



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 28th September 2021 at 7.30pm

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

Councillors Present:

M Bolt (Chairman), J Roberts, V Lees-Hamilton, Keith Taylor, S Guy, M Brown, J Hirst, J Nottingham, M Sullivan, S Naisbett, C Mallinson

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: Residents & members of community groups

Press: None

MTC298/2019 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Mayor Cllr Bolt welcomed Councillors to the first face to face meeting indoors. He reports that there are challenges to face with Kirklees & Cooper Bridge with a planned £1.6M resurface that will be followed by £77M rebuild. Armistice & Remembrance committee planning events including a Holocaust Memorial Day in 2022. He reports he represented Mirfield at a Reserve & Cadet event with Lord Lieutenant and that MTC was the only Town Council invited, with 3 cadets attending from 868 squadron. He also reports that Cllr Guy is assisting with a revival of the Mirfield Army Cadet Force after being contacted by a local army veteran.

MTC299/2019 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, M Connell & P Tolson sent apologies with reasons for absence
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to accept the apologies and reasons for absence for Cllr Tolson & Cllr Connell and agreed to continue the leave of absence for Cllr Kath Taylor & Cllr M Burton **Seconded: Cllr Lees-Hamilton Vote: All in favour**

Cllr J Hinchliffe was absent but sent no apologies

MTC300/2019 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.

Cllr S Naisbett declared a pecuniary interest MTC304 – GLAAG Grant Application and left the room when the item was discussed

MTC301/2019 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 24th June 2021

including payments of Nil. Cllr Brown **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Nottingham **Seconded Vote: 9 in favour Cllrs Guy & Taylor Abstained as absent from the meeting**

MTC302/2019

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 & upheld 5th May 2021
 - Payment of Clerk Salary, Working Allowance, NEST Pension & HMRC for June, July & August
 - Payment of Just Gardens Maintenance of Eastthorpe Gardens June, July & August £240.00
 - Order & payment of First Impressions Hanging Baskets £1584
 - Order & payment of David Ogilvie Benches £1334.60
 - Payment of Stationary supplies £38.00
 - Payment of Yorkshire Internal Audit £350.00
 - Payment of Wild About Gardens Hedges £180.00
 - Payment of Go Daddy SSL Certificate £167.98
 - Payment of Land Registry Riverside £18.00
 - Authorisation and payment of MIB Grant £15,000
 - Instruction & payment to Williams & Co advice £840.00
 - Authorisation & payment of 2020 & 2021 Mayor Remuneration £2000
 - Authorisation & payment of Hopton 10K Grant £1500
 - Preparation & payment of 2020/2021 External Audit £480.00

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

2. To receive and note Bank Reconciliation 31/8/21 – **Noted**

3. To receive and note monthly budget to 31/8/21 – **Noted**

MTC303/2019

Internal Matters:

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

1. To receive an update and decide any course of actions required on Decisions Summary Including Mirfield Matters – Decisions Summary was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Bolt stated that Cllr Nottingham had investigated MTC132/18 Prevention Pollution in River Calder and it was being dealt with by Kirklees and could be marked as finalised and removed from the summary. Cllr Bolt reported on MTC213/18 Water Safety Initiative and that it was not beneficial to have a safety device at the side of the Navigation Tavern and to finalise and remove the item from the summary. MTC would review this if Canal & River Trust agreed a partnership initiative in the future. Summary circulated to Cllrs for an update and will be brought back to council at a future meeting.
2. To receive a quotation from local contractor Ben Hardcastle for 2021 Christmas Lights at a cost of £5500 and agree the costs and any action necessary – A representative was present from Hardcastle Howard (Christmas Lights Contractor). The item was brought forward due to an email from Kirklees with a new Festive Lighting Manual and Policy. Cllr Bolt reports that a 307-page booklet has been issued with unrealistic timescales and has been in process since June 2021 but with no consultation with local groups or councils. Birstall & Cleckheaton have raised issues regarding timescales and demand on contractors. Cllr Bolt reports that Kirklees are imposing deadlines that contractors are finding unachievable. Contractor confirms that he has not had any conversation with Kirklees and that conditions are almost impossible to achieve and only large expensive firms can meet the criteria and impose traffic management, despite the local contractors having extensive knowledge of the buildings and area. Cllr Lees-Hamilton states that on behalf of

residents and children, MTC cannot accept this. Cllr Bolt confirms that there have never been any issues with the festive lighting in Mirfield, always managed public safety and that Kirklees should have been engaging & consulting with local communities prior to preparing this document. Contractor confirms that both himself and another employee have G39 certificate and in the past, this has been more than was required. Cllrs are also concerned that the dates given for erection and removal exclude communities celebrating festivals like Diwali. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC contact the Chief Executive & Leader of the council to object to the Kirklees Lighting Policy & Manual as MTC has not had prior knowledge or consultation and this has placed us in an impossible position for Christmas 2021, of being able to adapt previous arrangements in the timescales given. MTC has had discussions with our long-standing contractor & MTC take issue that Mr Ashton states he has contacted local contractors who are employed by various local groups and discussed the festive lighting requirements and every discussion has had a positive outcome including the contractor who is due to undertake works in Mirfield, this is untrue as our contractor has had no such conversation. MTC also take issue that the grant allocated of £750 is less than previous grants of £1000. MTC urge the Chief Executive & Leader of the council to suspend the rollout for 2021 and undertake consultation with all communities within Kirklees to issue a revised manual & achievable timescale as there are clear contradictions in the policy & manual. This comes after almost 2 years of lockdowns and communities emerging from the pandemic hoping to have a celebration to look forward to. Kirklees must be mindful of this celebration and also other festivals within communities. MTC request an urgent response to this email in 5 working days as it is critical for the enjoyment of Christmas & other festivals in our communities Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

8.00pm Contractor leaves.

