

MIRFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL
REPORT
2023/2024



Prepared by
Lisa Staggs – MTC Clerk

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MEMBERS OF MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL 2023/2024

BATTYEFORD WARD	
Cllr Martyn Bolt (Conservative) elected	Tel: 01924 496129 Martyn.Bolt@kirklees.gov.uk
Cllr Mark Hamilton (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07970130347 mark.hamilton59@icloud.com
Cllr Imran Ali (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07956176413 imranali100@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Martyn Connell (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07545768642 martyn@maze8.co.uk
Cllr Barbara Harrison (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07718628151 barbaraharriuson@gmail.com
EASTTHORPE WARD	
Cllr Janet Hirst (Conservative) elected	Tel: 01924 524636 jameph53@ntlworld.com
Cllr Stuart Naisbett (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07711423736 stuart@rees-naisbett.co.uk
Cllr Maria Brown (Conservative) elected	Tel: 01924 495068 mbrowneastthorpe@gmail.com
CROSSLEY WARD	
Cllr Mike Sullivan (Independent) elected	Tel: 07939474464 mike@thesullivanhouse.co.uk
Cllr Derrian Hirst (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07714633854 derrien.hirst@ntlworld.com
Cllr Jake Hinchliffe (Conservative) elected	Tel: jake@orangedesignstudio.co.uk
HOPTON WARD	
Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton (Conservative) elected	Tel: 01924 480082 vivien.lees-hamilton@kirklees.gov.uk
Cllr Philip Tolson (Independent) elected	Tel: 01924 497369 philtomac@gmail.com
NORTHORPE WARD	
Cllr Itrat Ali (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07856289807 itrat.ali@kirklees.gov.uk
Cllr John Roberts (Conservative) elected	Tel: 07928929604 johnproberts@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr. Sean Guy (Conservative) elected	Telephone: 01924 491759 seandguy@yahoo.co.uk



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MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr Martyn Connell 2023/2024

Town Mayor's Report by Cllr Martyn Connell

The Town Council has continued to act as a catalyst for the local community. Whilst having no statutory powers for the matters which concern and affect our town, we have made representations to those who do.

Meetings continue to take place at the Trinity Church meeting rooms as this is a larger room to accommodate the Council members and public attendees.

Planning and greater development continue as a cause of great concern to Mirfield residents, and often they feel hampered by the policies of Kirklees Council. It is felt by Town Council and many members of the community that local voices are not heard. Developments are still being proposed in areas that would be considered unsuitable and may create issues further down the line.

Mirfield Town Council has continued to object to developments, not out of the wish hamper develop sensible and sustainable housing, but the lack of infrastructure to support such development.

The development of Mirfield Train Station has commenced, this has brought its own frustrations based on the lack of development opportunities the site holds. The lack of suitable parking provision and the missed commercial potential has led to questions being asked of Northern Rail and their delivery team.

During my period as Mayor, I felt it was important to try and bring back some of the civic events previously carried out as part of the role. So, we held the first civic service in quite some time. My thanks to the clergy of the Community of the Resurrection for allowing me to hold my civic service in the chapel, it was greatly appreciated. The attendance and performance of the Mirfield Choral Society made the event even more rememberable.

There are many community groups within Mirfield, and I would like to express my thanks to all of the volunteers who give their time for the benefit of all. Members of the community who give up their time to support local groups are the backbone of the projects that improve the town.

Once again, Mirfield in Bloom have shown the town in the best possible light with the flowering beds and incredible dedication of the hardworking volunteers. Of course, a year cannot go past without winning a Gold Award from the RHS for improving our neighbourhoods.

I special thanks has to go to Mirfield in Bloom for their efforts to encourage the Little Bloomers. These efforts will continue develop the community spirit and love for the town for future generations.

I also would like to thank Mirfield Choral Society for the invites to their performances during my tenure. The Messiah concert was an incredible event, and I will certainly be attending in 2024.

