



mirfield  
town council

## Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 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: 1 x Resident, Dr Jones, 2 x members NP Steering Group, L Kirkup

Press: None

### **MTC123/2023**

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

A private session with Dr Jones had been held from 7pm (Due to the confidential nature, this item was 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). 7.45pm the Chairman Cllr Connell welcomed Cllrs and members of the public to the meeting.

### **MTC124/2023**

#### **Apologies for Absence:**

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllr Imran Ali sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

### **MTC125/2023**

#### **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 MTC127(2)

### **MTC126/2023**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes:**

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 3rd January 2024 including payments of Nil Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: 14 in favour Cllr Sullivan abstained**

### MTC127/2023

#### 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 Connell on Lamppost Banners and decide any action necessary – No update
2. To receive an update on Mirfield Library and Changing Places funding and decide any action necessary – Defer

### MTC128/2023

#### Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk Jan Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance Jan by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC Jan PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk Jan Pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist Jan Room Hire by Bacs £80.00
6. To agree Able Gardens Jan maintenance by Bacs £45.00
7. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/12/23 – **Noted**
8. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/12/23 - **Noted**

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1-6 en bloc & note items 7 & 8 Cllr Lees–Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

### MTC129/2023

#### Community:

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

1. To discuss Mirfield Health Centre Parking Charges and receive information on this from Mirfield Health Centre and decide any action necessary (Due to the confidential nature, this item may be taken in private and exclude 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) – As per MTC123 above, the item was taken in private, however as the discussion included items of public interest, the Clerk re-capped to members of the public what had been discussed in the private session. Dr Jones explained that during 2023 the car park was always full and staff and patients were often unable to park due to parking from the care home and surrounding businesses. The decision was taken to enter a 3-year contract with the parking company CPM. It is run with number plate recognition, with free parking for staff and patients who input their registration number into the machine at reception. Text messages were sent to patients with mobile numbers prior to commencement and signage has been installed. There were some teething problems at the beginning but fines have been refunded on the days in question. Dr Jones states that 25% of parking was on bank holidays and weekends when the practice was closed, proving it was being used by third parties. Since imposing the parking system, spaces have been freed up for staff & patients. Dr Jones to find out if the system is complaint with NHS guidelines for elderly and disabled patients. Dr Jones confirmed that neither the practice nor GPs receive any commission or financial benefit from the system, it is purely to defer third parties and to free up parking for health centre staff & users, after repeated conversations with local businesses and care home. Cllrs are concerned that they have received complaints from residents regarding parking fines at the health centre and that CPM conducts its own appeals. Dr Jones confirms that if issues continue and escalate, the health centre can investigate prematurely ending the contract, but patients must be aware they have to input their registration when they

visit the practice. Cllrs thank Dr Jones for attending and Dr Jones confirms he will check the system complies with NHS guidelines and that signage is clear that patients need to log their registration on the system. 8.05pm Dr Jones leaves.

## **MTC130/2023**

### **Internal Matters:**

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

1. To receive an update from Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and receive a presentation from Kirkwell's Consultancy and decide any action necessary – 2 members of the steering group were present along with the new consultant from Kirkwells, that the steering group had just appointed, following the non-communication from the previous consultant for over 2 years. A fee proposal was circulated prior to the meeting. The consultant begins by explaining the differences in NP's and that she was successful in securing the only NP in Kirklees for Holme Valley. She stated that it was a complex and challenging document that required the legal body MTC, to be fully involved as they will be asked questions when the plan is submitted. Clerk confirms that there are still grants available to MTC and that it was agreed that funds for the NP would only come from grants and not the precept. Consultant states her company has dealt with over 200 plans in 8-10 years and in that time, turnout for the referendums tend to be low, so MTC must try to engage the public as much as possible. Cllrs discuss and ask questions. Clerk to apply for 2023/2024 grant funding prior to the deadline 5pm 26<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs Hinchliffe, Tolson & Naisbett state they would like to be involved in the plan and attend the steering group meetings. Steering group to send Clerk dates to circulate with those Cllrs. 8.35pm Steering group & consultant leave.
2. To discuss and agree to reinstate an Armistice Committee and decide any action necessary – Cllrs resolved to reinstate the Armistice committee.
3. To receive Draft Terms of Reference for Armistice Committee (Circulated prior to the meeting) and agree the terms of reference - Cllrs discussed and slight amendments were made to the draft. Following the amendments Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to accept the Terms of Reference Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
4. To discuss the potential of a new Mirfield Town Council website and agree any action necessary - Defer

## **MTC131/2023**

### **Planning:**

To consider potential controversial/controversial planning applications –

1. 2023/93539 at location Land adj, Ledgard Bridge Mill, Back Station Road, Mirfield, WF14 8NZ – Cllrs are concerned the impact on flooding with soak away land being built on in addition to the added traffic to back Station Rd. Previously Kirklees had asked for justification to make a community car park which seems strange that they should ask for justification. Cllr Hinchliff can recommend some planning consultants to look at this application for MTC. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** with amendments from Cllr Lees-Hamilton that a holding objection be sent to Kirklees and the Clerk be delegated with making enquiries for quotations for planning consultants. Once she has received reasonable quotes, appoint/engage and call a public meeting to discuss Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

## **MTC132/2023**

### **Public Question Time:**

**MTC133/2023**

**None**

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

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.57pm**.....