

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.02pm

Held at: Remotely via Zoom

Councillors Present:

M Bolt (Chairman), J Roberts, M Connell, Kath Taylor, V Lees-Hamilton, Keith Taylor, S Guy, M Brown, P Tolson, J Nottingham, J Hirst, J Hinchliffe

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: Residents

Press: None

MTC279/2019 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Mayor Cllr Bolt welcomed Councillors to the remote meeting. Clerk confirmed the remote meeting was quorate. Cllr Bolt welcomed 4 members of the public.

MTC280/2019 Apologies For Absence:

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

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

MTC281/2019 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.

Clerk explains DPI to all Cllrs making special note to newly Co-opted Cllrs Sullivan & Mallinson, this followed the Co-option which was brought forward in the running order

Cllr Brown declared a personal interest as a plot holder at Nab Lane allotments and member of MAGS.

Cllr Sullivan declared a personal interest as a plot holder at Nab Lane allotments and member of MAGS.

MTC282/2019 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 24th March 2021 including payments of Nil. Cllr Guy **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: 10 in favour Cllrs Hirst & Hinchliffe Abstained as absent from the meeting Cllrs Sullivan & Mallinson abstained as not Co-opted at the time**

MTC283/2019

Co-option of Councillors:

1. To receive an update on Casual Vacancies for Battyeford & Crossley wards and decide a course of action – Cllr Bolt explained that since no By-election was called for either Ward, that MTC could Co-opt Cllrs to fill the 2 vacancies. The 2 candidates had provided the Clerk and Cllr Bolt with a CV and after consideration of the role profile it was agreed by Clerk & Cllr Bolt to put forward the 2 candidates for Co-option to full council. Cllrs discuss with the 2 candidates. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to Co-opt M Sullivan as Cllr for Crossley Ward and C Mallinson as Cllr for Battyeford Ward Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Bolt welcomed the 2 new members.

MTC284/2019

Clerk's Report:

1. To note the following decisions made between meetings by the Clerk under Delegated Powers as agreed in the Full Council Meeting 12th May 2020:
 - Payment of Clerk Salary, Working Allowance, NEST Pension & HMRC for April
 - Payment of Just Gardens Maintenance of Eastthorpe Gardens April £80.00
 - Payment of Monthly Zoom cost for Pro March £14.39
 - Payment of Annual Subscription YLCA £1877.00
 - Payment of Zurich Insurance Renewal £954.23
 - Payment of Nov/Dec Invoice River Stewardship Co £1320.00
 - Return Payment to Groundworks UK for Neighbourhood Plan Grant for consultant advice and preparation of Plan of £3062.00

Cllrs Noted the above items in line with the Clerk's delegation.

2. To receive and note Bank Reconciliation 31/3/21 - **Noted**
3. To receive an update on Clerk's Delegated Powers and decide actions on future meetings – Cllr Bolt reported that the amendment for Remote meetings to the 1972 Local Government Act was to cease 6th May 2021, he stated that it had been challenged in high court and that YLCA & NALC were obtaining feedback from Town & Parish councils in an attempt to legalise remote meetings. He states that the meeting room at St Mary's was just comfortable for Cllrs, Clerk & small number of public prior to Covid but the room would not allow for social distancing at the present time. A larger room would require a risk assessment and thorough cleaning before and after a meeting and supply of PPE, all of which is not practical. He states the council has a duty of care to the Clerk. The current delegation scheme allows for the Clerk to make decisions on behalf of council. Some items require consultation with the Mayor and other Cllrs online. These online meetings are to discuss matters and are not decision-making meetings. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to retain the delegation of powers to the Clerk and online briefings and review after the Government has made a decision regarding easing lockdown and social distancing Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to maintain the current Mayor & Deputy roles for a further year & retain the Cllrs on Outside Bodies Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC285/2019

Internal Matters:

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

1. To agree the appointment of Internal Auditor, Yorkshire Internal Audit Services for 2020/2021 – Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the Clerk appoint Yorkshire Internal Audit Services for the Internal Audit Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC286/2019

Mirfield Matters:

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

1. To agree a course of action for Mirfield Riverside Project – Cllrs discuss how by appointing RSC the idea was to improve the environment & riverbanks and the effect on flooding from debris and litter trapped along the riverbank. They all agree that RSC have been contracting rather than facilitating. MTC agreed to support if needed but ultimately to underwrite not fund. RSC failed to seek commercial contributions and grants and only £210 was received for Knotweed treatment against £13k funded by MTC. RSC didn't seem to say anything to suggest a change of situation on engaging with the community other than to facilitate litter picks. Options are to continue with RSC under a revised project or work with groups & continue the project locally with the community. Cllrs agree that they were unimpressed with the scope of works and naivety regarding dealing with a town council and its policies & procedures, excuses about not being able to obtain grants due to covid and lack of community engagement and promotion/advertising. Cllr Roberts stated RSC were aware they had to look to landowners for funding and still took on the project. Cllrs concerned at the turnover of staff in the short time MTC dealing with them. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC maintain the decision to no longer use RSC but commit to pursue the project with community groups and landowners. To strongly pursue Yorkshire Water as one of the main polluters to contribute financially & physically to the project. Facilitate volunteer days and find ways of working with and involving community groups. Partnership with local groups/charities and keep monies within Mirfield and evolve a project that residents will be involved with Cllr Keith Taylor **Seconded Vote: All in favour** MTC would like Mirfield businesses and riparian owners to contact MTC.

MTC287/2019

Matters for Report & Information:

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

1. To Note Neighbourhood Plan Minutes – **Noted**

Cllr Bolt states the decision for the Neighbourhood Plan rests with MTC to help shape planning in Mirfield.

MTC288/2019

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting **TBC**

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.00pm**.....