It was with great pride I led the Remembrance Day parade, accompanied by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Iqbal Bhana OBE, Mark Eastwood MP, Councillor Martyn Bolt (Representing Kirklees) and fellow Councillors. To see the town turn out to support those who gave the ultimate sacrifice was poignant and moving. Our ongoing support of current and returned service personnel makes Mirfield a safe haven for the Armed Services.

I had the honour of representing Mirfield at Hartshead Moor Services, this was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the IRA attack on the coach carrying military families on the M62. I thank you to Cllr Sean Guy who represented the Mirfield RBL and Michael Bee for assisting me with protocol on the day.

I would like to express my thanks to fellow councillors who give their time voluntarily and as you will see elsewhere in this report have done so regularly both in the formal meetings and working on the projects instigated by town council and to represent us on outside bodies. Special thanks go to Cllr Stuart Naisbett fulfilling the role of Deputy Mayor so and also for organising the Christmas lights. Thanks to Janet and Derrion Hirst for assisting when the Suicide and Bereavement Quilt visited Mirfield.

I have been honoured to serve as Town Mayor, it has been a privilege to represent the Town during events outside Mirfield and humbling to represent the Town Council within our boundaries.

Yours in Mirfield
Mirfield Town Mayor 2023/2024







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CLERK'S REPORT 2023/2024

The Town Council has seen another fantastic year of community engagement and volunteering within the town. This year saw all out Town/Parish Council elections and at the Annual Town Council Meeting, we welcomed 5 new councillors, Cllr Imran Ali, Cllr Itrat Ali, Cllr Derrien Hirst, Cllr Barbara Harrison & Cllr Mark Hamilton. Our meeting venue continues to support a local group as we hold our meetings at Trinity Methodist and a new Mayor was elected at our Annual Town Council Meeting, Mayor Cllr Martyn Connell and a new Deputy Chairman Cllr Stuart Naisbett.

We have continued to maintain Eastthorpe Gardens with a new contractor Able Gardens and they are looking better than ever and were the central point for Yorkshire In Bloom. The picnic bench in one of the central beds was subject to an arson attack, the council decided not to replace the bench, but turn this area into a flower bed.

The Town Council has continued its grant scheme and has awarded several grants to groups for annual town events like Mirfield in Bloom, Mirfield Round Table Bonfire & continued this year to supply the main marquee for the annual Mirfield Show and continue to match fund defibrillators and benches with local groups.

This year also saw the town council hold a Civic Service at the Community of the Resurrection, the first since lockdown and we welcomed lots of community groups from the town. In addition the Mayor hosted the first Civic Dinner since 2011 and the first since I have been Clerk. We welcomed civic heads from other towns and parishes, along with volunteers from local groups and members of the Mirfield business community. Both were a great success.

This year we made a further investment into the Christmas Lights and have purchased new lamppost features and new Ice lights and extended the lights to Ings Grove Park. Next year will see even more investment in this, with the lights extending further.

Having taken over the lamppost banners along the main Huddersfield Road from Kirklees we are now installing lamppost banners for major events like the King's Coronation and Mirfield Remembers.

I am happy to say, that after a lengthy process the lease for the 3 allotment sites in Mirfield; Lowlands, Bankfield & Nab, has been agreed for a further term with Mirfield Allotment & Garden Society, who manage the day to day running of the allotments on behalf of the council. We hope to build on our relationship with MAGS over the coming year.

We continue holding 2 meetings per month, enabling the council to continue working on behalf of the residents of Mirfield. We welcome any members of the public to join us in these meetings and look forward to a new year of working with the community, supporting local groups businesses and local events.

Lisa Staggs
Town Clerk



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MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATION AS OF

31/03/2024

BALANCE B/F 22/23	£141,343.39
INCOME	£ 130,238.55
SUBTOTAL	£257,612.36
EXPENDITURE	£ 103,923.05
CASH BOOK TOTAL	£167,658.89

Current Account as 31/03/24	£ 3,313.87
Deposit Account as of 31/03/24	£164,345.02
Balance 31/03/24	£167,658.89

BANK RECONCILIATION 2023/2024 (UNAUDITED)



