



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.30pm

Held at: Trinity Methodist Church, 4 Trinity Street, Mirfield, WF14 8AD.

Councillors Present:

M Connell (Chairman), S Naisbett (Deputy), P Tolson, J Roberts, D Hirst, S Guy, M Sullivan, M Bolt, J Hirst, J Hinchliff, M Brown, V Lees-Hamilton, M Hamilton, B Harrison, I Ali

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: 2 x Residents, 4 x Members Friends of Mirfield Library

Press: None

MTC143/2023

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Deputy Chairman Cllr Naisbett welcomed Cllrs and members of the public. He informed Cllrs that the Allotments lease had been signed by MAGS. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her diligence and perseverance with this Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Connell arrived 7.33pm and reported attending the 50th Anniversary of the M62 Coach bombing and stated what an honour it was to be there with police, families and fire service.

MTC144/2023

Apologies for Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – None

2. To approve reasons for absence – None

Cllr Hinchliffe was absent but did not send apologies

MTC145/2023

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 on the members register of pecuniary interests.

Cllr Guy declared an **other** interest MTC147(1)

Cllr Naisbett declared a **pecuniary interest** MTC149 (1) member Mirfield Show committee

MTC146/2023

Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 7th February 2024 including payments of **Nil** Cllr Sullivan stated there was a typo that had not been reported prior to the meeting MTC139(2) Item 2

Cllr Guy Proposed once this amendment was made the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr D Hirst **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC147/2023

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

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

1. To receive an update on Mirfield Library & Changing Places funding and decide any action necessary – Members of Friends of Mirfield Library are present and update Cllrs on the new tier system that is being proposed for Mirfield Library. The group are shocked that Mirfield has been placed in Tier 3, Community Managed, when it has a footfall of over 20,000. This would mean that the library would be run solely by volunteers with no Kirklees staff or any assistance towards repair/maintenance to the building. Cllr Bolt states that this decision has come after Kirklees asked for the town council precept to be set and if Kirklees are looking for Town/Parish councils to support library services, it will be at the expense of other community support. Why then are Batley & Heckmondwike receiving full support? Cllrs discuss at length. Cllrs are concerned for the health & wellbeing of residents and the effect it will have on children's learning, in addition to being a warm space and having advisory services. Cllr Connell **Proposed** the Clerk send the questions that Cllr Bolt had asked in the Kirklees meeting and demand answers, in addition request FOI for all documents and emails relating to the decision, including the point matrix used and ask the MP for assistance referring to Dept Culture, Media & Sport for scrutiny & petition with schools and residents Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Friends group to provide information on footfall and statistics compared to other libraries.
8.12pm Friends group leave
2. To receive an update on Planning Application 2023/93539 at location Land adj, Ledgard Bridge Mill, Back Station Road, Mirfield, WF14 8NZ and decide any action necessary – Clerk updates
3. To receive an update on appointing Planning Consultant and discuss future potential controversial developments and decide any action necessary – Clerk reports that she is struggling to find someone who does not have an interest in the developments. Cllr Naisbett will contact GLAAG and Cllr Connell will approach consultants.
4. To receive an update on website and agree any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reports he has been in touch with some companies to provide quotations.

MTC148/2023

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk Feb Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance Feb by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC Feb PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk Feb pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist Feb Room Hire by Bacs £80.00
6. To agree Able Gardens Feb Maintenance by Bacs £45.00
7. To note Wel-medical Upper Hopton Defib cabinet battery & other items £166.74
8. To note Go Daddy Website renewal £143.86
9. To note McAfee Security renewal £69.50
10. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/01/24 - **Noted**

11. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/01/24 - **Noted**
Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1-6 en bloc & note items 7-11 Cllr Lees–Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC149/2023

Internal Matters:

To receive information on the following matters and agree and decide any action where necessary

1. To receive a quotation from James Fletcher to provide marquee and sundry items for the Mirfield Show, to discuss and agree any costs or action necessary as per legislation Local Government Act 1972 section 137, 144 & 145 (General powers, Tourism & Entertainment & Arts) – Cllr Naisbett having declared a pecuniary interest leaves the room. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC approve the costs of the Marquee for the Mirfield Show under the powers listed above Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To review current Grant Criteria and decide any action necessary (Criteria circulated prior to the meeting) – Cllrs discuss the current criteria and feel that having set ceiling limits for grants in the budget that the criteria also needs amending. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to amend 4(g) & 8 to state Groups to provide evidence of the benefit to the community and/or Mirfield residents. Add to item 5 to a maximum of £15,000. Add Item 15 Council reserves the right to appoint a member to sit on an organisation’s committee/attend meetings, where a larger grant is approved. Add Item 16 The council would not normally look to fund a group/charity/organisation beyond a 3-year period. The council would hope the group to be sustainable at this point or have sourced alternative commercial sponsorship if needed. Add 17 The grant excludes any group/charity/organisation applying for grant funding for a Church or any other religious bodies (including other Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths) in England, to fund church repairs, maintenance, improvements or property held for an ecclesiastical charity, including but not limited to clocks on church buildings. Amend item 15 to item 18 and add Any request for funding over and above £15,000 Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
3. To discuss Town Council Protocols and agree any action necessary (Due to the confidential nature, this will be taken in private and excluded public, press & any member with a pecuniary interest, as the nature of the business being transacted being prejudicial to the public interest by reason of a confidential nature) – It was resolved to appoint the following Cllrs to the Armistice & Memorial Civic Committee: Cllrs Naisbett, Guy, Bolt, Tolson, Roberts, Lees-Hamilton, Connell & D Hirst. The Clerk to produce the agenda for meetings. Inform RBL & T Wood of TOR.

MTC150/2023

Public Question Time:

None

MTC151/2023

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6th March 2024.

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.46pm**.....