



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.00pm

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

Councillors Present:

M Connell (Chairman), S Naisbett (Deputy), P Tolson, J Roberts, J Hirst, S Guy, D Hirst, M Sullivan

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: 1 resident, 3 x MIB Members, 1 x Round Table member, 1 x Friends of Mirfield Library

Press: None

MTC96/2023

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Connell welcomed Cllrs and members of the public to the meeting. He thanked everyone who attended the Remembrance Parade.

MTC97/2023

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 Bolt, Itrat Ali, B Harrison, Imran Ali, M Brown & M Hamilton sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Guy **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Guy **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
Cllr Hinchliff was absent but did not send apologies

MTC98/2023

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 MTC100(3)

MTC99/2023

Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 1st November 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 D Hirst **Seconded Vote: 7 in favour Cllr Guy Abstained**

MTC100/2023

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 Lights and decide any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reports the lights will be installed from 20th November. There will be food stalls in St Pauls. Clerk confirms the Choral Society have agreed to sing after the switch on. Cllr Naisbett to look at a similar event to Cleckheaton next year.
2. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Lamppost Banners and decide any action necessary – No update.
3. To receive an update on Mirfield Library and decide any action necessary – Member of the Friends group is present. The member reports that a meeting was held with Kirklees. They confirmed that the funding was pulled to develop the library and toilets. There is no accessible toilet installed and no current bid for one. Kirklees recognise that it is a community hub with a strong friends group, supported by MTC and Mirfield residents. Friends want the building to remain open, so need toilet facilities. Friends to ask Kirklees if they or MTC can apply for funding for toilets. Kirklees corporate landlord owns the building and will carry out only essential repairs to the building. Cllrs discuss and state that local builders may help with costs and look at applying for a Changing Places grant. Friends member confirms that use of the library has increased with more events and groups and statistics show this.
4. To receive an update on RBL Parade 12/11/23 and decide any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett states there is a meeting on Monday 20th, update MTC next meeting.

MTC101/2023

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk Nov Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance Nov by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC Nov PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk Nov Pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist Nov Room Hire by Bacs £80.00
6. To agree Able Gardens Nov maintenance by Bacs £90.00
7. To agree Wild About Gardens Bankfield Hedges £180.00
8. To agree YLCA Webinar Allotments Training £75.00 (Training agreed under Clerk's delegated powers)
9. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/10/23 – **Noted**
10. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/10/23 - **Noted**

Cllr Guy **Proposed** to pay items 1-8 en bloc & note items 9 & 10 Cllr

Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC102/2023

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant applications submitted: Mirfield In Bloom £20,000 for plants – Grant application and supporting documents were circulated prior to the meeting. 3 members MIB including the treasurer are present. The members report that they have already ordered £20k of plants for next year. They report winning Gold for the town, tied with Knaresborough and will possibly represent Yorkshire In Bloom next year. MIB confirm that the theme for next year is Sunset Boulevard and are already in the planning stages. Cllr Connell reports that MTC have supported MIB since it began with £56k being granted over the years. He confirms that there is £19,072 balance in the Annual Events budget heading and that £20k is almost one fifth of the precept and is

conscious that year on year the group have £26k in their bank account. Cllr Guy states he is conscious that the precept is just over £100k and the grant is £20k, a considerable percentage of the precept. He states he cannot justify the grant increasing in future years as this could start to impact on the precept and this amount to one group, could remove the opportunity for other groups to apply for grants. Cllrs must be mindful that the pot cannot keep increasing. He agrees MIB is value for money but cannot increase year on year. Cllr Sullivan asked if plants/compost could be sourced cheaper elsewhere, but the Chair states they have to use only top-quality compost. Cllr Connell states in future years he would like to see more input from commercial sources and not so reliant on MTC, especially as the bank balance last year at this time and this year is the same at £26k. Cllrs also note that the chair stated their own fundraising was £10k, but the accounts only show £4k, why is there a discrepancy? Member states the budget is based on expectation. Cllr Guy **Proposed** to support the group with the requested £20,000 grant for plants Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

2. To receive updates from previously approved grants:
 - UHCA Summer Fete – Report circulated prior to the meeting – **Noted**
 - Mirfield Round Table Bonfire – Member MRT was present and reported that even though the weather was the worst for many years, 4000 people still attended and £10,000 was made for local charities. There were issues with parking, the member welcomes any suggestions regarding the parking. Cllr Naisbett states that Mirfield Show host park & ride. MRT member agrees this is a good idea for the show as it is for the full day, but the bonfire is just a few hours. They will consider this for next year. He reports that the field will be re-rolled.
7.53pm member leaves.

MTC103/2023

Internal Matters:

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

1. To agree appointment of Internal Auditor for half yearly audit. Clerk's recommendation Yorkshire Internal Audit Services – Cllr Guy **Proposed** to accept the Clerk's recommendation of Northern Internal Audit Services formerly Yorkshire Internal Audit Services Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To agree that all members of the council and the Clerk may attend YLCA training/webinar courses should the need/want to attend arise (These sessions are often notified & held between meetings) – Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** members of MTC and the Clerk are approved to attend training courses throughout the year should the want/need arise Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
3. To receive NALC E01-23 2022/2023 Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023 and pay award to be agreed and implemented as swiftly as possible. Council will need to calculate back pay to that date for the Clerk who's contract is on the National Joint Council terms and conditions (Circulated prior to the meeting) – Cllr Guy **Proposed** to accept the NALC E01-23 2022/2023 pay agreement and pay award and to back date any increase to 1st April 2023, Cllr Guy stated that if this resulted in the Clerk paying increased deductions, that she may

pay this over several pay periods Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC104/2023

Public Question Time:

None

MTC105/2023

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th December 2023.

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.02pm**.....