighouse, so unable to use. The best place is Bradley Sewerage works, but unable to double as flood storage. He states that the railway embankments are a constraint as Network Rail must keep the lines open or pay fines. Cllr Bolt asks Trefor which Sewerage site he is pertaining to as the de-commissioned site next to John Cottons could be a potential site and he is concerned other potential sites have been overlooked. Cllr Benson enquires if the 2015 flood is classed as 1% or 2%, based on recorded lengths above 100-year flow. Joanna confirms she can access this information and will share these reports via the Clerk. Trefor agrees that he will re-look at this area and sites. He also states that an ideal flood storage area would be Battyeford Playing Fields but costs are high to build flood walls and excavate existing flood plains and the cost would not out way the impact to properties. W Ravensthorpe £7.5m:18 properties, E Ravensthorpe £9.5m:49 properties & W Mirfield £6.8m:12 properties. He also states that in 2015 most places overtopped even with the flood walls. He confirms that he would have to prove to DEFRA that there is a substantial benefit:cost to secure funding. Cllr Burton asks how can water be diverted to another area if councils allow builders to build on flood plains. Trefor agrees that it is a bad idea to build on flood plains as land is needed for flood plains. Tom states that restrictions are permissible in areas of risk and he would prefer builders not build on flood plains as they are there for water and nothing else. Cllr Benson states he is concerned that a value is put on properties and not lives and shows a picture of someone trapped next to The Ship in a vehicle till 9.00pm on Boxing Day 2015 and asks why there were no agencies in attendance until 5.00pm. Tom states that the flood was an unexpected event and that there has been a Full Council Policy in force for 9 months that can supply resources 365 days 24/7 in the event of a flood at Newgate or Steanard Lane. Cllr Bolt confirms that Peter McBride and the Kirklees cabinet did not want to review this policy. Cllr Bolt asks if the Upper Calder Flood Defences will impact on Mirfield by pushing water down to that level of the Calder. Mark states that extra water is kept in a channel at Mytholmroyd, which makes sure there is no worse effect downstream. Trefor states that when first appointed, he believed defences were a viable scheme for funding but under National Framework these are not viable as money goes to high risk areas of flooding not risk areas i.e. 1:100 years. Cllr Benson asks for clarity on this as there were 3 floods in December 2015. Cllr Pinder states that the Calder has flooded historically every 8-10yrs, but the Canal has never flooded higher than the railway line, could the embankment be considered as a flood defence? He states that the canal floods as water comes up under railway tunnel. Tom & Trefor both concur that if this was an option Network rail would have an opinion. Trefor states they could be approached and a structural survey of the embankment

carried out. Cllr Bolt believes that either side of the bridge has been sold off by Network Rail and asks Trefor to revisit that area of the embankment with a cost:benefit. Trefor confirms that the cost:benefit does not take into consideration the damage to businesses other than the building and residential buildings. Cllr Benson asks if it is possible to extend the weir or pass more water quicker past that point as he believes water would retreat quicker if it gathered speed at the corner by the weir and lose water levels. Trefor states as water levels increase, weir flow increases and the weir cancels out the spillaway and vice versa. He states based on the hydraulic model at the peak of the flood and size of event it wouldn't have an impact and the cost would be upward of £250,000. Mike Steer from British Bung confirms that the flood cost the company £4m in 2015 and £3m 8 years prior, to reopen the business and they only received a small grant of £10k from Leeds towards this. Cllr Lees-Hamilton states that £250,000 is a fraction of what local businesses have lost. She mentions a Culvert to the rear of Dr Reddy's. **8.20pm Cllr Guy arrives.** This culvert is believed to run from Blake Hall estate, Cllr Lees-Hamilton asks Trefor to consider this option. Tom states that urban creep has resulted in the drainage problems. Cllr Bolt states over 10 years ago Community Infrastructure Levy was introduced for this, will there be money here to address this problem? Tom states that Kirklees don't share technical reports unless a scheme is involved, but can send a copy to MTC if required. Cllr Pinder **Proposed** the report is circulated to MTC & local businesses Cllr Ibberson **Seconded**

Vote: All in favour. Cllr Sibbald stated that in his opinion, the development in town had worsened the situation. MTC recognise there is a problem and are trying to resolve it but need advice. Should there be restrictions on development and what advice would Tom give planners in areas subject to flooding? Tom replied that he is given a briefing sheet on the planning/building process. Due to Mirfield's over development and loss of green space, he would try to resist the use of soakaway in preference of underground storage etc and try to manage the risk of flooding. Mark mentions the planting of upland areas that will have some benefit in Calderdale. Cllr Bolt asks if planting trees in the culvert & flood plains would help absorb the water, as MTC could fund this. Mark believes it is not a great idea as in a flood they would probably be submerged and die. Trefor confirms that he will revisit the option of the railway embankment and the weir and consider the Culvert option. Cllr Ibberson thanks the public and the agencies for attending.

8.50pm Trefor, Joanna, Mark, Tom and most members of the public leave. Cllr Ibberson Proposed to reinstate standing orders Cllr Bolt Seconded Vote: All in favour

MTC103/2017 **Correspondence**

To receive the following new items of correspondence and decide any action where necessary.

1. European Local Democracy Week - **Noted**
2. Fields In Trust Nominations for awards – **Noted**
3. YLCA Chief Executive Bulletin – **Noted**
4. Kirklees Dentaid Project – **Noted**
5. YLCA Training Programme - **Noted**

MTC104/2017 **Matters for Report and Information**

Members wishing to raise items under this heading should consult the Chairman prior to the meeting.

Cllr Pinder reports that the dwelling behind Tesco, originally built for local elderly residents, is occupied by non-elderly residents who are carrying out improper activities from the dwelling. Residents nearby have informed the Police and Kirklees with no outcome. Cllr Lees-Hamilton states that information needs logging and lots of data is needed to convince a judge to revoke a tenancy. She confirms she will raise the issue at the next NMG meeting.

MTC105/2017 The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:

Date of next meeting **Tuesday 3rd October 2017**

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.00pm**.....