



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7.30pm

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

Councillors Present:

V Lees-Hamilton (Chairman), M Bolt, S Naisbett, P Tolson, J Roberts, J Hirst, M Connell, J Nottingham, K Taylor, M Sullivan, M Brown, S Guy

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: 2 x members MAGS, 2 x residents Granny Lane application, 1 member Mirfield Show

Press: None

MTC27/2022

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Mayor Cllr Lees-Hamilton welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. She reports that she attended the Falkland's Memorial Service arranged by Cllr Guy and thanked Cllr Guy for the excellent service. Cllr Guy states the service was for the whole of the Falklands conflict which ended 40 years ago yesterday. A Mirfield man lost his life on HMS Coventry. He reports a local veteran attended the service, it was the first time he had felt able to attend an event, hopefully this will enable him to become part of the veteran community. Cllr Guy thanked Rev. Baker & Cllr Roberts who played a leading role in the service and states it was very emotional when all the names were read aloud.

MTC28/2022

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 & J Hinchliffe have a leave of absence. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Bolt **Seconded: Vote: All in favour**
Cllr Mallinson was absent but did not send apologies or a reason for absence.

MTC29/2022

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 another interest MTC32/2022

Cllr Naisbett declared a pecuniary interest MTC37 member of Mirfield Show Committee

Cllr Sullivan declared a pecuniary interest in MAGS

Cllr Brown declared another interest in MAGS

MTC30/2022

Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting of 18th May 2022 including payments of £150 plus Clerk Salary, HMRC & Working Allowance Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Brown **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC31/2022

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

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

1. To receive a report from Cllrs Naisbett & Connell on lamppost survey – Cllr Connell circulated a spreadsheet showing the location of the banners and users. He reports a number of banners sold by CP Media to Castle Hall, a new bracket fitted, without MTC approval. Some brackets have banners and Christmas lights fittings, there are 7 banners put up by volunteers from Creative Arts Hub and from Impact Education sold by Kirklees without MTC approval along with some MIB. All done without the consent or knowledge of MTC. Lots of the banners can be done in partnership with MTC and then this can be offset free to the community. Cllr Bolt is concerned who has Public Liability if they were to fall, MTC need to offset liability as those installed by Creative Hub should be covered by them, the CP Media should be covered by Kirklees. MTC were devolved the authority for the banners as the brackets were purchased by Ward Cllrs, therefore approval needs to be sought from MTC before anyone uses them Clerk to forward email from former Kirklees officer K Battersby to G West.
2. To receive an update from Cllr Lees-Hamilton on Road Safety Signage – Cllr Lees-Hamilton confirms the group have MTC logo and that she has contacted a member to confirm purchase of signage. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC invite Kirklees officers to a meeting to discuss the many safety initiatives in Mirfield Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Lees-Hamilton states she will contact Eastthorpe Cllrs and Constitutional Club to discuss a 20mph limit on St Pauls Rd. Cllr Tolson states that Road Safety is aligned with the Neighbourhood Plan and Mirfield Matters Survey.
3. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Mirfield Business Breakfast – Cllr Connell reports that the event was well attended, but also by some businesses outside of Mirfield, the idea was to draw Mirfield businesses. Police updated on local community. They stated that crimes need reporting, then they can look at more CCTV & more police presence. Local MP gave an overview, but focused more on Dewsbury than Mirfield. Next meeting, more focus on Mirfield and Kirklees funding. Mayor and Mirfield Cllrs were present to support. Next meeting 22nd July hosted by Mirfield Free Grammar. Cllr Bolt reports Mirfield Meet Up is starting up on a lunchtime, so they will be promoting again.
4. To receive an update from Cllr Mallinson on Eastthorpe Gardens/Leeds Diocese – Cllr Mallinson is absent. Cllr Bolt reports that the Clerk has looked into the lease and it has become apparent that the lease is in fact an underlease with Eastthorpe Arts Initiative. MTC need to find out if whoever took over the EAI also took over the legalities or the lease may be null and void. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** Clerk sends the underlease to MTC solicitor for appraisal and if possible, make contact regarding a break clause Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC32/2022

