



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 7.30pm

Held at: Council Offices, Huddersfield Road, Mirfield

Councillors Present:

S Guy (Deputy Mayor), M Bolt, J Hirst, M Burton, P Tolson, J Nottingham, D Pinder, P Blakeley

In Attendance:

Clerk: Lisa Staggs

Public: J Tomlinson Walsh, K Bullivant, R Hartley, M Morgan, B Fox

Press: None

MTC201/2015 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Deputy Chairman Cllr Guy welcomed everyone and reported that Cllr Lees-Hamilton was ill. As there were members of the public present to speak on agenda items **Cllr Guy Proposed to suspend standing orders and bring forward MTC206(2) MTC209(1) MTC209(2) Cllr Bolt Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC202/2015 Public Question Time:

None

MTC203/2015 Apologies For Absence:

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

Cllrs: K Taylor, A Burton, J Taylor, C Walker, K Sibbald, V Lees-Hamilton, S Benson, M Ibberson

MTC204/2015 Declaration of Interest:

Councillors to declare an interest, if applicable to any item on the agenda or not declared on the members register of pecuniary interests.

Cllr S Guy - Royal British Legion, Mirfield Rifle Volunteers, Mirfield Library (other interests).

Cllr D Pinder - Royal British Legion, Mirfield Rifle Volunteers, Mirfield Community Partnership (other interests).

Cllr P Blakeley – Mirfield Show

MTC205/2015 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of 19th January 2016 as a true and correct record including payments of £12,200.48. MTC196 to include after 'the demand for appointments is increasing' Dr Jones stated that 1000 new homes would not impact on the service provided by the health centre as

much as 1 nursing home would. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** that once this amendment was included the minutes were a true and correct record Cllr Guy **Seconded**
Vote: All in favour

MTC206/2015

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 defibrillators – Cllr Guy reports that the cabinets have now arrived and that he will be liaising with hic contact to install one at Brooks Deli. He also reports he will contact Liz from Rotary Club regarding the Old Bank area.
2. To receive an update on Tennis Courts – Brian and Matthew from Mirfield Tennis Club are present and report that they have secured £2500 funding from Yorkshire LTA for the key fob entrance system. Members are all positive as this system has worked well in other areas and will have an instruction panel fixed to the access gate. Brian confirms that the club does not have the funds to pay the balance and that it will be looking for a grant from MTC for the balance of £4378.06 as the balance is needed by the end of March to secure the funding from LTA. Brian reports that the club may lose 20% of family members but that they estimate a greater number using this system. Cllr Bolt suggests MTC contacts Kirklees on behalf of the Tennis Club as it is the first Pilot in the northern region sponsored partly by LTA and ask if it is feasible to acquire funding from either their service budgets or new homes bonus. He also states that the District committee may be able to look at funding as it would benefit more than 1 ward. Clerk to contact Robert Whittaker at Kirklees on behalf of the Tennis Club. Cllr Guy states that the Tennis Club has done a fantastic job of securing money from LTA, drawing money in from national sporting bodies to support Mirfield. Cllr Guy thanks the Tennis Club for their presentation. **8.10pm**
Brian & Matt leave.
3. To receive an update on Mirfield Matters and decide action – Cllr Bolt states that MTC needs to make short/medium and long term plans based on the results of the survey. He states that there has been limited engagement on social media regarding the survey results. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** that MTC convenes a public meeting, inviting residents on the collation list and Ruth from Spirul to present with a 3-week lead time at the Salvation Army with a maximum budget of £300 Cllr Guy **Seconded**
Vote: All in favour Clerk to contact Ruth for a possible date, Cllr Bolt to secure the venue at Salvation Army.
4. To receive an update on Local Plan – Cllr Guy begins by thanking Cllr Lees-Hamilton & the Clerk for compiling a substantial response. He also thanks Cllrs for their input, which has made a forceful document with a strong rebuttal of what Kirklees are proposing. Clerk to send a copy of the response to Cheryl Tyler (Save Mirfield) and Paula Sherriff(MP). Cllr Bolt to send to Robert Goodwill (MP), environment agency and Kirklees.
5. To receive an update on Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Bolt reports that MTC can be more active now that the response has been sent for the end of February deadline for the Local Plan.
6. To receive an update on Mirfield Public Toilets – Cllr Pinder and Clerk report that the toilets have been purposely blocked again and that Clan Services have been appointed to unblock them. Clerk to check with Jonathan Quarmby on asset transfer.

