



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7.30pm

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

Councillors Present:

V Lees-Hamilton, P Blakeley (Chairman), J Hirst, J Nottingham, K Taylor, S Benson, A Burton, P Tolson, M Bolt, D Pinder, S Guy

In Attendance:

Clerk: Lisa Staggs

Public: J Tomlinson Walsh, P Sykes, R Edwards

Press: None

MTC184/2017 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

Cllr Blakeley welcomed Cllrs and public and wished everyone Happy New Year as he was absent from the previous meeting.

MTC185/2017 Public Question Time:

None

MTC186/2017 Apologies For Absence

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

Cllrs: M Burton, C Walker, K Sibbald, J Taylor, M Ibberson

MTC187/2017 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 Guy declared a personal interest MTC189(10) member RBL

Cllr Tolson declared a personal interest MTC190(4) member Mirfield Team Parish

Cllr Benson declared a pecuniary interest MTC192(3) 2017/93935 & personal interest Project Mirfield MTC192(3)

Cllr Hirst declared a pecuniary interest MTC193(3)

Cllr Blakeley Proposed to suspend standing orders and bring forward MTC193(1&2) & MTC191(1) Cllr Guy Seconded Vote: All in favour

MTC188/2017 Confirmation of Minutes

To approve minutes of the ordinary meeting of 2nd January 2018 as a true and

MTC189/2017

correct record including payments of **Nil**. Cllr Guy **Proposed** the minutes were a true and correct record Cllr Nottingham **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 Clerk on Mirfield Memorial Park & decide and agree any action necessary – An email was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr discuss the content. Clerk to circulate original email with exact remit to Ramsdens.
2. To receive an update from the Flood Prevention meeting and agree any action necessary – Cllr Benson reports that he is not getting any answers from Kirklees, but will pursue.
3. To receive an update from Cllr Lees-Hamilton regarding possible match funding for a defibrillator in Upper Hopton and agree any action or costs necessary – Cllr Lees-Hamilton reports that the funds have been raised for match funding for the defibrillator for Hopton Ward. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC places an order for a defibrillator for the Hopton Ward Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**. Clerk to order from Wel-medical.
4. To receive an update from Cllr Pinder on Ambassador Awardees book/board and receive a draft of the Ambassador role description and agree any action or costs necessary – Cllr Pinder had circulated a draft wording prior to the meeting. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC accepts and adopts the newly drafted Ambassador Scheme Role Description Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Pinder to contact Birstall Woodturners to obtain a quotation for an Ambassador Awardee Board.
5. To discuss the removal of items from Council Offices and agree any action necessary – Clerk reports that she contacted Friends of Mirfield Library who are happy to accept the books, photographs, crockery & cutlery. She reports that she has approached Ruth Edwards regarding the Desktop Computer and photocopier, who was to enquire if this would be of benefit to St Mary's Community Centre.

MTC190/2017**Finance:**

To approve the following accounts for payment:

JANUARY		
Payee	Description	Amount
Clerk L Staggs	January Salary	£ 247.72
HMRC	January PAYE	£ 816.56
Clerk L Staggs	Home Working Allowance	£ 18.00
St Marys	January Room Hire	£ 42.00
Just Gardens	January Maintenance	£ 40.00
Ben Hardcastle	Christmas Lights balance	£ 2795.00
Petty Cash	Cash	£ 200.00
Royal British Legion	Wreath remembrance	£ 25.00
Go Daddy	Website Renewal	£ 165.67
TOTAL		£ 4349.95

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** items 1-9 payment en block Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

10. To receive a bank reconciliation to 31/12/17 – **Noted**
11. To receive a spend/income comparison with the adopted budget - **Noted**

MTC191/2017

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant applications submitted: **Presentation M Poppa Mirfield Arts Festival**. Ruth Edwards is present in place of M Poppa. Ruth reports that a new Chair has been appointed to the committee, Mark Milnes. The group is working on the constitution, sorting out the bank account and expenditure. Ruth thanks MTC for their continued support.
8.03pm Ruth leaves.
2. To receive updates from previously approved grants: **Pennine Canoe & Rowing Club**. Due to bad weather the representatives of the club were unable to attend. Defer 20th February.
Cllr Blakeley Proposed to reinstate standing orders Cllr Guy
Seconded Vote: All in favour

MTC192/2017

Planning

1. To consider planning applications received from Kirklees Council. 2017/94119 – Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC supports the application as it provides educational leisure & physical sport to the Mirfield area Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To consider planning decision notifications from Kirklees Council:
No Comments/Noted
3. To consider potential controversial applications: **2017/93935 Erection of 61 dwellings with associated access, drainage, open space & landscaping Land off Woodward Court** – Having declared a Pecuniary Interest Cllr Benson left the room (8.21pm). Emails from Save Mirfield and Project Mirfield regarding consultants were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs agree that the Community Groups have all areas covered with the consultants they have engaged. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** that MTC send representation by way of a formal resolution as follows: MTC objects to the development on the following grounds:
This site has already been the subject of two planning applications. The first application was refused on highway matters in 1999 and this refusal was upheld by the planning inspectorate at the time. The roads surrounding this site have not been upgraded or seen any form of improvements since before the time the first planning application was submitted and subsequently refused.
There are now many more dwellings in the surrounding area and the volume of traffic has increased exponentially.
High volumes of children who attend the local Mirfield schools but who live out the local area. Many children from Ravensthorpe and Dewsbury attend Mirfield schools and this brings much traffic through this area.
Castle Hall school takes over half of their pupils from out of the local area. Most travel to school by car
The most recent application for this site was withdrawn exactly one hour before the meeting of the strategic planning committee at Kirklees. The application was to be determined by the committee with a recommendation to refuse based on highway safety, old mine workings and drainage issues. Nothing has changed in the area since this time.
The development of this site has been judged as unacceptable and not sustainable on both occasions. Both in 1999 and again in July 2015. It is impossible to improve highway problems surrounding this site. Drainage will always be a problem as will the old mine workings. These problems are

insurmountable.