Mirfield Library:

1. To receive an update from Kirklees Library Services and agree any action necessary – Kirklees officers are absent, but an update they sent was circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk. Cllr Bolt reports that it is good to see that Library Services will remain at Eastthorpe Lodge, the early studies

show that the library office will move upstairs and the downstairs will remain as a Library and community space. Kirklees have secured a grant for £30K from Changing Places for toilet facilities, but these will be located inside the building. There is the potential, as other councils have done to rent the toilet block as retail space. Cllr Lees-Hamilton states that the original idea was to keep the toilet block and connect via a corridor to the library, which would enable the public to use the toilets during events. Disabled toilet currently storing the street sweepers trolley and this with a radar key, could be used. Cllr Bolt states that the event organisers would need to take responsibility of keys but it would be a great benefit to the town centre to have accessible toilets, especially for those with medical needs. In addition, this would give extra reading space within the building, Cllr Brown stated library space could be utilised to upgrade children's learning. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC asks Library Services to reconsider the retention of the toilet block & enhancement of this building to enable disabled facilities to be available Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Connell mentioned the use of commercial office space as a confidential/private area.

MTC33/2022

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment:

1. To agree Clerk June Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC June PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Trinity Methodist June Room Hire £60 by Bacs
5. To agree Able Gardens June Maintenance £90 by Bacs
6. To agree Wild About Gardens Bankfield Hedges £180 by Bacs
7. To agree Wel-medical 2 x Defib cabinets £1188 by Bacs
8. To agree Zoom Monthly Pro £14.39 by Bacs
9. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/05/22 - **Noted**
10. To receive Monthly budget – **Noted**

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1- 8 en bloc Cllr Guy **Seconded**

Vote: All in favour

MTC34/2022

Woven:

1. To receive a presentation from Woven and agree any action necessary (WOVEN is a Kirklees Council Initiative to celebrate textile heritage and innovation in Kirklees, and is focused on generations of innovators, connecting a strong heritage with today's innovation developments in local industry.
WOVEN has a spotlight moment in June as a biennial festival but works all year round to develop relationships, projects and activities that celebrate our rich textile connections with communities across Kirklees) – Kath (Head of Culture & Tourism), Nat (Festival Curator) & Emma (Project Manager) are in attendance to present to MTC. In 2019 the festival came about to promote history and culture of the Textile heritage. They have been developing the festival for a number of years to grow with peoples, communication/interests/passions and need to shape festivals to this, they are keen to get input and ideas. They are looking at natural dyes, reversion back to natural dyes due to climate impact. A working group was developed in Kirklees and in 2021 there was an event in Tolson Museum that brought people together including WYPW. They are urging allotment holders & gardeners to grow natural dye plants, getting industry on board to rethink chemical dyes. Workshops and events will be bringing people together, MTC to look at nominating a Growing Champion to bring people together, Woven will try to engage with MIB next year. Lots of talent within Kirklees, looking to develop sewing talent, possible business development, small craft companies setting up using Pathways to Employment workshops in Dewsbury. Kath

states that there is a need to change perspective on textiles as there is a shortfall of people and through the programme, hopefully this will generate employment. Also, targeting young people in education and engaging with businesses. In 2021 they developed the Charity Shop Challenge, working with students in an attempt to educate them in fast fashion. They had to re-commission charity shop items to promote longevity to clothing. They are working with Youth Alliance to develop skills and Every Child Challenge to teach simple skills. There are 6 schools on a 2-year programme and a careers programme available to anyone wanting to find out what's happening and behind the scenes, with lots of opportunities, bringing things together in a huge project with funding from the Arts Council. Cllrs ask if it is open to everyone and has it been positively received. They confirm that it is targeted to all genders, but mostly women interested, however in the primary schools, the boys are showing the most interest. They confirm only receiving positive feedback. Cllr Guy suggests working with Secondary schools and promote through D of E scheme, as this would fulfil the skills section. Cllrs advise to contact local groups like MIB, MAGS, HIB & Mirfield Show, possible chance of a stall at Mirfield Show to promote. Links to be sent to the Clerk to forward to Cllrs and upload to the website. Cllr Lees-Hamilton stated it would be a good start to 2023 with festivals all over the district taking place.

