MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

> ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020 & 2020/2021



Prepared by Lisa Staggs – MTC Clerk

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MEMBERS OF MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL 2019/2021

BATTYEFORD WARD	
Cllr Martyn Bolt	Tel: 01924 496129
(Conservative) elected	Martyn.Bolt@kirklees.gov.uk
Cllr John Nottingham	Tel: 0743875809
(Conservative) elected	john.nottingham914@hotmail.com
Cllr Marc Burton	Tel:
(Conservative) elected	nei: marcburton78@gmail.com
Cllr Martyn Connell	Tel: 07545768642
(Conservative) elected	martyn@maze8.co.uk
Vacancy by Co-option due to resignation	
January 2021	
EASTTHORPE WARD	
Cllr Janet Hirst	Tel: 01924 524636
(Conservative) elected	jameph53@ntlworld.com
Cllr Stuart Naisbett	Tel: 07711423736
(Conservative) elected	stuart@rees-naisbett.co.uk
Cllr Maria Brown	Tel: 01924 495068
(Conservative) elected	mariabrown26b@gmail.com
CROSSLEY WARD	
Vacancy by Co-option due to	
disqualification September 2020	
Cllr Keith Taylor	Tel: 07754236912
(Conservative) elected	sharrontaylor@talktalk.net
	onarionayion estantantinot
L Clir Jake Hinchliffe	Tel:
Cllr Jake Hinchliffe (Conservative) elected	Tel: jake@orangedesignstudio.co.uk
(Conservative) elected	Tel: jake@orangedesignstudio.co.uk
(Conservative) elected HOPTON WARD	jake@orangedesignstudio.co.uk
(Conservative) elected HOPTON WARD Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton	jake@orangedesignstudio.co.uk Tel: 01924 480082
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(Conservative) elected HOPTON WARD Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton (Conservative) elected Cllr Philip Tolson	jake@orangedesignstudio.co.uk Tel: 01924 480082 vivien.lees-hamilton@kirklees.gov.uk Tel: 01924 497369
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MAYORS REPORT

Cllr Martyn Bolt 2019/2020 & 2020/2021

Town Mayor's Report by Cllr Martyn Bolt

This period saw the start of the 4-year cycle of the Town Council, as Town Councillors are voted by an "all out" election, meaning we had a few new faces joining us

I was proud to have been elected as Town Mayor at the start of the new cycle and to ensure that we could represent the town and people of Mirfield to our best ability I asked Kirklees Council to provide 2 training/information session early in the 2019. One was on the standards expected of all councillors, both the behaviour and meetings, dealing with our residents but also in ensuring that they were aware of the legal positions we must abide by. These relate to completing the declaration of interest form, making a declaration at the start of a meeting if there are any conflicts of interest and also declaring all hospitality either offered or taken

As planning and development is often a cause of concern to Mirfield residents I arranged for Kirklees planning service to provide an insight and training into the planning process and what constitutes acceptable planning objections

This was very timely as we went into the town council meeting which followed with a number of resident's present who we were pleased to support in their campaign against a development in Northorpe.

I also held an additional town council meeting in Lower Hopton, being aware of the strength of feeling a planning application had generated, and as we don't have a large meeting room for town council any more, we took the meeting to the public, which was well received and well attended by most town councillors (the attendance record of councillors will be an appendix to this annual report)

The Town Council has had a number of very proactive committees/working parties whose hard work was sadly halted by the national Coronavirus pandemic, but whose reports I hope you will agree are worth reading and recognising that contribution

As Town Mayor I have been invited to attend a number of functions in Mirfield and elsewhere to represent our Community, and have reported to Council each month on my activities

The Council and community saw our activities suddenly halted in 2020, but the strength of community spirit for which Mirfield is renowned has shone through once again and I am sure when we come out of this temporary situation Mirfield will be proud of how our businesses and residents have supported each other

I would like to express my thanks to fellow councillors who give their time voluntarily and as you will see elsewhere in this report have done so regularly both in the formal meetings and working on the projects instigated by town council and also to represent us on outside bodies

Yours in Mirfield

Martyn

Martyn Bolt Mirfield Town Mayor 2019/2020 & 2020/2021





CLERKS REPORT 2020/2021

2020 and early 2021 has been a hard time for everyone. Our last face to face meeting took place on 3rd March 2020. Myself and Cllr Bolt took the decision at the time to cancel the meeting of 17th March due to ongoing concern surrounding Covid-19. We did not know at this point, what a huge impact Covid-19 would have on our lives and our residents' lives. Who would have thought the world would be plunged into a global pandemic with most countries enduring months of lockdowns. The Town Council had to operate differently and over the past year has adapted its face to face bimonthly meetings with monthly Zoom meetings.

