



mirfield  
town council

## Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm

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

### Councillors Present:

M Connell (Deputy), M Bolt, S Naisbett, P Tolson, J Roberts, J Hirst, K Taylor, M Brown, M Sullivan, J Nottingham, S Guy

### In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: None

Press: None

### **MTC49/2022**

#### **Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:**

The Deputy Mayor Cllr Connell welcomed Cllrs to his 2<sup>nd</sup> chaired meeting. Cllr Connell reported that the Beer Festival had taken place and judging by photographs on social media, the majority was in Eastthorpe Gardens. Clerk confirms that she was not approached for approval or asked by anyone if Eastthorpe Gardens could be used, despite being agreed in a meeting at Eastthorpe Gardens with the church warden and WYPW, that approval would be sought prior to events taking place. Cllrs are concerned that MTC are paying for maintenance and MTC would have had to cover the cost of any damages to the gardens. Clerk to email church warden and confirm that approval for events in the gardens must be sought prior to them taking place as agreed. Cllr Connell notes that there was no invitation to the Mayor or Deputy to the Beer Festival despite it being a Mirfield event and it seems that invitations have only been given when MTC has awarded a grant to the Mirfield Round table. Cllr Nottingham reports the Mirfield Arts Festival took place but was low key as they did not get any grant funding. Clerk reports that they did not approach MTC for a grant this year.

### **MTC50/2022**

#### **Apologies For Absence:**

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllrs Kath Taylor, M Burton & J Hinchliffe have a leave of absence & Cllrs Lees-Hamilton & Mallinson sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Roberts **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Tolson

**Seconded Vote: All in favour**

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

### **MTC51/2022**

#### **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 MTC53(1)**

**MTC52/2022**

**Confirmation of Minutes:**

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 including payments of Nil. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: 7 in favour Cllrs absent from meeting 6<sup>th</sup> July abstained.**

**MTC53/2022**

**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 and agree any action necessary – No update
2. To receive an update from Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Lights and agree any action or cost necessary – Cllr Naisbett reports that he met with Bradford Festival lighting who will be supplying a quotation for 2022, he has contacted the two previous contractors but received no response nor a response from H Cook Builders. He also reports that the working party met and that he has spoken to 2 residents following the post on MTC Facebook page. Since the meeting he confirms that Mirfield Word will be including the Christmas Lights in their next publication, to try generate more public interest. Festoons to be taken and stored at Bradford Festival Lighting. Cllr Naisbett confirms that there are 44 features in total which may be able to be incorporated in Ings Grove, Doctor Lane, Railway and Woods Dentist. Cllr Taylor has been to see many of the town centre businesses, but states that many are not able to contribute financially to the lights. Cllr Bolt states that engagement must be done with the shopkeepers, who have a vested interest in the switch on, we must try to engage them with the working party so that the town council is not criticised as it has been in past years; not necessarily financial contribution, but a contribution of ideas to the working party. If MTC can prove it tried to engage with everyone, then we can show evidence of this if needed. Cllr Connell agrees that if businesses and public have not engaged with the working party, then they cannot moan if they are not happy with the lights. Cllrs discuss a possible scavenger hunt to engage the children to run alongside the Christmas window display. Cllr Naisbett states Dewsbury Reporter will run a free press release which Cllr Brown will draft and send to Clerk to check. Cllr Connell and the Clerk to check with Kirklees on timelines and Cllr Connell to obtain quotations.
3. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Mirfield Remembers website and agree any action necessary – Cllr Connell reports he managed to get in touch with the 2 partners of EJ Events and they agreed to reimburse MTC the cost of £450 for the hosting of the Mirfield Remembers site. After many calls, he managed to get in touch with Novus who have been hosting the site FOC under a free domain. Novus to give a presentation in September. Cllr Bolt thanked Cllr Connell for sorting this out and stated, it can now be removed from Decisions spreadsheet. Cllr Guy to liaise with RBL for a timetable of events for website. Cllr Connell stated MTC would like to note in the minutes thanks to Rayne Enterprises & Egrowth Media Ltd for reimbursing the council the cost of the domain hosting of £450, enabling MTC to use the funds to host the Mirfield Remembers site for several years.

**MTC54/2022**

**Finance:**

To approve the following accounts for payment:

1. To agree Clerk July & August Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance July & August by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC July & August PAYE by Bacs

4. To agree Trinity Methodist July Room Hire by Bacs £60.00
5. To agree Able Gardens July maintenance by Bacs £90.00
6. To agree Able Gardens August maintenance by Bacs £90.00
7. To agree YLCA Clerk Evaluation by Bacs £280.00
8. To agree Yorkshire Internal Audit Final Audit by Bacs £350.00
9. To agree Zoom monthly Pro by Bacs £14.39
10. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 30/06/22 – **Noted**
11. To receive Monthly budget – **Noted**

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1-9 en bloc Cllr Hirst **Seconded**

**Vote: All in favour**

Clerk reported an increase in the Trinity Room hire from September due to increases from the Methodist Church to £20 per hour, which would be an £80 monthly cost. Cllr Connell **Proposed** Clerk contacts Mirfield Library for a cost and availability of their community facilities Cllr Bolt **Seconded** **Vote: All in favour**

**MTC55/2022**

**Community:**

To receive an update/discuss/note on the following items:

