



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 6.30pm

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, S Naisbett

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs
Public: Members Save Mirfield, MAGS, MCT & resident
Press: None

MTC268/2019 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Mayor Cllr Bolt welcomed Councillors to the remote meeting. Clerk confirmed the remote meeting was quorate. Cllr Bolt reported that Network Rail were providing information for the Transpennine Route upgrade online only, so not accessible for all. There are many areas in Mirfield this could affect. MTC as a consultary body are allowed to make representation, MTC need to be aware and plan accordingly.

MTC269/2019 Apologies For Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllr Hirst sent apologies for the beginning of the meeting, but due to circumstances did not attend. Cllr Burton has an extended leave of absence.
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to accept the apologies and reasons for absence **Seconded: Cllr Guy Vote: All in favour**

Cllr Hinchliffe was absent but sent no apologies or reasons for absence.

MTC270/2019 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 Brown declared a personal interest as a plot holder at Nab Lane allotments and member of MAGS.

Cllr Naisbett declared a Pecuniary Interest in Granny Lane MTC275(1) and was placed in the waiting room whilst this was discussed

Cllr Taylor declared an other interest in Heavy Woollen Planning as she forms part of the committee

MTC271/2019 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 17th February 2021 including payments of Nil. Cllr Guy **Proposed** the minutes

were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC272/2019

Mirfield Matters:

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

1. To agree Town Council Environment Position & create a task and finish group to establish an environmental agenda for the future and decide any action necessary – Cllr Bolt reports on the NALC newsletter regarding Climate issues, he states that MTC are already doing many of the tasks suggested. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to set up a task & finish group to move things forward and maintain long held commitments to improve the environment for residents & resolves to continue encouraging residents & businesses to join with MTC. MTC has signed the Woodland Trust Tree Charter and needs now to look at Government funding and set aside land to plant trees to protect open spaces & look at ways to be more sustainable and reduce plastic & waste Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Guy **Proposed** to combine initiatives through schools, for MTC to continue leading the way Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To receive an update on Community Orchard at Knowl Park – Cllr Bolt reports that funding was secured in 2015 for a fence around the park. Good progress has been made but need to complete the planting. 60 trees in total required to cover the area. A local company new to Mirfield has agreed to supply with a 50% discount, planting will incur an additional cost. This could be an opportunity for businesses to offset their carbon emissions by sponsoring the planting of trees. Cllrs discuss the benefits of the project and also the Riverside Project, although Cllrs disappointed that grants and funding has not been forthcoming from RSC as MTC agreed to underwrite the project not fund. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to delegate the approval to proceed with costs to the Clerk as per her delegated powers Cllr Connell **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
3. To receive an update on Gilder Hall Land & Mirfield Community Trust and decide any action necessary – Members from MCT are present and report that the 2 trees next to the wall which risked the structure of the wall have been removed. The wall is now ok, therefore MCT will not require the grant from MTC. They confirm that they will be engaging with residents near Gilder Hall once lockdown lifts and believe that they can make the land sustainable with grants and income. Cllr Bolt offers once again for MTC to take over the Gilder Hall Land if in the future the trustees struggle to maintain the community centre and the land. Thus, safeguarding the land from development. MCT report that they have looked at long term planning and once sustainable would not look to sell and thanked MTC for their offer of help. MCT members leave the Zoom meeting.
4. To consider joining Rural Market Towns Grouping for a trial period to the end of September 2021 and agree any action necessary – Cllrs discuss the invitation to join the group, some are sceptical what it involves. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to accept the offer to join the group for a free trial up to September and then review Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC273/2019

Clerk's Report:

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

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 February & March
- Payment of Just Gardens Maintenance of Eastthorpe Gardens March £80.00
- Payment of Monthly Zoom cost for Pro March £14.39
- Payment of items on behalf of Armistice Committee £141.90
- Payment of Screwfix storage for Town Council paperwork & files £150.00
- Payment of B&Q plastic storage for Town Council files £39.75
- Order of Ambassador Board at a cost of £2850.00 as previously approved
- Order of Bench & Plaque in Memory of Late former Cllr & Mayor M Boothroyd at a cost of £995 + VAT

Cllrs noted the above items in line with the Clerk's delegation. Cllr Bolt reported the Ambassador Board would be sign written and fixed in the library. He reported that the bench would be a fitting tribute to the former Mayor.