However, the Town Council continued its work on behalf of the residents of Mirfield. Unfortunately, the much-anticipated VE Bank Holiday Weekend event had to be cancelled, but work still continued on the entrance to the Memorial Park and as the previous photos show, is now finished and awaiting its official opening. The Town Council gave a grant of £15,000 to Mirfield In Bloom to continue their work on making the town look beautiful and something for residents to admire during the long months of lockdown.

We continued to maintain the defibrillators placed around the town and applied for and were approved a further grant for the Neighbourhood Plan, which as per the previous report is well on track. We provided hanging baskets for the town which were well received by residents once the lockdown in July was eased. Mirfield Town Council continued its tradition of a Remembrance event and held one of the only events in the area. Lots of time and effort were spent by the Mayor and Armistice Committee ensuring that the event was Covid compliant, whilst still remembering those lost.

New Welcome signs were placed along the borders of the town, again with a remembrance theme and although the usual Christmas Light Switch On event could not go ahead, we sourced new lights and replaced the old festoons and provided Christmas lights throughout the town.

We are now getting to grips and embracing the new Zoom way of having meetings and for the first time in years, the town council froze the precept so that Mirfield residents did not have the extra burden of higher council tax from the precept imposed by Mirfield Town Council, but still providing a budget that saw a further commitment from the town council to improve local walking routes and promotes "Walkers Welcome".

Cllrs and myself continue to work hard for the town and hope that in the coming months, when the country emerges from lockdown restrictions, the town can come together to support local businesses and local events and once again be a thriving community.

Lisa Staggs Clerk

MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATION AS OF

31/03/2020

Balance 31/03/20			£181,429.98
Total Less Cheques Deposit Account as of 31/03	3/20	£7,848.95	£7,848.95 £173,581.03
·			
Total Cheques		£ 335.00	
Less Cheques Not Cleared Yorkshire Internal Audit	343	£335.00	
Current Account Balance as	of 31/03/20	£8,183.95	
CASH BOOK TOTAL	£181,429.98		
EXPENDITURE	£96,145.44		
BALANCE INCOME SUBTOTAL	£153,070.90 £124,504.52 £277,575.42		

ACCOUNTS AUDITED

BANK RECONCILIATION 2020/2021 (UNAUDITIED) TO FOLLOW



REGISTER OF FIXED ASSETS 31ST MARCH 2021

<u>ASSET</u>	PURCHASE COST	INSURANCE SCHEDULE					
Mayor's Jewel & Chain	Unknown – valuation 2009 £7,500	£9,886.21					
Vice Chairman's Chain of Office	Unknown – Valuation 2009 £2,000	£2,635.90					
Chairman's Jewel	Unknown - Valuation 2009 £2,500	£3,295.82					
Chairman's Chain	Unknown – Valuation 2009 £8,850	£11,665.23					
Medal on Ribbon (Vice Chairman's Consort)	£175.00	£213.16					
2 X Deputy Mayor Ribbon & Medal	£400.00	£424.36					
3 x Picnic Tables 3 x Benches	£2,293.00	£2,432.64					
7 x Defibrillators & Cabinets	£8488.38	£9,242.56					
Laptop, Hard Drive, Printer & Windows Operating System	£449.94	£540.79					
Christmas Lights (Insured by Kirklees when in storage)	Unknown – Valuation £20,000	£30,047.41					
St Georges Standard/Pole inc cord & tassel	£205.96	£250.87					
Gold Banner cords & tassels Black leatherette Bag GP90 Pennants GP90 Scrolls	£30.00 £48.00 £10.00 £68.00	£30.00* £48.00* £10.00* £68.00*					
Masonic Regalia Case Solar Spotlight Union Flag 7'6 x 3'9 St George Flag 7'6 x 3'9	£35.00 £98.98 £100.65 £53.55	£35.00* £98.98* £100.65 £53.55*					
Armed Forces Day Flag 7'6 x 3'9 Yorkshire Flag 7'6 x 3'9 Remembrance Walk Street Sign	£77.00 £77.00 £350.00	£77.00* £77.00* £350.00					