1. To discuss the principle of extension of the existing monitored CCTV network – Cllr Bolt reports that CCTV for the town comes from the Kirklees budget, he has tried on previous occasions to ask for CCTV from Section 106 monies, but nothing has been forthcoming. Kirklees state it is feasible to have more CCTV if funding is available. Cllr Bolt reports the cost is approx. £35k per camera, which is linked to the Kirklees circuit and £1100 - £2200 per camera per year to be included. Cllrs discuss, stating that CCTV does help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Cllrs discuss possible match funding of camera with shopkeepers, as it would be to their advantage. Cllr Bolt states MTC could look at community funding from proceeds of crime, MTC could ask West Yorkshire Mayor & Deputy what funds are available. Cllrs discuss funding options. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC want to explore in principle CCTV in the Mirfield area & look at costs and available funding options Cllr Naisbett **Seconded** **Vote: All in favour**
2. To discuss the Traveller encampment at Old Bank Recreational Ground and decide a course of action – Cllr Connell added this urgent item to the agenda. Cllrs discussed at length the unlawful encampment on Old Bank Rec by travellers who had gained entry by breaking the lock on the gates. Cllr Connell reported once they had broken the lock they then put on their own padlock. The new act allows a constable to approach & enforce removal of the encampment. Members of the public have been threatened, as was Cllr Connell himself when he visited the site, in front of a police officer. Cllr Tolson states that the MP must be informed as this is a dereliction of duty by the police. Cllrs are concerned that the showground is also vulnerable. Cllr Bolt states that Kirklees are going through the eviction process, doing welfare checks, and installing porta-loos, he wonders if Kirklees have reviewed their policies to show what evidence they have that travellers will use the porta-loos. He confirms emailing Kirklees Directors & Strategic Directors and just receiving generic emails. Cllr Tolson states Kirklees must have a no return in 12 months policy, which must be communicated to the travelling community. Cllr Brown is concerned that the local football club has spent a lot of money on the field and cannot use it and will not be able to until they have been removed and the full clean up taken place. Cllr Connell **Proposed** Clerk email Kirklees CEO. Deputy Mayor for Police WY, Mayor of WY & MP that MTC are extremely concerned and disappointed that the Police have not used the new powers of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 Unauthorised encampments Sections 83 to 85: Unauthorised encampments (commencement date: 28 June 2022) to remove the traveller encampment

currently on Old Bank Recreational Ground in Mirfield. Despite 999 calls from residents for anti-social behaviour and confrontation in front of a police officer to our Deputy Mayor, these powers have not been used. Despite emails to Kirklees from Cllr Bolt and to local police at Dewsbury police station, almost a week later the encampment is still there. Neither Kirklees nor the police have acted on the town council or residents' complaints, which is unacceptable given the new legislation. Residents are upset and annoyed at the lack of response, given the number of caravans and anti-social hours and behaviour happening on this land which is in the middle of a residential area **Seconded Cllr Tolson Vote: All in favour** Cllr Tolson **Proposed** a vote of thanks for Cllr Bolt for all the work he had put in and the information produced Cllr Connell **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

**MTC56/2022**

**Internal Matters:**

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

1. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Lamppost Brackets and a presentation from CP Media on Lamppost banners and agree any action necessary – Richard is in attendance from CP Media and gives a presentation on the business and ideas for the banners. He begins by informing Cllrs that they manage assets on behalf of 50 councils, generating revenue from these assets. They have an 8-year contract with Kirklees for the roundabout signage and lamppost banners. They use the brackets on lampposts to professionally sell banners, design, print and maintain the bracket, they liaise with sponsors and sort the contracts and payments, with no cost to the council. They propose to coordinate who wants to use the banners in Mirfield, local businesses etc and then from the revenue generated, MTC can run their own campaigns or use for community groups. They are approved to install brackets & banners, they are of high quality and reduce impact from wind, rain etc and are used in places like Old Trafford & Wembley. Cllrs ask how CP Media know if brackets need replacing or if banners are damaged or loose. Richard confirms that clients or residents usually inform them. He confirms that they have cherry pickers & permits are in force. Cllr Connell is in receipt of the draft agreement and notes Clause 6b regarding Net 50/50 split after costs taken off. He states that the costs should already have been met by the customer and 50/50 split should be the revenue from the banner and rental of space. Richard states that the costs from each order are charged to clients and then 50/50 split. Cllr Connell states that MTC need to create a calendar of events for the town i.e., Remembrance, Christmas lights etc. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to delegate to Cllr Connell and Clerk to review the draft agreement, circulate to Cllrs with a deadline to respond and sign off with CP Media Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour 8.00pm Richard leaves, 5-minute recess.**
2. To agree in principle to appoint on a retention basis a Planning Consultant for potential controversial planning applications and obtain quotations – Clerk reports that under Covid delegation, she and Cllr Bolt sought Planning Lawyers and quotations during the Granny Lane appeal. Cllr Bolt has also contacted a local planning expert used previously by MTC for Mirfield 25 and asked for a quotation. Cllr Bolt reports developers are breaking pre-planning conditions and that planning enforcement is discretionary at Kirklees. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the Clerk, under delegated powers during August recess, instructs a consultant once all quotes are received so that MTC are in a good position should there be any controversial planning queries after recess Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
3. To receive Terms of Reference for Civic & Cultural Committee as per MTC8/2022 and agree and adopt – Clerk displays draft terms of reference on

the projector. Cllr Guy gives an overview, stating that MTC needs a structure to deliver events successfully. The Armistice & Memorial committee is no longer relevant and had it not been for Covid, would have been rescinded after WW1 events. There will need to be a degree of liaison with the Combined Services Parade Committee to arrange the Remembrance Parade. Cllrs discuss the terms. Cllr Connell **Proposed** to accept the Terms of Reference with the amendment of 3 members making the meetings quorate  
Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

4. To discuss and agree Protocols for Mourning (Item to be taken in private due to sensitive and confidential nature) – Cllrs discussed and resolved to agree the mourning protocols.

**MTC57/2022**

**Public Question Time:**

**NONE**

**MTC58/2022**

**The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting.**

Date of next meeting **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Time Meeting Closed.....**10.00pm**.....