MTC207/2015

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant application: Bronte 200 Bicentenary for Mirfield – In the absence of presentation defer.

MTC208/2015

Planning:

1. To consider planning applications received from Kirklees Council.
2016/90068 – Noted
2016/90094 – Noted
2016/90070 – Noted
2016/94112 – Noted
2015/94113 – Noted
2016/90152 – Noted
2. To consider planning decision notifications from Kirklees Council **No Comments/Noted**
3. To consider potential controversial planning applications. **None Received**

MTC209/2015

Mirfield Matters:

To consider and decide any action where necessary on the following matters:

1. To receive an update on Mirfield Library – Jenny Tomlinson Walsh presents an update reporting that ML are now partnered with WYPW, Canal & River Trust and Safe Anchor Trust, but that the Friends group has gone as far as possible until the building is agreed with Kirklees by way of asset transfer (next Kirklees meeting around 9th February). She reports that the hours given by Kirklees totalling 32.5 have been collated against footfall and she hands out a proposed list of opening times for Cllrs to consider. She reports that self-serve checkouts will replace the existing counter system and that the Library is to become a tourist information centre. Cllr Guy suggest a survey drop box on the counter for club ideas and comments on proposed opening times. Jenny reports that the Library will lead the Bronte 200 events and that a Bronte Walk(Summer), Bronte Book reading and Bronte Painting Competition (Children/Summer) have so far been arranged. She also reports that an event will take place to mark the Queen's 90th birthday on Saturday 11th June and that the Library is hoping to host a Mirfield Arts Festival. Cllrs & R Hartley comment that many community groups host arts festival and wondered if 1 large event would be better than many small ones. Cllr Bolt states that event organisers need to let MTC know of events so that a programme coordinating them all could be put together. R Hartley states he would be happy to collate such a report and upload to My Mirfield. Cllr Pinder **Proposed** MTC supports the idea of Mirfield Arts Festival Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Clerk asks Jenny to send future presentation/updates via email before the meeting so that Cllrs can read beforehand. **8.50pm Jenny leaves.**
2. To receive an update on Mirfield Show – Cllr Blakeley declared an interest. Karen Bullivant (Chair Show committee) reports that the drainage company have still not begun work on the showground as the ground has been too bad due to rainfall. Originally the show committee were to invest £10k into the drainage but reports have shown that a further £10k is required, which the show committee have agreed to spend. Karen reports that committee members and residents are intending to set up a Friends of Mirfield Showground group and that this was positively welcomed by Rob Dalby. She reports that Kirklees have suspended all bookings on the showground until it is fit for use. With regards to sponsorship, Karen lists the Gold Package to Cllrs for their consideration. Cllr Pinder states that MTC should support as a premier town event and is not appropriate for the town council

to receive complimentary passes. Cllr Bolt suggest that MTC would like to utilise the stand pitch to engage with residents. Cllr Blakeley left the room. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC sponsors the main marquee as per the previous year Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Blakeley returned. Karen states that the friends group will probably include 4 members of the show committee and the rest residents. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC welcomes the establishment of a Friends of Mirfield Showground and the devolution of both management and budget from Kirklees and that MTC is represented in the group by a member of the council and finally that MTC congratulates the show committee on renovating the showground Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Karen thanks MTC for their generous sponsorship. **9.10pm Karen leaves. Cllr Guy Proposed to reinstate standing orders Cllr Pinder Seconded Vote: All in favour.**

3. To receive an update on Mirfield Memorial Ground – Cllr Bolt reports that it is the Memorial Ground Centenary and that MTC need to look at ways to mark the great war in Mirfield. He reports that the pavilion is in a bad state of repair and that there is no disabled access or disabled toilet and with the use of the ground growing with Mirfield Petanque Club, the issue needs addressing – Defer
4. To consider tourism/vibrancy/economy and calendar of events - Cllrs discuss the notice board outside Watchwise and possible relocation by the Library. Cllrs discuss refreshing the Welcome boards approaching the town, Cllr Guy to look in to this. Cllrs all agree the priority is to promote Mirfield activities and events making the entry to Mirfield more attractive and also promote the moorings in Mirfield.

MTC210/2015

Outside Bodies: (Updates via email from Cllrs)

To receive updates and decide any action where necessary.

