



## Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

**Held on:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6.30pm

**Held at:** Remotely via Zoom

**Councillors Present:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Clerk: L Staggs  
Public: Member MAGS  
Press: None

**MTC234/2019** **Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:**

Clerk confirmed the remote meeting was quorate.

The Mayor Cllr Bolt welcomed Councillors to the remote meeting.

**MTC235/2019** **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 Hirst, Cllr Ibberson, Cllr Nesbitt
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllrs Hirst, Ibberson & Nesbitt provided reasons for absence. It was resolved to accept the reasons for absence

**Proposed** by Cllr Bolt **Seconded** by Cllr Guy **Vote: All in favour**

Cllrs Burton & Hinchliffe were absent but sent no apologies or reasons for absence.

**MTC236/2019** **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.

**MTC237/2019** **Confirmation of Minutes:**

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September including payment of Nil. Cllr Connell **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded** **Vote: 4 in favour Cllrs who did not attend the previous meeting abstained**  
As the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true & correct record, the Clerk informed Cllrs that a casual vacancy had arisen in the Crossley Ward following disqualification of Cllr Benson for failing to attend a meeting for 6 months from 4<sup>th</sup> February or having an approved reason for absence in that time. Clerk confirms that this is in line with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. She confirms the monitoring officer at Kirklees has been informed and the Casual Vacancy will be advertised for 14 days. If

10 electors in the Crossley Ward do not call an election in that time, MTC will be in a position to co-opt a Cllr for that ward. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to send thanks to Cllr Benson for his service on MTC for a number of years Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

**MTC238/2019**

**Internal Matters:**

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 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020:
  - Cancellation of VE75 Event and return of deposits to all Stall Holders – **Noted**
  - Order of 26 Hanging Baskets from First Impressions at a cost of £1716 – **Noted**
  - Purchase of St George Flag at a cost of £91.50 – **Noted**
  - Purchase of Defibrillator Pads at a cost of £251.52 – **Noted**
  - Approval of Mirfield In Bloom grant as per Minutes 10/12/19 MTC152/19 for £15,000 (Circulated to all Cllrs) – **Noted**
  - Approval of Nomination of Vet Run180 as Mirfield Ambassadors (Circulated to all Cllrs) – **Noted**
  - Payment of Clerk Salary, Working Allowance, NEST Pension & HMRC for March-September – **Noted**
  - Payment of Just Gardens Maintenance of Eastthorpe Gardens March-September – **Noted**
  - Payment of St Mary's meeting room March-September by way of goodwill to local community – **Noted**
  - Payment of February Invoice EJ Events £2243.19 – **Noted**
  - Payment of Neighbourhood Plan consultant £2230.60 – **Noted**
  - Payment of Zurich Insurance £933.77 – **Noted**
  - Payment of YLCA Subscription £1841.00 – **Noted**
  - Payment of Wild About Gardens Allotment Hedges £180.00 – **Noted**
  - Payment of Npower Christmas Lights £280.39 – **Noted**
  - Payment of Stationary & Ink £27.00 – **Noted**
  - Grant Application to Locality for Neighbourhood Plan Technical Support – **Noted**
  - Appointment of Internal Auditor to carry our 2<sup>nd</sup> audit – **Noted**
2. To receive quotation for Christmas Lights & replacement of bulbs for entire festoon section from local contractor Ben Hardcastle Harrison and agree costs of £5495.00 & £4712.40 respectively and any action necessary – Quotations were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bolt stated that unfortunately due to restrictions there would not be a light switch on this year. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to accept the quotation of £5495.00 from Ben Hardcastle Harrison as a local contractor and full knowledge of the Christmas lights and to maintain the 2-payment system as in previous years Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllrs discuss the 2<sup>nd</sup> quotation. A presentation for the replacement bulbs had taken place at a Full Council meeting prior to lockdown. Cllr Guy **Proposed** to replace the bayonet bulbs at a cost of £4712.40 Cllr Kath Taylor **Seconded Vote: All in favour** A further quotation was sent in late for lamppost features for community sponsorship. Cllrs decided to leave this until next year as many businesses were not in a financial position to offer sponsorship. Cllr Connell stated that actively selling the advertising on the lamppost banners was a full-time job. Cllrs decided to leave until next year for the same reason as before.

**MTC239/2019**

**Community:**

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

1. To receive the following motion Proposed by Cllr Bolt:

Motion relating to The Honouring of Remembrance & Armistice

To consider the directive from Kirklees that if (Kirklees) having been asked by the Royal British Legion to take on the responsibility for Remembrance Events in the borough, has declined to support approximately 60 events. Having considered this information for the town council to form a further resolution and such action as it deems fit – Cllr Bolt gives Cllrs an introduction to the motion. He states that RBL wrote to major councils reminding them that they were responsible for holding remembrance events across boroughs. Kirklees have stated the civic events will take place in Huddersfield and north Kirklees in future. However, Mirfield has the largest parade outside of London. He states he is disappointed that Kirklees decided this outside the public domain by either the council or cabinet. He states that MTC pay for the bands as RBL were unable to use their funds for this purpose. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC sends the following to Kirklees & RBL: Mirfield Town Council reaffirms its commitment to commemorating Remembrance Sunday, Armistice day and other commemorations as appropriate. It recognises that local councils have a responsibility as temporary custodians of their community to ensure that the memory of those who gave their lives in defence of freedom is commemorated, that their families have a focus for their grief, admiration and memories. It acknowledges that our military and veteran communities have the right and privilege to remember their comrades. In recognising the Royal British Legion statement that it is not responsible for the services, Mirfield Town Council therefore commits to maintain and where needed enhance the financial support it has made for many years to ensure these events continue in our town paying for the marching bands, underwriting insurance through our own policy and more recently developing web site and other material to raise the profile and awareness. It reaffirms the support for the Armistice & Memorial Committee which it has tasked as the liaison for the town council with others of a similar mind and which has the wide-ranging remit to facilitate this. Mirfield Town Council is proud to undertake these tasks, but calls on Kirklees to guarantee future support in terms of its responsibilities to all public memorials in the town and the increasing demands to deliver the annual parade, service and other similar events Cllr Guy **Seconded** stating his disappointment in Kirklees not supporting residents or the military having signed the Armed Forces covenant. **Vote: All in favour**

**MTC240/2019**

**Correspondence:**

To receive the following new items of correspondence and decide any action where necessary.

1. YLCA White Rose Update (For Information) – **Noted**

2. YLCA South Pennine Branch Meetings (For Information) – **Noted**

**MTC241/2019**

**Public Question Time:**

None

**MTC242/2019**

**The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting.**

Date of next meeting **TBC**

Time Meeting Closed.....**6.56pm**.....