REGISTER OF FIXED ASSETS 31ST MARCH 2024

<u>ASSET</u>	<u>PURCHASE COST</u>	<u>INSURANCE SCHEDULE</u>
Mayor's Jewel & Chain	Unknown – valuation 2009 £7,500	£12,585.94
Vice Chairman's Chain of Office	Unknown – Valuation 2009 £2,000	£3,355.72
Chairman's Jewel	Unknown - Valuation 2009 £2,500	£4,195.84
Chairman's Chain	Unknown – Valuation 2009 £8,850	£14,850.78
Medal on Ribbon (Vice Chairman's Consort)	£175.00	£271.37
2 X Deputy Mayor Ribbon & Medal	£400.00	£540.24
2 x Picnic Tables 3 x Benches	£1528.66	£2,064.63
9 x Defibrillators & Cabinets	£10,788.00	£16,649.03
Laptop, Hard Drive, Printer & Windows Operating System	£449.94	£688.46
HP Laptop & Case	£1173.99	£1,451.05
<u>Christmas Lights</u> (Insured by Bradford Council when in storage) Christmas Lights Old Features Ice Lights New 2022 12 x sets String Lights New 2022 & 2023 Features x 6 2022 Features x 6 2023	£4,500.00 £2,730.00 £840.00 £2,250.00 £2,250.00	£4,500.00 £2,730.00 £840.00 £2,250.00 £2,250.00
St Georges Standard/Pole inc. cord & tassel Gold Banner cords & tassels Black leatherette Bag GP90 Pennants GP90 Scrolls Masonic Regalia Case Solar Spotlight Union Flag 7'6 x 3'9	£205.96 £30.00 £48.00 £10.00 £68.00 £35.00 £98.98 £100.65	£319.38 £30.00* £48.00* £10.00* £68.00* £35.00* £98.98* £100.65

St George Flag 7'6 x 3'9	£53.55	£53.55*
Armed Forces Day Flag 7'6 x 3'9	£77.00	£77.00*
Yorkshire Flag 7'6 x 3'9	£77.00	£77.00*
St George Flag 7'6" x 3'9"	£66.25	£66.25*
Remembrance Walk Street Sign	£350.00	£420.00
Glassfibre Flagpole	£981.00	£981.00
West Riding Flag 6' x 3	£140.00	£168.00
5 x Black ring binders	£65.00	£65.00*
5 x Black tablecloths 50 x 70	£20.00	£20.00*
Black Arm Bands	£141.90	£175.39
10 x WW1 Benches	£7765.00	£10,487.48
2 x There But Not There Figures	£1500.00	£2,025.91
1 x Breathing Space Bench	£1335.00	£1,493.09
6 x Jubilee Benches	£8964.00	£8964.00
1 x Kings Coronation Bench	£2178.00	£2178.00
Ambassador Book	£304.00	£304.00
Ambassador Board	£2850.00	£3,522.60
Ambassador Badges	£270.00	£333.72
Welcome to Mirfield Signage	£1344.00	£1,661.18
Snow Plough Attachment	£830.00	£996.00
Memorial Park Entrance inc Screens	£18,065.00	£18,065.00
Queens Green Canopy Tree Surround in Ings Grove Park	£540.00	£540.00
Tool Shed (Kept at 168 Horbury Rd for filing)	£160.00	£197.76
Plastic Storage Boxes	£39.75	£49.44*

Items Marked * Not on Insurance Schedule as below £100 Policy Excess

ALLOTMENT LAND – (Nominal value Community Asset)

Bankfield (0.5 acres) £ 1.00

Lowlands (3 acres) £ 1.00

Nab Lane (2.5 acres) £ 1.00

The Mirfield Gardens & Allotments Society insure the sites and their tenants as per our lease



APPROVED GRANTS 2023 -2024

2023/2024 APPROVED GRANTS					
<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>UPDATE</u>	<u>PR</u>	<u>USE</u>
Upper Hopton Fete	06/04/2023	£1,310.00	Yes	Yes	Fete
TOTAL GRANTS		£1,310.00			
<u>ANNUAL EVENTS</u>					
Mirfield Show	02/08/2023	£10,927.80	Yes	Yes	Marquee
Mirfield Round table	23/11/2023	£5,000.00	Yes	Yes	Bonfire Fireworks
Mirfield In Bloom	16/11/2023	£20,000.00	Yes	Yes	Plants etc
TOTAL ANNUAL EVENTS		£35,927.80			
TOTAL PAID TO DATE		£37,237.80			