Woodward Court is a small Cul-de-Sac and the visibility at the access and egress point is limited in the very least. There are bends to both the left and right of the junction and this factor combined with the gradient does severely restrict the view to either side when exiting Woodward Court and joining Wellhouse Lane. It would be quite dangerous to add any more vehicle movements to this junction but it is madness to add a drop and go zone in this location when the site line is so severely restricted. The number of vehicle movements this factor alone will add to the limited visibility splay is quite unacceptable not to mention the traffic another 61 dwellings will add.

MTC has concerns regarding the maintenance of the drainage and that it is not sustainable for the future. The concerns are around surface water and grouting as there are no assurances that this will work.

MTC has concerns the impact of former mine workings, and concerns that the disbursement of surface water has not been factored into the drainage consideration.

MTC has concerns that the use of SUDS has no certainty to being effective in future years and MTC encourage Kirklees to set a condition that Yorkshire Water are adopted and not a third-party contractor.

Cllr Bolt Seconded Vote: All in favour Motion Carried

Cllr Lees-Hamilton states and Cllrs agree that issues relating to resident's boundary walls are Civic Matters and not matters for MTC.

8.45pm Cllr Benson returns

MTC193/2017

Community

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

1. To receive an update from Friends of Mirfield Library Provision of Library Services & discuss – Jenny reports £1.9 million reduction in the Kirklees Library Services Budget and the launch of an online consultation. She believes that many library users will find the form confusing and intimidating and because of this, many users won't complete it. She confirms that library staff will help residents complete it on the library computers, with Option 5 Joint Venture being the preferred option. Jenny to send to Clerk to circulate. Jenny confirms that she has spoken with Darren Smith who has assured her that the asset transfer is still progressing. She reports that the library has global support from Patrick Stewart amongst other supporters and the Friends group are basing the business plan on the basis of a new library and the Friends group may look to MTC for funding further down the line. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC expresses concerns to Kirklees of the consultation process, as it is difficult to access & understand. It supports in principal the option endorsed by the Friends of Mirfield Library, Option 5 Joint Venture. MTC calls on Kirklees to expediate the issue of asset transfer of Eastthorpe Lodge to make way for the new build Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour**. Clerk to send motion to Chief Executive of Kirklees.
2. To receive an update from Mirfield In Bloom and discuss – Ruth Edwards is present. Ruth reports that a lot of work has been done since last meeting with consultations and many residents and businesses pledging support. She reports Northern Rail are to donate £500 for a new noticeboard on the East bound platform and provide 2 water butts for the shelter and wooden containers. Northern Rail will also provide lighting under the bridge and

intend to restore and extend the mural and provide a welcome banner. Kirklees parks have promised baskets and containers and Grand Central have agreed to blast clean walls and provide reflective sleeves for bollards. She confirms that the group has a committee, constitution and bank account and entry to Yorkshire In Bloom has been submitted. She provides an estimated cost from Tim Grace of £6000. Cllrs agree that this is fantastic for Mirfield and MTC would like to support, for the benefit of the whole community as it does with the Mirfield Show. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC sponsor Mirfield In Bloom for the amount of £6000 Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cheque is presented to Ruth by Cllr Blakeley and Cllr Lees-Hamilton.

8.01pm Jenny & Peter leave

3. To discuss the Health Provision in Mirfield and agree a course of action – Cllr Hirst declares a Pecuniary Interest. Cllr Bolt states that it is some time ago that Dr Jones attended a town council meeting and MTC need to know if the infrastructure at the Health Centre is still satisfactory. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC invites the Health Centre and Dental Practices to attend a future meeting to discuss & update on the health provision in Mirfield Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour.**

MTC194/2017

Internal Matters

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

1. To note Provisional Taxbase & Grant Allocations - **Noted**
2. To discuss & approve 2018/19 Budget – Defer to next meeting as not enough time to discuss at length
3. To discuss & approve 2018/19 Precept – Defer to next meeting as not enough time to discuss at length

MTC195/2017

Correspondence

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

1. YLCA NALC Chief Executive Bulletin – **Noted**
2. Friends of Mirfield Library Minutes – **Noted**
3. Department of Communities – Consultation Park Homes – **Noted**
4. YLCA Application of referendum principles in next 3 years – **Noted**
5. General Data Protection – **Noted**
6. General Data Protection NALC Briefing - **Noted**

MTC196/2017

Matters for Report and Information

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

Cllr Pinder reports that nails had been found in a dog chew on a popular dog walking route.

MTC197/2017

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:

Date of next meeting **Tuesday 6th February 2018**

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.55pm**.....