MTC274/2019

Internal Matters:

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

1. To receive and note the Annual Report 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 – **Noted.**
The report to be uploaded to the website and placed in the Notice Board in town centre. Cllr Bolt thanked the Clerk for preparing the report.
2. To agree the appointment of a Protocol and Civic Advisor and agree any action necessary – MTC is joined on the Zoom call by a former Kirklees Civic attendant of 25 years and a member of National Association of Civic Officers, who has offered his services free of charge to MTC. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC thank and gratefully accept his offer and delegate any costs for expenses incurred to be paid under delegation by the Clerk Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC275/2019

Planning:

1. To receive an update on Granny Lane – Cllr Naisbett is placed in the waiting room following a declaration of pecuniary interest. Members of Save Mirfield are present. Cllr Bolt reported that at the last meeting of Strategic planning, an application at Shaw Cross, Kirklees staff asked the committee to reconsider their decision. This is very worrying that Kirklees staff are telling the planning committee what to do although the refusal of the application was clear with 5:2 in favour of refusal. The Granny Lane application by Miller Homes will go to appeal 24th August. Could put in a new application that may be approved on the grounds that the access road to be moved. Save Mirfield report that ideally, they would like to put their case in front of the inspector, their planning lawyer is to right to the inspector stating why they need to put their case directly to him. To have more weight the group needs a Barrister, Hydrologist & Highways Consultant. To date GLAAG have raised £5000 from this, there is a small amount left for a video conference with the barrister to ask prospects of winning the appeal. If they say a fair chance then they would probably win. Save Mirfield believe that the inspector will decide to have a public enquiry. The developer thinks that because the land is allocated in the Local Plan, it should be approved, but this is not the case and each is looked at on its own merits. Save Mirfield think that the developer may hang on until the last minute to appeal in the hope of no opposition. Will MTC support with costs as this will have a huge impact on how Kirklees deal with Mirfield, could MTC consider in principle its support as if refused the land could be used to plant trees. Cllr Bolt states that MTC fully

supports the planting of trees and reports that Kirklees cabinet have set out a policy to give land for tree planting. This is the equivalent size to the land at Riverside which could be swapped for Granny Lane as the land is more suitable and Dewsbury Riverside has already been approved. Clerk confirms that MTC cannot make a resolution regarding approval of funds as the item is only for update. Cllr Bolt states that he represented MTC at the planning committee & gave his views. He states he objected and his objection in principle will continue unless dissent from Cllrs. In the absence of objection from Cllrs, Cllr Bolt resolves that Cllrs are in support of the Mayor's stance. Cllr Bolt asks Save Mirfield to ask the Barrister what the chances are of success. Save Mirfield agree that there must be a high chance of success, but may be very last minute and the public enquiry may be 3 months after appeal which will enable Save Mirfield to raise sufficient funds. Cllr Bolt states that £18k was spent on a Barrister in late 80's to fight developer at Balderstone. MTC need to be ready to lead. He asks if Save Mirfield have considered crowd funding or similar as this could be donated to a charity or community group if not used on the appeal. Save Mirfield confirm one is set up but not been publicised. Cllr Bolt confirms the Clerk can call a meeting at short notice if an urgent decision is required and has delegated powers to act with Mayor & Cllrs if needed. Cllr Guy asks if Cllr Bolt will send a letter to Kirklees reinforcing the planting of trees. Cllr Bolt confirms he has already done this and has confirmation of this on email. He states he is happy to write to Miller Homes if Kirklees support a land swap. Save Mirfield confirm there is only an option on the field, that Miller Homes don't own it.

MTC276/2019

Public Question Time:

None

MTC277/2019

Matters for Report & Information:

1. To Note Neighbourhood Plan Design Codes - **Noted**

MTC278/2019

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting **TBC**

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.10pm**.....