None Received

MTC211/2015

Internal Matters:

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

1. To consider & approve 2016/17 Budget – Defer as Cllr Lees-Hamilton absent
2. To consider & approve 2016/17 Precept – Cllr Guy gives Cllrs a brief account of the 2015/16 spend stating that MTC budgeted £80,400 and spent £118,220, mostly through election and by-elections. He states that the precept has not been increased for a few years and refers to the Mirfield Matters survey stating 42% would pay £1 more and 21% would pay more than £1. He lists the events that MTC has helped fund, Mirfield Show, Bonfire, Christmas Lights, Remembrance Parade and the many grants including sponsoring Battyeford Boys FC kit. He states that to continue this work and taking into account the survey, that MTC considers increasing the precept by 50p per household, generating an extra £4482.50. Cllr Bolt states that the events sponsored by MTC have all generated money and tourism for Mirfield. He states MTC has been proactive in securing professional advice on key issues relating to planning. He states that if MTC remain in the building, they will have to pay over £14k rent to Kirklees or rent on alternative location and that it would be prudent to raise the precept and that it has the public backing as per the survey. Richard Hartley speaks as a resident and states that he would be in favour of £1 increase as this is invested in good causes. He thinks MTC should budget for contingency or by-election and that £1 is not much of an increase in day

to day life, but the council could do even more with a large increase. He mentions a statement made by member of the public that MTC should budget for 16 by-elections. **9.55pm Cllr Burton leaves.** Cllr Bolt states the comment made by the member of the public was ludicrous and that MTC couldn't budget £160k for by-elections, but by raising the precept, could recoup some of the expense. Cllr Pinder **Proposed** £1 increase to the precept Cllr Blakeley **Seconded Vote: 3 in favour** Cllr Guy **Proposed** 50p increase to the precept Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: 4 in favour** 50p increase carried as majority vote. Clerk to inform Kirklees of increase.

3. To consider and approve a course of action on External Audit Regime changes – Cllr Guy explains the current audit system and the Clerk states that the current situation of internal and external audit works well but states she has not had chance to read all the literature provided Cllr Guy **Proposed** MTC opts out of the Sector Led Body Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
Cllr Guy Proposed to add an extra item MTC211(4) as content of letter urgent and received after agenda was prepared Cllr Pinder Seconded Vote: All in favour
4. To consider letter regarding Council Offices from Paul Kemp (letter received after agenda prepared) – Cllr Guy reads the email from Paul Kemp advising that the council offices be used for storage/information only and for MTC to find alternative accommodation whilst the urgent repairs in the report are carried out. The letter mentions the Library, Cllrs all agree that the upstairs room in the library is not acceptable due to the lack of disabled access and lift. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** that all members present at the meeting look at all community venues, costs, times etc. available in their wards and relay to the Clerk Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Pinder reports that he was present during the health & safety survey and that recommendations were not made about the chambers Cllr Pinder **Proposed** the Clerk email Paul Kemp and ask for a copy of the Kirklees action plan regarding the repairs and ask if MTC can hold the fortnightly meetings in the chambers Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour.**

MTC212/2015

Correspondence:

To receive the following new items of correspondence and decide any action where necessary.

1. White Rose Update - **Noted**
2. Understanding the role of combined authorities – **Noted**
3. NCCME – **Noted**
4. Last Friday Club – **Noted**
5. Fields In Trust Small Grant Funding - **Noted**

MTC213/2015

Matters for Report and Information:

Members wishing to raise items under this heading should consult the Chairman prior to the meeting.

Cllr Pinder reported 13th February at Old Colonial a thank you from RBL for residents who helped in the remembrance parade and with the count. He reports that the freedom march by the Yorkshire regiment will not go ahead as Kirklees deem it inappropriate. He reports that they are planting in Ladywood on 22nd June and could possibly have a march though Mirfield on this day. He also reports that WYPW has secured a grant and will be having a WW1 display of postcards with a school's competition 9/7/16 – 5/9/16. Cllr Hirst reports that Christmas Lights are still on dentist's premises. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Ibberson. Cllr Guy reports that local resident Paul Horrobin participated in

MTC214/2015

the trials of the Invictus games in basketball.

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:

Date of next meeting **Tuesday 2nd February 2016**

Time Meeting Closed.....**10.35pm**.....