



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7.00pm

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

Councillors Present:

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

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: Member MAGS, Lower Hopton residents,

Press: None

MTC79/2022

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Lees-Hamilton welcomed Cllrs. The first item MTC85 (1) was taken in private, excluding members of the public, press and any Cllr disclosing a pecuniary interest. Following this item Cllr Lees-Hamilton welcomed members of the public and reported she had attended Saddleworth Civic Service, which was very enjoyable.

MTC80/2022

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 & Cllrs Bolt & Mallinson sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Guy **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Guy **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Naisbett **Seconded: Vote: All in favour**

MTC81/2022

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 an other interest MTC83 (1)

Cllr Brown declared an other interest in MTC85 (1) as an allotment holder

Cllr Sullivan declared a pecuniary interest in MTC85 (1) and having declared an interest, was excluded from the room whilst the discussion took place

MTC82/2022

Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 2nd November 2022 including payments of £144.39 plus Clerk salary, HMRC & Working Allowance. Cllr Tolson **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the

MTC83/2022

meeting Cllr Roberts **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 on Mirfield Library and agree any action necessary – No update. Clerk to chase library services for an update and cc Cllrs Hamilton & Bolt.
2. To receive an update from Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Lights and agree any action or cost necessary – Cllr Naisbett reports he has spoken to Bradford Festival Lighting who are now making the new features and ordered the ice lights. He confirms the working party met to discuss the event. He reports the Choral Society will be taking part in the switch on, Cllr Connell is making posters to publicise the event. Cllrs are hoping that Grange Moor Brass Band will be able to attend and there is a possibility of street food being provided by a local company. There will also be a scavenger hunt for the children to take part in. Cllr Lees-Hamilton thanked the working party and commented that it was all very positive.
3. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Lamppost Banners and agree any action necessary – Cllr Connell reports that a meeting is still to be set up between CP Media, himself, and the Clerk.
4. To receive an update on Mirfield Remembers website and agree any action necessary – Clerk confirms that she has not received any ideas from Cllrs. Cllr Connell spoke to Novus and stated that MTC would prefer a hub website, that allows groups & events to feed into it Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** Cllr Connell send the feedback to Novus and ask for costs to be submitted at the next meeting Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC84/2022

Mirfield Matters:

To receive information on the following and decide any action necessary

1. To receive an update from Cllr Lees-Hamilton on suspected arson attacks in Mirfield and agree any action necessary – Residents of Johnson Street are present and report to MTC that there have been several arson attacks on Back Johnson Street which have included setting bins and fences on fire. There have been 13 fires since January with 2 in the previous week, which resulted in a plastic shed being set alight, which resulted in window frames being damaged. Fire service handed out leaflets and told the residents to report anything/anyone suspicious. Cllr Lees-Hamilton states she will refer this back to Kirklees Community Safety Officer and request they install CCTV. Residents report that they have not received any feedback from WY Police. Cllr Naisbett reports that the crime figures he receives monthly only showed 2 incidents in September. Cllr Lees-Hamilton suggests the residents set up an official Neighbourhood Watch Group and states that MTC has a policy to assist residents with printing and setting up a group. She suggests incorporating Back Johnson Street, Johnson Street & Marshall Street and even a private WhatsApp group for residents of the 3 streets. She urges the residents to keep a log of all incidents. Cllr Sullivan suggests the residents install Wildlife Cameras and sends the links for some to the Clerk to forward. Cllr Lees-Hamilton asks that they send any information to her and she will contact WY Police again and Kirklees Community Safety Officer.
8.20pm residents leave.
2. To receive an updated Decision Spreadsheet (circulated prior to the meeting) and agree any action necessary – Cllrs discuss the items on the spreadsheet. MTC140 Sporting Honours Board - Cllr Taylor reports that Cllr Bolt had spoken to Mirfield Sports Council who were to transfer any funds to MTC for the maintenance and updating of the honours board. Cllr Taylor believes that the criteria previously agreed is too limited and should be opened to others. It

