



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Councillors Present:

M Connell (Chairman), S Naisbett (Deputy), P Tolson, J Roberts, D Hirst, S Guy, M Sullivan, M Bolt, J Hirst, J Hinchliff, M Brown, V Lees-Hamilton, M Hamilton, B Harrison

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs
Public: 1 x Friends of Mirfield Library
Press: None

MTC106/2023 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Connell welcomed Cllrs and members of the public to the meeting. He thanked the members of Mirfield & Morley Choral Society for the wonderful performance of The Messiah he had been invited to.

MTC107/2023 Apologies for Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllrs Itrat Ali & Imran Ali sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC108/2023 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 Guy declared an **other** interest MTC110(3)

Cllrs Brown & Naisbett declared an **other** interest MTC112(2) as MAGS plot holders

Cllr Sullivan declared a **pecuniary** interest MTC112(2) as treasurer of MAGS

MTC109/2023 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 15th November 2023 including payments of **£425.00** plus Clerk Salary, Working Allowance, HMRC & Nest Pension as a true and correct record.

MTC110/2023

Cllr Sullivan **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.

1. To receive an update from Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Lights and decide any action necessary – 7.37pm Cllr Hinchliff arrived. Cllr Naisbett had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The switch on went well, all the stall holders attended and there has been a lot of interest from members of the public to help next year. Cllr Naisbett to look at setting up a Working Party. He will send a quotation for lamppost timers to the Clerk to add in to the 2024/2025 budget. Cllr Connell **Proposed** a vote of thanks to John Cottons and Haigh's for the Christmas tree Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** a vote of thanks to Cllr Naisbett Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Lamppost Banners and decide any action necessary – Clerk updated on lamppost banners
3. To receive an update on Mirfield Library and decide any action necessary – No update. Cllr Bolt reported a petition with 330 signatures had been sent to Kirklees against the parking charges to be imposed in Mirfield.
4. To receive an update on RBL Parade 12/11/23 and decide any action necessary – 7.52pm Cllr J Hirst arrived. Cllr Lees-Hamilton reported a meeting held at Old Colonial that discussed what went well and what had not. The marshalling at the cenotaph by Cllrs Roberts & Tolson went well. Thanks to Chappelow's & Marshalls for supplying and placing boulders, Cllr Bolt for organising, Cllr Guy who was calm & dignified on the day & all Cllrs that helped with the cones. Look at quotes for professional Traffic Management company for 2024. Cllr Bolt stated that the Clerk must be copied in on all emails. Look at opening the Mirfield Remembers website & reinstate Armistice & Memorial committee. Clerk emails terms of reference from previous committee as a guideline. Cllr Connell **Proposed** to reinstate Armistice & Memorial committee with updated Terms of Reference Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC111/2023

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk Dec Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance Dec by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC Dec PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk Dec Pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist Dec Room Hire by Bacs £40.00
6. To agree Able Gardens Dec maintenance by Bacs £45.00
7. To agree Northern Internal Audit Services £400.00
8. To note £220 Ben Preece Parade PA System
9. To note £261 Murphy Comhire
10. To note £1399.20 IPM Group
11. To note £228 Toilets on the go
12. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 30/11/23 – **Noted**
13. To receive Monthly Budget to 30/11/23 - **Noted**

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1-7 en bloc & note items 8 & 13 Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

Cllrs discussed the minus to columns and potential commercial partnerships for annual events like MIB. As the MIB Grant was almost 1/5 of the precept, Cllrs discussed having a poll on the website to see if residents were in favour of £2 increase to the precept to fund this annually. Cllr Bolt reported a 600% increase to allotment fees by councils, he stated that by MTC having had the allotment sites transferred it has protected allotment holders from huge rent increases.

MTC112/2023

Internal Matters:

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

1. To receive the report from Internal Auditor Northern Internal Audit Services and agree any action necessary – Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Clerk updates the one note made regarding bank signatures.
2. To receive an update from Clerk & Cllr Lees-Hamilton on Allotments webinar and agree any action necessary - (Due to the possibility of the lease being discussed and the confidential nature this item will be taken in private and exclude public, press & any member with a pecuniary interest) – It was resolved that members of the public & press be excluded from the meeting due to the nature of the business being transacted being prejudicial to the public interest by reason of a confidential nature. Cllr Sullivan having declared a pecuniary interest left the meeting along with the resident. The Clerk and Cllr Lees-Hamilton reported the contents of the webinar stating it was very informative. Clerk reports that in the webinar it stated that a clause regarding the addition of allotments to new developments could be added to the Neighbourhood Plan. She confirms reporting this to the Steering Group. Cllrs discuss the content of the webinar in connection with the lease. Clerk to invite MTC solicitor to next meeting for an update on the Allotments lease that expired March 2022.
3. Cllr Connell resolved to add an emergency item to the agenda. To consider a Biodiversity policy Environment Act 2021 - All local authorities including parish sector councils must complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. Policies and objectives must be agreed as soon as possible after this. Councils can and should reconsider their actions on a quarterly, annual or regular basis and must reconsider the actions they can take within five years of when they completed their previous reconsideration. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** that MTC agree to adopt a Biodiversity Policy Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC113/2023

Public Question Time:

None

MTC114/2023

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.57pm**.....