



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.00pm

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

Councillors Present:

M Connell (Chairman), S Naisbett, I Ali, I Ali, P Tolson, J Roberts, J Hirst, S Guy, M Brown, M Sullivan, D Hirst, B Harrison,

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: Kirklees Officers, 2 residents.

Press: None

MTC43/2023

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Connell welcomed Cllrs to the meeting and reported that the Memorial Quilt Roadshow in Dewsbury was better attended than Mirfield with another great performance from Men's Talk and received great comments. He reports attending the judging days of Yorkshire In Bloom along with other Cllrs, visiting a number of sites in Mirfield. Judges looked pleased with what they saw.

MTC44/2023

Apologies for Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllrs V Lees-Hamilton, M Hamilton, M Bolt & J Hinchliff sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Naisbett

Proposed to accept the apologies Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC45/2023

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 MTC50 member Mirfield RBL

Cllr Connell resolved to bring forward MTC49

MTC46/2023

Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 5th July 2023 including payments of **Nil** as a true and correct record. Cllr Naisbett

Proposed the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: 11 in favour Cllr Brown abstained**

MTC47/2023

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

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

1. To receive an update from Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Window Display 2023 & Christmas Lights and decide any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reported that he had met with Kirklees and they had given permission for power to all the lampposts proposed. They have also agreed for the Ice Lights to go across the highway. He will meet with Bradford Festival Lighting to discuss this and will come back with a plan. Kirklees have removed old lampposts and taken the brackets. Clerk to check with Kirklees if brackets have been kept.
2. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Lamppost Banners and decide any action necessary – No update

MTC48/2023

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk July Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance July by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC July PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk July Pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist July Room Hire by Bacs £80.00
6. To agree Able Gardens July maintenance by Bacs £90.00
7. To agree First Impressions Hanging Baskets by Bacs £1872.00
8. To agree Kirklees Election Admin Costs by Bacs £242.25
9. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 30/06/23 - **Noted**
10. To receive Monthly Budget to 30/06/23 - **Noted**

Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** to pay items 1-8 en bloc & note item 9 & 10 Cllr Roberts **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC49/2023

Community:

To receive/note/update

1. To receive a presentation from Democracy and Place Based Working Service in Kirklees 'Making Mirfield Matter' taking forward a Place Standard engagement across Mirfield Ward assisted by Cllr Bolt - J Ingham and a Kirklees officer are present and in the absence of Cllr Bolt, Cllr Itrat Ali presents the initiative to MTC. She begins by saying that she, Cllr Bolt & Cllr Lees-Hamilton believe this to be a great opportunity to engage with MTC and a commitment to make the project successful for Mirfield. The project is a Mirfield wide community 6-week engagement during September & October. Kirklees have been running these in other areas since 2018, as a tool for place standards conversations with Kirklees neighbourhoods, where they live, visit, travel, value etc as an ongoing dialogue with residents to engage and then feed the results to shape local action plans. J Ingham follows Cllr Itrat Ali by stating it is if and how MTC want to be involved in the proposed engagement exercise. The idea is to call it Making Mirfield Matter, keeping continuity with the Mirfield Matters Survey. It provides excellent information & data of life in the local community to build on previous engagements with residents, groups and local businesses, stating it is not a survey but conversations. Ward Cllrs and MTC could lead as partners with place-based working and democracy services to cover the whole of the ward including 480 businesses and ensure as many residents as possible take part. This has been adapted from a version in Scotland and already it has been used in Meltham, Marsden and Heckmondwike.

