



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 7.30pm

Held at: St Mary's Community Centre, Church Lane, Mirfield

Councillors Present:

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

In Attendance:

Clerk: Lisa Staggs
Public: 1 Member of the public.
Press: None

MTC196/2019 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Bolt welcomed Cllrs and member of the public. He thanked Mirfield Rescue Services for their assistance during the recent floods. He Stated that MTC could look at offering First Aid training to the members. He reports that the Government has released details of Building Better, Building Beautiful initiative and that NALC have raised comments that it hopes this doesn't weaken the system. He reports that 2 MP's are championing this on behalf of Local Parish & Town Councils.

MTC197/2019 Public Question Time:

None

MTC198/2019 Apologies For Absence

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

Cllrs: Cllr Burton, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Kath Taylor, Cllr Guy

**Cllrs sent apologies & it was resolved the absences were accepted
Cllrs Ibberson & Benson were absent but did not send apologies to the Chairman or Clerk**

MTC199/2019 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 under the Council's Code of Conduct or Members Register of Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Bolt declared an other interest MTC205(3i) property close by but not an adjoining property

Cllr Brown declared an other interest in MTC204(2) Mirfield Allotments

Cllr Tolson declared an other interest MTC202(5) Member Mirfield Team

Parish

MTC200/2019

Confirmation of Minutes

To approve minutes of the ordinary meetings of 4th February 2020 & 6th February 2020 as a true and correct record including payments of **Nil**. Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** the minutes of 4th February 2020 were a true & correct record Cllr Nottingham **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Tolson **Proposed** the minutes of 6th February 2020 were a true & correct record Cllr Nottingham **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC201/2019

Matters Arising From The Minutes:

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

Clerk updates on the recent Code of Conduct complaint, stating that a further complaint had been sent to the Monitoring Officer due to Cllr Benson not complying with the sanctions imposed by MTC. She reports that she has not had a reply from Kirklees to date. 7.45pm Cllr Connell arrives.

1. To receive an update on the Decisions Summary and agree any action necessary (report circulated prior to the meeting) – Cllrs discuss the actions in chronological order. It was agreed to leave on items 1 & 2 until Cllr Ibberson present. Item 3 ask Cllr Guy to liaise with Air Cadets regarding First Aid Training. Item 4 to leave for update from Cllr Benson. Item 5 Cooper Bridge link road leave on for an update. Item 6 Water Safety Initiative Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** partnership with groups wanting to purchase Safety Boards Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour** delete item from summary as resolved. Item 7 Allotment Easement leave on as ongoing. Item 8 Highways scheme leave on. Item 9 Tree Charter leave on. Item 10 Sporting Honours Board, Cllr Taylor seeking further information and criteria, leave on summary. Item 11 Lamp Post Banners, Cllr Connell in talks with company regarding sale of space and production of banners and is to arrange a site visit to discuss further. Kirklees Summary – Item 1 Land at Dunbottle, MTC to pursue and leave on summary. Item 2 -10 leave on and await updates. Item 6 Community Warden, Cllr Bolt reports that police officers have been deployed in Dewsbury, paid for by Kirklees. Clerk to ask Kirklees Director why Dewsbury was allocated officers and Mirfield was not and how long employed for. Item 10 Traffic Flow, Clerk to chase safety measures for Stocks Bank Road that were previously asked for from Kirklees.

MTC202/2019

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment:

FEBRUARY		
Payee	Description	Amount
Clerk L Staggs	February salary	£ 880.29
HMRC	February PAYE	£ 342.80
Clerk L Staggs	Nest Pension January	£ 84.30
Clerk L Staggs	Home Working Allowance	£ 18.00
St Mary's	February Room Hire	£ 42.00
Just Gardens	February Maintenance	£ 40.00
EJ Events	VE75 (Armistice Committee)	£ 2,091.00
Limitless	Defibrillator Plaques	£ 240.00

Graphics			
David Gluck	Nov Consultant Fees	£	231.20
David Gluck	Jan Consultant Fees	£	860.40
River Steward Co	November Invoice	£	8380.32
Yorkshire Internal Audit Services	Internal Audit First Visit	£	335.00
TOTAL		£	13,545.31

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** items 1-12 payment en block Cllr Lees-Hamilton
Seconded Vote: All in favour

13. To receive a bank reconciliation to 31/01/20 – **Noted**

14. To receive a spend/income comparison with the adopted budget – **Noted**
Cllr Bolt states that next month a move from Column 1 Admin to Column 2 Wages would be required.

15. To discuss & approve 2020/2021 Budget – Draft Budget was circulated at the meeting. Clerk confirmed that she had not received a budget request from any Cllrs. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the budget as follows: Column 1 leave at £7000, Column 2 increase to £16,000 for possible increase of salary and pension contributions, Column 3 leave at £1000, Column 4 leave at £1000, Column 5 leave at £8000 until an update from contractor on cost of new lights, Column 6 reduce to £20,000 as may have funding from Kirklees and BT as only VE Event in Kirklees and looking like 3:1 funding so far. EJ Events looking at sponsorship possibly around £20k. Also, VJ Day in August will be marked with an event. Column 7 leave at £1000, Column 8 leave at £15,000, Column 9 increase to £28,000 to assist events like MIB, My Mirfield Awards & Mirfield Show, Column 10 reduce to £2000, Column 11 reduce to £16,000 as £24k in reserves for regen and need to continue to explore grants and funding for Riverside Project, Column 12 delete as £34k in Election Reserves. Cllr Bolt stated this was a prudent budget, whilst maintaining commitments. Everything has been costed and is deliverable and still money in reserves, other projects can be looked at Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