3. To receive the following motion and decide any action necessary: Cllr Bolt **Proposed** Mirfield Town Council believes that holding a market in the town centre will have benefits to our existing businesses and residents and may attract more customers into the town centre. Kirklees as the market authority have initially agreed to progress this with the Town Council as market licence holder. In order to progress this, Town council will include the consideration setting up a market during its meetings and these discussions will be open to anyone interested. The Council will fully investigate costs and implications. To investigate the financial and logistical issues relating to holding a market in Mirfield. To consider location & frequency in conjunction with Kirklees and the Council Structure. Items that are taken during a council meeting are open to all members of the town council, together with any business owner or resident who wishes to join. Non council members wishing to be part of the formal process and privy to confidential meetings must consent to complete a DPI and abide by the Code of Conduct. The subject may be lead/chaired by a Town Councillor with consideration given to a "deputy" chosen from others if so wished. As part of the council the formal voting members can only be town councillors, but they will be guided by other members of the project group Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour** – Cllr Bolt reports that Kirklees are the legal market authority, following a request from him, Kirklees will authorise MTC a market licence. Cllr Bolt states that rather than form a sub-committee, everyone can attend a Full Council meeting with residents and businesses able to join and be included.
4. To agree a Schedule of Meetings to the end of the 2021 Calendar Year: Thursday 14th October, Wednesday 20th October, Wednesday 10th November, Wednesday 24th November & Wednesday 15th December – Clerk explained

that due to Covid-19 & lockdowns she had changed her working days from Tuesday & Thursday to Wednesday & Thursday for a more productive working arrangement, 2 days together. Cllr Brown **Proposed** to accept the schedule of meetings Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC304/2019

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant applications submitted:

GLAAG – Legal assistance Planning Application 2019/91467 appeal – 8.16pm Cllr Naisbett leaves the room having declared a pecuniary interest. Representative from Save Mirfield & GLAAG are present. SM confirmed that GLAAG are an informal action group and that they are now under the Save Mirfield umbrella with funds raised are ring fenced in the bank account and accounts. SM reports that Kirklees refused the development and that the developer has launched an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. GLAAG & SM have engaged a professional consultant & barrister. Some fundraising has been done as Kirklees told SM & GLAAG that the appeal would take almost a year due to the backlog (47 weeks), but on Friday 24th September Kirklees informed them that they only had until 20th October to reply to the appeal. SM reports that the appeal is incredibly detailed and that Miller Homes clearly expected a public enquiry. SM & GLAAG contacted the barrister who gave them a pro bono initial meeting, who said that there is a strong possibility, as it is so complex, that it would go to a hearing. SM report that Kirklees originally approved the application and that SM & GLAAG appealed the decision and Kirklees reversed their decision, it was then deferred twice then refused. Everything needs to be finished, checked and in place by 26th October. Maximum possible amount for barrister is £30K. Barrister believes there is a good chance of winning but cannot guarantee anything. SM will have a solicitor, highways consultant & hydrologist at the hearing but if it goes to a public enquiry a barrister will be needed. GLAAG confirm that everything so far has been fully funded by the small community and SM state that they have not asked for any funding for previous developments as they have had time to fundraise. Cllrs agree that this was a landmark case, to reverse a decision and that MTC cannot accept a development that is in an area of extreme flooding. Cllr Bolt states that there are regen reserves in the budget that can be moved to assist with the costs. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC underwrites the shortfall of costs to enable GLAAG & Save Mirfield to retain specialists with the understanding that Save Mirfield and GLAAG continue fundraising. Barrister's clerk to invoice MTC Cllr Roberts **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

8.37pm Cllr Naisbett enters the room

Mirfield & District Roundtable - 2021 Bonfire £3500 – 2 members of MDR are present. All required documents were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bolt reports that in 2019 all the profit of £1300 from the bonfire was donated to local good causes. MDR confirm that Kirklees has agreed the use of their land for the bonfire and they will be liaising with SAG. Cllrs all agree that it will be something for the community to look forward to coming out of the pandemic. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC grant the £3500 for the fireworks as a benefit to the whole community and asked if the company providing them would invoice MTC directly in order to reclaim any VAT Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

Mirfield Team Parish - St Mary's Church Clock £300 – Members of Mirfield Team Parish are present and grant application and accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bolt reports that MTC used to have a budget heading of £400 for all clocks in Mirfield, but this was unused for many years, so it was taken out of the budget a few years ago, therefore this must be approved in the form of a grant. Cllr Guy asks if it can be included in the budget. Clerk

confirms that when the 2022/2023 budget is drafted, if council are minded it can be a suggestion. The church warden confirms that they have not been able to fundraise due to Covid and less funds from a dwindling congregation. Cllr Guy **Proposed** to grant the sum of £300 and asked for the invoice to be sent directly to MTC Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC305/2019

Public Question Time:

NONE

MTC306/2019

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting **Thursday 14th October 2021**

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.10pm**.....