



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 4.00pm

Held at: Remotely via Zoom

Councillors Present:

M Bolt (Chairman), V Lees-Hamilton, S Naisbett, J Hirst, M Connell, M Ibberson, Kath Taylor

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs
Public: None
Press: None

MTC227/2019 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

Clerk confirmed the remote meeting was quorate.

The Mayor Cllr Bolt welcomed Councillors to the Zoom meeting, he stated he hoped Cllrs had a healthy summer in these interesting times.

MTC228/2019 Apologies For Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – Apologies received from Cllr Guy, Cllr Nottingham, Cllr Keith Taylor & Cllr S Benson
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllrs Guy, Nottingham, Taylor & Benson provided reasons for absence. It was resolved to accept the reasons for absence **Proposed** by Cllr Bolt **Seconded** by Cllr Naisbett **Vote: All in favour**

Cllrs Tolson, Burton, Roberts, Brown & Hinchliffe were absent but sent no apologies or reasons for absence.

MTC229/2019 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.

No interests to declare on any item on the agenda.

MTC230/2019 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 3rd March 2020 as a true and correct record including payments of **Nil**. Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting 3rd March were a true and correct record Cllr Naisbett **Seconded** **Vote: 6 in favour Cllr Connell abstained due to absence from the meeting.**

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 12th May 2020 including payments of **Nil**. Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Cllrs discussed the minutes 12th May 2020 after Cllr Bolt brought to Cllrs attention a reason for absence provided by Cllr Benson for this meeting and read out an email dated 7th May from Cllr Benson in which he stated he would not attend the meeting 12th May as it was a social gathering. He asked Cllrs to decide if the reason provided was a valid apology & reason for non-attendance at the meeting. He reported the Clerk had spent much time liaising with Cllr Benson via email regarding the statement he made in the email 7th May to ascertain the exact intent of the email and he himself had emailed Cllr Benson in order to offer mediation. He read out an email from Cllr Benson dated 8th September in which Cllr Benson states he wished his statement to be read out at this meeting and confirmed he had not offered an apology for the meeting 12th May. Cllrs discussed this at length and all agreed that a refusal to attend based on a member's disagreement with the premise, purpose or location of a meeting is not a valid apology or reason. Cllr Bolt reported the meeting went ahead after confirmation & guidance was received from West Yorkshire Police on social distancing procedures and that it was a Business Meeting with the Summons to the meeting adhering to MTC standing orders with the presence of the Clerk. Guidance was given to work from home if possible and due to the nature of the meeting being a one item agenda giving delegated powers to the Clerk, meeting from home at the time was not appropriate due to many members not having access to remote meetings. Taking all the above into account Cllrs were in agreement that the reason for absence was not agreed at the meeting 12th May nor was it a valid reason for absence to amend the minutes circulated by the Clerk, therefore Cllr Ibberson **Proposed** the minutes of 12th May were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Connell **Seconded Vote: 6 in favour Cllr Taylor abstained as absent from 12th May meeting.**

MTC231/2019

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

1. To approve Annual Return Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 – Documents circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bolt thanked the Clerk for the preparation of the Annual Return. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to approve Annual Return Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve Annual Return Annual Accounting Statements 2019/2020 – Documents circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to approve Annual Return Annual Accounting Statements 2019/2020 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC232/2019

Public Question Time:

None

MTC233/2019

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:

Cllr Taylor reminded Cllrs the deadline for comments on Huddersfield Rd was 23rd September. Cllr Bolt advised Cllrs to send comments to the Clerk to collate and Clerk under delegated powers will circulate final draft to Cllrs for approval before submitting to Kirklees.

Cllr Bolt reported he was trying to make progress to have face to face meetings.

Cllr Bolt ended the meeting by thanking Cllrs for attending and asked them to stay safe.

Date of next meeting **TBC**

Time Meeting Closed.....**4.22pm**.....