SUMMARY OF THE ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT 2022/2023

DATE	TRANSACTION DETAILS	PAYMENTS	RECEIPTS	BALANCE
	BALANCE C/FWD			£274.31
28/10/22	Allotment Rent 01/04/22 – 30/09/22		£600.00	
08/11/22	Allotment Rent 01/10/22 – 31/03/23		£600.00	
16/06/22	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
07/09/22	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
31/03/23	Clerk's Hours 22-23	£216.60		
TOTALS		<u>£576.60</u>	<u>£1200.00</u>	
	ALLOTMENT BALANCE			<u>£897.71</u>

SUMMARY OF THE ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT 2022/2023

DATE	TRANSACTION DETAILS	PAYMENTS	RECEIPTS	BALANCE
	BALANCE C/FWD			£897.71
20/02/24	Allotment Rent 01/04/22 – 30/09/23		£600.00	
20/02/24	Allotment Rent 01/10/22 – 31/03/24		£600.00	
22/06/23	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
06/11/23	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
31/03/23	Clerk's Hours	£381.00		
27/03/24	Solicitor's Fees Lease	£1440.00		
TOTALS		<u>£2181.00</u>	<u>£1200.00</u>	
	ALLOTMENT BALANCE			<u>-£83.29</u>



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REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Public Rights of Way

No update.

Neighbourhood Plan – Clerk

The steering group continue to meet and there was not much progress with the plan which had disheartened the steering group. Cllrs Naisbett, Tolson & Hinchliffe agreed to attend the steering group meetings to try and push the plan along. Cllrs Naisbett & Tolson have continued to attend meetings and be proactive with the plan. Towards the end of the financial year, a new planning consultant was sought by the steering group. Kirkwells were appointed at our meeting in January and straight after, I applied for a grant from locality for 23/24. We were successful in obtaining the grant and the steering group with Kirkwells have now submitted draft plan to Kirklees. Postcards will be sent to every household in the next month and a public consultation will be held at the community centre.

Mirfield Community Trust & Mirfield Community Centre – Cllr S Naisbett

I have not been able to attend the last two meetings but have received the minutes which I have forwarded to the council. I receive very little from them, but they are happy for me to continue as their liaison.

Friends of Mirfield Library – Cllr S Naisbett

I have attended a number of meetings and events in the library however not as their official liaison.



RECORD OF ATTENDANCE 2022/2023

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL 2022/2023

	MAY	MAY	JUNE	JULY	JULY	AUG	SEPT	SEPT	OCT	OCT	NOV	NOV	DEC	JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	APRIL	APRIL	TOTAL	PRESENT	%		
Imran Ali																						19	9	47%	
Itrat Ali																							19	12	63%
M Bolt																							19	12	63%
M Brown																							19	15	78%
M Connell																							19	17	89%
S Guy																							19	16	84%
M Hamilton																							19	8	42%
B Harrison																							19	16	84%
J Hinchliffe																							19	4	21%
D Hirst																							19	19	100%
J Hirst																							19	19	100%
V Lees-Hamilton																							19	11	57%
S Naisbett																							19	19	100%
J Roberts																							19	19	100%
M Sullivan																							19	16	84%
P Tolson																							19	16	84%

PRESENT
APOLOGIES/ABSENCE APPROVED
NO APOLOGIES/ABSENCE NOT APPROVED
RECESS
APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE
CO-OPTION
NOT CO-OPTED
NO MEETINGS

REASONS FOR ABSENCE
CLLRS BOLT, ITRAT ALI & V LEES-HAMILTON - CONFLICT WITH MKRLEES MEETINGS
CLLR MARK HAMILTON & IMRAN ALI WORK RELATED
CLLR HINCHLIFFE WORK RELATED BUT MAJORITY NO APOLOGUES ARE SENT