16. To discuss & approve 2020/2021 Precept – Cllr Bolt stated that in order to deliver the budget, the precept must remain the same as last year at £102,991.00. He stated that it was good value and the last 2 Mirfield Matters surveys stated residents value the work MTC do. He reports that Band D Council Tax is £15.39 and less than other Town/Parish councils in Kirklees. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the Precept be set for 2020/2021 at £102,991.00 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC204/2019

Internal Matters:

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

1. To receive an update on Christmas Lights replacement bulbs and quotation for replacement and agree a course of action – Defer
2. To receive an update from Mirfield Allotment Society and agree any action necessary – Chair from MAGS is present to update. Newsletter from MAGS was circulated prior to the meeting. She reports MAGS is in a more positive place and the vast majority of Allotment Friends are moving in the right direction. She reports that they have had the worst flood ever at Lowlands and have been helped with the clean up by many volunteers.

She reports that water has now been installed at the Nab Lane site and the Easement needs finalising, she asks for a contribution of £1000 from the Allotment account held by MTC. 8.09pm Cllr Hinchliffe arrives. She states that they still have a waiting list but thinks due to floods they may lose some allotment holders. Cllr Bolt states that if Mirfield Members would prefer another location, MTC would support approaching Kirklees with alternatives. He also states that MTC has still not received sight of Allotment accounts, despite asking for a copy last year. Chair to look into this and confirms that deposits need protecting in case they have to be returned to holders and for transparency the accounts need to be in the public domain. Cllr Bolt asks if MAGS would contribute to the Riverside Project, Chair confirms she will refer this to the committee. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC release £1000 towards the costs of water supply at Nab Lane from the Allotment Account held by MTC Cllr Tolson

Seconded Vote: All in favour

MTC205/2019

Planning

1. To consider planning applications received from Kirklees Council.
Cllr Hinchliffe declares a pecuniary interest.
2020/90319 3 Nuns Service Station. Plans are viewed on the screen by Cllrs. Cllrs discuss the red line boundary, access/egress, additional parking spaces and location of such to shop. Cllrs agree there is a Health & Safety issue with the turning point of the cars in the spaces, the large retaining walls bordering Leeds Rd are compromising the road safety and feel that the application has not been given the necessary time for road safety checks to be carried out by applicant or Kirklees. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC object to the application on the basis of over intensification of highways due to increase of retail area and no improvements to any of the junctions & no sight of a safety audit. MTC request confirmation AIP to work curtilage of highway and that any application should comply with new building regulations. MTC feel that applications should be refused when incorrect or false/misleading details given on application not just invalidated and resubmitted Cllr Tolson **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
Cllr Connell asks if MTC can challenge if applications are blatantly wrong. MTC to look at sourcing a planning lawyer & costs or ask YLCA or NALC.
2020/90087 – **Noted**
2020/90281 – **Noted**
2020/90245 – **Noted**
2019/93954 – **Noted**
2. To consider planning decision notifications from Kirklees Council:
No Comments/Noted
3. To consider potential controversial/controversial applications:
 - i. **2019/90756/91971/93367/93202/93526/94152** Land at Slipper Lane – Cllr Bolt reports that he has been in touch with Kirklees and reported that water is being discharged onto the highway and into the watercourse by the developer.
 - ii. Dewsbury Riverside – Cllr Bolt resolved to add this as an emergency item following consultation with the Clerk. Cllrs discuss the indicative masterplan. Cllrs are concerned that there is not much land between the houses or gardens and that land is needed to bind the community and Kirklees should possibly look at keeping the allotments. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC support the retention of the Ravensthorpe Allotment site to support social cohesion, health & multi-cultural demographics. MTC are concerned with the lack of

detailed infrastructure towards Mirfield and west of the site. MTC believe that Kirklees should be developing the infrastructure and would like confirmation as to what they intend to do with the railway station. MTC believes that some part of the development should be left for car parking for the railway station and retained under a covenant that the land is used as a temporary car park Cllr Taylor
Seconded Vote: All in favour Cllr Brown to contact allotment holders and raise issues with local MP who then needs to escalate with Secretary of State.

MTC206/2019 **Community:**

To receive an update/discuss/note on the following items.

1. To receive an update from Cllr Lees-Hamilton on Mirfield Town Council Youth Forum, discuss and agree a course of action – Defer Clerk to send information to Cllrs.
2. To receive a response from Network Rail following consultation, discuss and agree a course of action – Noted. 2 dates in March arranged for Community engagement.

MTC207/2019 **Correspondence**

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

1. NALC Newsletter (For Information) – **Noted**
2. YLCA New YLCA Website (For Information) – **Noted**
3. NALC Spring Conference (For Information) – **Noted**
4. YLCA White Rose Update (For Information) – **Noted**

MTC208/2019 **Matters for Report and Information**

Members wishing to raise items under this heading should consult the Chairman prior to the meeting.

None.

MTC209/2019 **The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:**

Date of next meeting **Tuesday 3rd March 2020**

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.05pm**.....