Glassfibre Flagpole	£405.00	£405.00
West Riding Flag 6' x 3	£140.00	£140.00
5 x Black ring binders	£65.00	£65.00*
5 x Black tablecloths 50 x 70 Welcome Signs	£20.00 £1344.00	£20.00* £1344.00
10 x WW1 Benches 2 x There But Not There Figures	£7765.00 £1500.00	£8,237.88 £1,591.35
Snow Plough Attachment	£830.00	£830.00

Items Marked * Not on Insurance Schedule as below £100 Policy Excess

ALLOTMENT LAND – (Nominal value Community Asset)

Bankfield	(0.5 acres)	£ 1.00	
Lowlands	(3 acres)	£ 1.00	
Nab Lane	(2.5 acres)	£ 1.00	
The Mirfield (Gardens & Allot	nents Society insure the sites and their tenants as per our lea	ase



APPROVED GRANTS 2019 - 2021

	DATE	AMOUNT	UPDATE	
APPLICANT	DATE	ANICONT		USE
• • • • • • •		0.407.00		
Sarah's Wish	23/05/2019	£425.00	Yes	Fun Day Kids Area
UHCA	03/09/19	£887.07	No	Hopton Fete
TOTAL		£1,312.07		
ANNUAL EVENTS				
Mirfield Arts Festival	18/06/2019	£2,943.00	No	Arts Festival
Mirfield Round Table	18/06/2019	£1,000.00	No	Music Stage
Mirfield Show	16/07/2019	£8,213.94	N/A	Marquee
My Mirfield	04/02/2020	£250.00	TBA	Awards
Mirfield In Bloom 2020	Oct 2020	£15,000	Yes	Plants & Equipment
TOTAL 2019/2020		£12,406.94		
		645 000 60		
TOTAL 2020/2021		£15,000.00		
TOTAL 2019 - 2021		£27,406.94		



SUMMARY OF THE ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT 2019/2020

DATE	TRANSACTION DETAILS	PAYMENTS	RECEIPTS	BALANCE
	BALANCE C/FWD			£597.31
02/05/19	Allotment Rent 01/10/18 - 31/03/19		£325.00	
16/07/19	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
19/11/19	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
28/02/20	Allotment Rent 01/04/19 - 30/09/19		£325.00	
TOTALS		£360.00	<u>£650.00</u>	
ALLOTME	NT BALANCE			£887.31
SUMMARY	OF THE ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT 2020/202	21		
<u></u>		<u> </u>		

DATE	TRANSACTION DETAILS	PAYMENTS	RECEIPTS	BALANCE
	BALANCE C/FWD			£887.31
17/06/20	Allotment Rent 01/10/19 - 31/03/20		£325.00	
17/06/20	Allotment Rent 01/04/20 - 30/09/20		£325.00	
15/07/20	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
04/11/20	Bankfield Hedges	£180.00		
28/02/20	Allotment Rent 01/10/20 - 31/03/21		£325.00	
TOTALS		£360.00	£975.00	
ALLOTMEN	NT BALANCE			£1502.31



REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Public Rights of Way – Cllr John Nottingham

The committee has met every 3 months in 2019/2020. Council enforcement & issues relating to public rights of way in Kirklees were discussed & informed about.

<u>Mirfield Community Hub – Cllr John Nottingham</u>

The Mirfield Community Hub met regularly in 2019. Things like the hub priorities, structure & issues relating to schools & the community were discussed as was the new youth forum

South Pennine Branch Yorkshire Local Councils Association - Cllr Martyn Bolt

Mirfield Town Council is a subscribing member of the National Association of Local Councils, the body representing the interest of Parish and Town Councils. It does this through the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, (YLCA) who may also provide procedural and legal advice to the Council

Administration and input into YLCA are via an executive committee system, with representatives from its constituent branch organisations

Mirfield Town Council is a member of the South Pennine branch of YLCA which covers the Metropolitan Council Areas of Kirklees, Calderdale and Bradford

The quarterly meetings of the YLCA branch are held in an evening, and the location moves as constituent councils host meetings. The Town Council representative for several years has been Cllr Martyn Bolt, who was elected as Deputy Chairman of the branch in 2018. (The first Mirfield Councillor to hold that office)

As well as reviewing the work of the Executive the branch meetings have also featured speakers on topics as varied as the Climate Emergency approach by town and parish Councils to the potential input into a new national park and give members an opportunity to discuss either matters of concern to a council or area and key legal and policy matters which have included the approach of the metropolitan councils' standards committees to parish issues, GDPR and the use of our spending powers