The conversations build an evidence base for action planning. Cllr Connell states that it is good of Kirklees to cover the cost of this. Cllr Itrat Ali confirms that the cost would come from the Mirfield Ward budget, but Kirklees would post out the letters and there is also an online option. Cllr Guy asks what is the outcome of the results, as some things do not fall under Kirklees like transport, which is beyond the remit of MTC and leading on this would make residents look to MTC to solve issues. In addition there are reports of redundancies at Kirklees, will there be enough officers to deal with this. J Ingham states that after the results are in it would be up to communities to take forward, Kirklees will work with & support MTC and/or residents to help with resources but it will be led by Ward Cllrs and MTC. Cllr Connell states that he will support anything that enhances the community but what can MTC do with their limited powers? Putting ourselves forward as main supporters but with no funds to back it up we will have to say no and the community then feel set up to fail. If things do not happen, this then falls back on MTC. MTC wants Kirklees to spend money to improve things. Cllr Guy asks if all the questions are the same for all areas. J Ingham confirms that the questions are the same and when summarised, the results go back to the community to ask how they want to be involved. Cllr Connell states MTC spent over £20k in 2015 on Mirfield Matters survey, no point doing again as many of the responses from that were out of MTC hands. Cllr Brown states she feels Kirklees will be giving false promises to the community and feels like MTC will be responsible not Kirklees. J Ingham confirms engagement is 10% in Dewsbury which is similar to Mirfield Matters survey. Cllr Guy wonders if this % will be meaningful and drive change. Cllr Tolson states he agrees with Cllrs Guy & Brown. Data will be collated to then find out MTC or residents cannot do anything. He states there are many groups already in the community engaging and the project may find the needs are the ones that MTC cannot provide. Cllr Brown states the No 1 issue is Crime & ASB & MTC cannot do anything about it, she states she does not want to put the name of MTC against something we have no control over. Cllr Naisbett states crime figures are increasing but no policing in Mirfield. J Ingham states she understands negatives but they have plenty of positive evidence base & tools to open dialogues. Cllr Sullivan states it is good to open dialogue but people have to buy into it & affect change. Over time MIB have developed but this is with a £20k investment from MTC every year. MTC can start but is there support behind it? Need assurances that say in 9 years' time a plan is still in place. Cllr Connell states that MIB are good due to the investment, the majority of which, £20k, comes from MTC but if ward Cllrs go back & ask for funding from Kirklees, chances are we will not get it. Cllr Brown states residents have consultation fatigue, said it all, and nothing gets done. Crime and transport will keep being an issue along with the library and health centre. Do not want to open MTC up to bad PR on social media sites. Cllr Itrat Ali states that the Kirklees budget supports action planning, therefore if MTC highlight something, we can approach for possible funding. 8.04pm Cllr Hirst leaves the room and returns at 8.06pm. Cllr Connell states that the promised library funding has been pulled and allocated elsewhere, more false promises from Kirklees. J Ingham states that the project is postcode

analysed to support communities as MTC are anxious to bring London Park into the community and be inclusive. Cllr Roberts states that Kirklees should be ashamed of spending money on this type of project in the current Cost of Living crisis, where funds would be better allocated and therefore does not support this. Cllr Connell asked if the project would still go ahead without the support of MTC, J Ingham responds yes. Cllr Connell states in conclusion MTC are not against consultation but are wary that things will not happen on the back of this, which would leave MTC looking bad and open to criticism with residents having more ammunition against MTC. He thanks Kirklees for their time.

8.20pm Kirklees officers leave and Cllr Connell calls recess for refreshments.

MTC50/2023

Internal Matters:

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

1. To decide on a course of action regarding the 2023 Remembrance Parade, look at a timeline of events and decide any costs and actions – Cllr Guy showed Cllrs a presentation with a timeline of events and contacts. He stated that he had put together a list of things that need to happen asap as a priority. T Wood has completed a course on traffic management and someone needs to work with him to progress this. He states that it is a Civic event not RBL event and that veterans need to be at the heart of the event, he confirms groups like cadets will need 3 months’ notice to attend. Cllr Naisbett to arrange First Aid, Clerk to approach bands. Schools to be contacted regarding a school’s competition. There are orders of service left from last year but still lots to arrange. A meeting needs to be arranged with T Wood asap and an update will be given at the first meeting in September. Cllr Brown to liaise with schools and Clerk to set up a Remembrance What’s App group.

MTC51/2023

Public Question Time:

None

MTC52/2023

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.12pm**.....