MTC35/2022

Internal Matters:

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

1. To approve Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 Documents circulated prior to the meeting - Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve Annual Return Annual Accounting Statements 2021/2022 Documents circulated prior to the meeting - Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to approve the Annual Return Annual Accounting Statements 2021/2022 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
Cllrs took a 10-minute comfort break following the presentation.
3. To receive an update from Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Lights 2022 and agree any costs or action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reports that he is looking at other contractors for this year's lights, with the possibility of lights in the trees as the festoons can no longer be used. Looking at lamppost type features rather than the large placards and look to extend to Doctor Lane. Cllrs Taylor, Roberts & Connell resolve to set up a Christmas Lights working party with Cllr Naisbett and mention that the Chamber of Commerce may have some monies left that could support this initiative. Cllr Bolt reiterates that MTC will be facilitating the lights and by no means just MTC as in previous years. MTC must engage local businesses and the community via social media. In Cleckheaton, the local traders are involved, MTC to look at the same. Clerk asks Cllr Naisbett to find out what % of lights are stored at Bradford Festival Lighting and what the contractor has for insurance purposes. Update next meeting from Working Party.

MTC36/2022

Community:

To receive information on the following and decide any action necessary

1. 2018/17/00497 Land adj Sheep Ings Farm, Granny Lane - Street Naming to consider names already nominated by Cllrs via email for the Miller Homes development – Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to submit 3 names: Sheep Ings Close, Ings Drive & Sheep Ings Drive Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To receive an update on Miller Homes Development, Granny Lane and agree any action necessary – Resident is present and updates on a recent meeting with residents and Miller Homes. Cllr Naisbett is present and has previously declared a Pecuniary Interest, however, he does not leave the room as no

decision is to be made. Resident reports the building director, engineer and 22 residents were present. There were issues of land ownership, the pathway along the back of Gregory Springs was mentioned. Estimated finish of development is 2024, the hedge has been removed behind and the hours of working and road cleaning were discussed. Traffic calming measures have been mentioned and Miller homes offered to support with this and a possible Zebra crossing. The wall on the land was removed illegally, but the builder wanted to retain this. The archaeological report is not back, so work cannot start without this. There is not enough free space on the site to accommodate Public Open Space so the £46K will be allocated elsewhere, but builders don't know where. Cllr Bolt reports that Kirklees enforcement is pretty bad and they are losing staff and key reports are not getting processed when staff not there. Cllrs wonder why were traffic calming measures and zebra crossings were not put in by Kirklees planning as they could have been a stipulation of the planning.

MTC37/2022

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant applications submitted: Mirfield Show Marquee Hire. Grant application and accompanying documents circulated prior to the meeting – A member of Mirfield Show committee is present. Having declared a pecuniary interest Cllr Naisbett leaves the room. Cllr Bolt notes £56k in the accounts and asks how much contingency is kept if the show has to be cancelled. Member confirms that as the show had to be cancelled 2020 & 2021 due to various lockdowns that they lost £5-6K. However, £35-£40K if they had to cancel the show for 2 years, so this is kept in committed reserves. Cllr Bolt is satisfied that the amount in the accounts is committed reserves as per the grant criteria. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to grant the full amount of £8215 for the hire of the marquee as it is for the benefit of the whole town Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Clerk asks for the invoice to be sent direct to MTC as per previous years from James Fletcher Marquees.

MTC25/2022

Public Question Time:

NONE

MTC26/2022

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting **Wednesday 6th July 2022**

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.26pm**.....