The opportunity to meet with other town and parishes is beneficial and useful, and in 2019 Mirfield hosted a meeting of the South Pennine branch which was welcomed by our fellow delegates as the first time they could recall this taking place

The notes of meetings are circulated through the YLCA to member councils

<u>Armistice & Memorial Committee – Cllr Martyn Bolt</u> <u>David Horrobin Deputy Chairman</u>

The Town Council agreed to continue with the Armistice & memorial Committee which was first set up in 2018 and as a committee of Council has formal terms of reference (will be attached to final report)

The Committee standing members are Cllr Martyn Bolt (Chairman) David Horrobin Mirfield RBL (Deputy Chairman) Sarah Pavely (secretary) Cllrs Sean Guy, Philip Tolson Messrs Alan Burton and Barry Fretwell and regular attendees' contributors and supporters have been Messrs Tim Wood and Mike Bee

At the start of May 2019, the committee had as its workstreams to liaise, support and deliver parades and occasions as required and to continue its work to renew the entrance to the Mirfield Memorial Ground

The latter had taken longer than originally hoped due to the need for planning permission, which was granted thanks to the professional support of Cllr Jake Hinchliffe and his company Orange Design Studios. The design for the gateway feature was decided after a call to the public for ideas, and the support of Ben Renshaw of Limitless Graphics who translated those ideas into a graphic format

The installation of the feature, to ensure better recognition of the remit of the Mirfield Memorial Ground, as a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in World war 1, was further delayed when we made enquiries about moving a BT "telegraph" pole from the left hand of the gate. Initial enquiries suggested that BT Openreach would conduct a survey and that could cost over £2000, the movement costs then being over £30,000 to £50,000

Following some contact from Cllr Bolt to senior members of BT Openreach we were pleased to receive their support for the project and a written undertaking that their company would move the pole at no cost. A project which had been costed to the Council in the region of £20,000, had now gained partnership funding from BT & Kirklees more than double to its investment, which should be seen as a positive and prudential approach

The work is now ongoing, awaiting the resolution of the new location of the pole to avoid any underground utility works, which Kirklees are advising BT Openreach on

Whilst looking at this work it was noted that a plaque on the boundary wall on Huddersfield Road was in a poor state of repair. Kirklees Council as land owners were contacted and removed the plaque for renovation. Sadly, when they investigated further it was found to beyond such works and they offered a replacement plaque and also the return of the original which members of the Mirfield Cricket, and also Penque clubs have offered to display in the pavilion

During the previous year Mike Bee had suggested that the Committee consider a project to name

the walkway through Ingas Grove Park (where our war memorial and cenotaph are) in a fitting manner. This had been accepted by the Committee, and we had gained the agreement of Kirklees Council

A competition was held with the public choosing the name "Remembrance Walk" and thanks to the work of Mr Alan Burton the name plates were installed

Mirfield had lost a central or Civic flagpole when the former Council offices were sold off, and this was considered by the Committee as an additional task. The preferred location was in the gardens to the front of the library, being the location of the saluting dais on Remembrance Sunday. Once again permission was agreed with Kirklees Council and a flag pole was bought and installed, this led to further debate and a number of flags were bought to ensure the appropriate one was flown as needed.

To support this Mike Bee ensured we had the necessary dates on a plaque attached to the flag pole

The gates and chain link fencing to the front of the library were in a rusty condition and the committee raised this with Kirklees who supplied a cost which was quite high, but when we negotiated with them, they kindly agreed to pay for the work This was fortuitous as when the gates were being removed the stone gatepost snapped, which could have been a considerable expense for the town council.

In June of 2019 HM Government announced that to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day, May 8th they were moving the traditional Early May Bank Holiday back a few days so that it included VE day

On hearing the news Cllr Bolt immediately provisionally booked the use of the Mirfield Showground for that weekend, to allow time to consider community events

The Town Council considered a proposal that Mirfield should host events to honour our veterans and provide a stay-at-home holiday for families for the whole weekend and agreed to underwrite the event to a maximum of £20,000. Delegating the responsibility for the project to our committee

The committee sought expressions of interest and tenders from event organisers and put together a time table of events encompassing the nationally significant matter such as raising flags and paying tribute, and including many Mirfield specific ones

Work was well advanced on this, and partners were being secured when the Coronavirus Pandemic (Covid19) caused the cancellation of all events and gatherings

The committee determined Mirfield would still respect Govt Guidance and pay tribute and has promoted the timings of the national events encouraging residents to join in from their doorsteps and gardens

The committee met twice each month, as well as giving of their time to organise and carry out tasks and projects and it is worth including the words of Mr Mike Bee, who had 25 years' experience of Councils and their committees when working as a Civic Attendant at Kirklees Council "It is a breath of fresh air to attend meetings where everyone works together and when they agree to do something it is carried out, rather than meetings which take minutes but lose hours "



Mirfield Neighbourhood Plan

MIRFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided. A neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the local plan prepared by Kirklees Council. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the local plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations. It provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people.