was resolved that Cllr Taylor look at updating the criteria – leave on the spreadsheet, and bring back to a meeting of Council to agree a review of the necessary qualifying criteria. MTC140 Lamppost Banners – Discussed above, keep on spreadsheet. MTC206 Youth Council Forum - Cllr Lees-Hamilton states she has not given up hope with this and will contact L Wroe to discuss further. Invite Community Hub to a meeting in the New Year, keep on spreadsheet. MTC338 Mirfield Remembers Website – See previous discussion, delete from spreadsheet as resolved. MTC347 Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Bolt had previously contacted Kirklees regarding the planting of a tree for the Queen’s Canopy in Ings Grove Park. Clerk confirms that this has been extended. Resolved Cllr Naisbett to contact Kirklees and progress, keep on spreadsheet. MTC395 Mirfield Matters Survey – Clerk states that Cllr Bolt asked members in April, if they wanted to continue with the working groups and the project. She reports that she has not received any updates from the Portfolio leads as somethings cannot be progressed much further at this time. Many of the so named Grot Spots have been cleared by MIB and community action clean up days. Health matters can be scrutinised by members but we do not have the powers to enforce change. Improvements to parks and open spaces, and better youth provision is being delayed at Kirklees level. Town Council members have carried out research and consultations regarding these projects but Kirklees are preventing agreed projects from being delivered, by insisting on running their own consultations, despite the projects being agreed some two years previously. This is quite frustrating to the lead portfolio holders, and it has been challenged at the Kirklees level. She suggests that the project as a whole be deleted from the spreadsheet and the separate portfolios can be put forward as agenda items when there are any updates, and projects to be put forwards for agreement. It was resolved to remove the item from the spreadsheet and delete as a project, but if any Portfolio required a discussion, that it be added to an agenda for full council to discuss as a separate item. MTC23 Purchase Road Safety Signage – Cllr Lees-Hamilton confirms that it has been purchased and that it will hopefully be rolled out to other areas, keep on the spreadsheet for updates. MTC55 Principle of extension of CCTV network – It was resolved that Cllr Naisbett seek quotations for the town centre and the Clerk emails Kirklees for Cllrs to visit the CCTV centre at Kirklees, keep on spreadsheet. MTC63 Traveller Encampment Process – Clerk & Mayor to liaise to arrange a public meeting which will now be in the New Year, keep on the spreadsheet.

MTC85/2022

Internal Matters:

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

1. To receive an update on the held over lease on the 3 allotment sites in Mirfield and agree any action necessary (Due to the confidential nature this item will be taken at 7.00pm and will exclude public & press) – Having a pecuniary interest, Cllr Sullivan was excluded from the discussion. The council’s solicitor is present to explain to Cllrs the current position with the lease and the council’s options. Clerk gives an update from September 2021, when the S25 notice was issued, in advance of the expiry of the lease on 31st March 2022. She confirms that following the change of committee in November at the MAGS EGM, the first email from the new Chairman of MAGS was sent to her on 28th April 2022, a month after the lease expired, with no contact from MAGS to either her or the solicitor regarding negotiations to the lease prior to this. It was agreed for the lease to be held over until after MAGS AGM in October, in which they had to appoint trustees who would sign a new lease on behalf of MAGS. This was agreed subject to the increased rent being paid and the appointment of trustees no later than

28 days after the AGM. However, to date only half of the rent has been paid, but only in the last few days. Cllrs discuss the lease with the solicitor. It was resolved that the solicitor contact the newly appointed trustees to progress the finalisation of the lease, subject to the rent being brought up to date as per the agreement.

7.43pm Solicitor leaves. Members of the public and Cllr Sullivan are invited to attend the meeting.

2. To receive an update on Jubilee benches and agree any action necessary – Clerk reports that there was some mis-communication with the supplier, but this has now been rectified. The benches should be ready to deliver in the next few weeks. They will be delivered to Richard Haigh's and following a conversation with Cllr Bolt, they have agreed to install them on behalf of MTC. Clerk confirms that Kirklees have approved the locations.
3. To receive an update on Clerk's pay agreement and agree any action necessary (Due to confidential nature to be taken in private) – Clerk updates that this has been referred to a local accountant, who have agreed the calculations for the backpay. Clerk reports that she is still waiting for their advice as to how best to pay this.

MTC86/2022

Public Question Time:

NONE

MTC87/2022

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Cllr Lees-Hamilton asks Cllr Nottingham about Carols around the Tree as an email was received from the organiser. Cllr Nottingham confirms that he put forward Cllr Sullivan to do a reading as he saw the event advertised in the Mirfield Word. Cllr Guy reports a short service on Friday morning at the Cenotaph and advises Cllrs to attend 10.45am for the 11.00am service. The parade will take place on Sunday 13th and Cllrs to arrive at Lowlands for 1.30pm to march at 2pm. Cllr Lees-Hamilton states that Tim has done a great job assisting Cllrs with this year's parade. Organisation for 2023 will need to begin in the early part of the year to make sure everything is in place in good time.

Cllr Lees-Hamilton thanked Cllrs for their participation.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th November 2022.

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.50pm**.....