To help deliver their vision, communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a NDP and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25% of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from the development that takes place in their area. A NDP should support the delivery of strategic policies set out in the local plan and should shape and direct development that is outside of those strategic policies.

What progress has been made with the Mirfield Plan this year?

In April 2019. The Town Council appointed David Gluck of Yorplan to provide professional support so as to accelerate the completion of the Plan. Since that point the Steering Group has:

- Held two open events to promote the Plan, seek feedback from the community.
- Undertaken new research into community needs and evidence to support the draft Plan.
- Produced a good first draft Plan with a comprehensive set of planning policies which will shortly be sent to Kirklees Council planning officers for informal comments and to undertake a screening assessment in order to determine whether our Plan will require a SEA.
- Resolved to undertake a new survey into young people's needs and wishes.
- Resolved to produce a thorough investigation of the historic core of the town and other communities across the parish.

What are the next steps?

At the point of writing, the government has produced new guidance to Local Authorities in relation to neighbourhood planning and Covid-19. While this does not directly affect Mirfield's draft Plan, guidance does make it clear that no referendums on Neighbourhood Plans will be held before 6th May 2021. If progress continues to be made on the Mirfield Plan, then it is possible that this could be a date to aim for in order to complete our Plan. At referendum, all voting age residents will be asked to vote on the question "Do you want the Mirfield neighbourhood plan to be used in the decision-making process of new planning applications?"

The next steps for our Plan therefore are:

- a. Submit to Kirklees Council for informal comments and screening for SEA.
- b. Undertake the "Regulation 14" pre-submission consultation on the draft.
- c. Following analysis of the comments received during the consultation, we will produce the Submission Draft Plan for approval by Council and submission to Kirklees Council for further consultation and examination.
- d. Referendum.

MIRFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2020/21

The town's neighbourhood planning group has continued to be busy this year, despite COVID-19, with meetings continuing on Zoom. The main focus this year has been to complete the evidence base for the Plan and thus to produce the 'pre submission' Plan which will be ready by this summer for approval by Council, after we have received informal comments and input from Kirklees Council's planning department.

The main part of this work has been with consultants from AECOM who we have commissioned (free of charge via Locality) to produce a detailed Design Guide for the whole parish. This is identifying different 'character areas' which will have design principles aligned with them, including a proposed 'historic core' for Mirfield town centre, which could in time move on to become a 2nd Conservation Area for the parish. The Design Guide is an excellent and detailed piece of work and will be shared with Council once the final version has been signed off by the group.

The team now has a core of about 6 members, supported by David Gluck of Yorplan and Nick Beedie of AECOM, with background support from Kirklees' planning department. The team is small but focused and capably led by Cheryl Tyler. However, as we move into the final stages of the Plan, we are always open to new members, particularly those from the Town Council and other constituted groups in the community. As we develop our policies in detail, we are also keen to fully engage with the business community and continue to seek representatives from this important part of the community.

We anticipate that the year ahead will lead to our formal 'Regulation 14' consultation in late summer, with our Plan ready for submission to Kirklees for further consultation and eventual examination by Spring 2022. That will then come back to the community for a referendum on whether or not to accept it, answering the following question at the ballot box:

"Do you want Kirklees Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Mirfield to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

This will involve a considerable effort by way of consultation communication and engagement over the year ahead and the ongoing support of the Town Council in achieving this will be much needed and appreciated. However, I remain confident of a positive outcome, having achieved such in 10 previous plans supported in the region.

David Gluck Planning Consultant

PRESENT APOLOGIES/ABSENCE APPROVED NO ANOLOGIES/ABSENCE APPROVED SECESS COVID-19 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE DISQUALIBLED NON ATTENDANCE RESIGNATION	TOTAL 2019/2020 18 MEETINGS - 3 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19	Keith Taylor	Kath Taylor	J Roberts	J Nottingham	S Nalsbett	V Lees-Hamilton	M Ibberson	J Hirst	J Hinchliffe	S Guy	M Connell	M Burton	M Brown	M Bolt	S Benson	
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