



mirfield  
town council

## Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm

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

### Councillors Present:

S Naisbett, M Connell (Chairman), V Lees-Hamilton, M Bolt, I Ali, I Ali, P Tolson, J Roberts, J Hirst, S Guy, M Brown, M Sullivan, D Hirst, B Harrison, M Hamilton

### In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: Friends of Mirfield Library, J Greenfield Kirklees

Press: None

**MTC24/2023**

### Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Connell welcomed Cllrs to the meeting, he said it was good to be back after his holiday.

**MTC25/2023**

### Apologies for Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – None received
2. To approve reasons for absence – None sent

Cllr Hinchliff was absent but did not send apologies or reason for absence

**MTC26/2023**

### 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 MTC30**

**Cllr Bolt declared that he had been lobbied item MTC31(1) but he would keep an open mind when discussing & considering a resolution**

**Cllr Tolson declared that he had been lobbied item MTC31(1) but he would keep an open mind when discussing & considering a resolution**

**Cllr Lees-Hamilton declared that she had been lobbied item MTC31(1) but she would keep an open mind when discussing & considering a resolution**

**MTC27/2023**

### Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 including payments of **£4311.39 plus Clerk salary, working allowance, HMRC & NEST pension** as a true and correct record. Bolt **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

**Cllr Connell resolved to suspend standing orders and bring forward MTC30/2023**

**MTC28/2023**

**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 Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Lights 2023 and decide any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reported that he visited Bradford and they had done an inventory on the lights with a value of £10,740, Clerk states this is considerably lower than the asset register and insurance schedule. He confirms that councils are not using the placards so he has asked BFL to dismantle them. There is 250m of festoon lighting which can be broken down and donated to various groups to benefit. He has been given a contact at Kirklees to speak to regarding extending the lights further towards Doctor Lane. He reports he can hire an 8ft angel from BFL and states this would be a great feature in the town. Cllr Naisbett to continue arranging the switch on as per the budget.
2. To receive an update from Cllr Connell on Lamppost Banners and decide any action necessary – Cllr Connell reported there was still an amount outstanding of almost £2000 from CP Media, that the Clerk has chased. Cllrs agree that any banners for community use have priority on the lampposts. Cllrs discuss banners for Remembrance Sunday. Clerk to ask CP Media for a quote as per the Coronation banners.

**MTC29/2023**

**Finance:**

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk June Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance June by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC June PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk June Pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist June Room Hire by Bacs £40.00
6. To agree Able Gardens June maintenance by Bacs £90.00
7. To agree Wild About Gardens Bankfield Hedges £180.00
8. To agree NPower Christmas Lights £428.68
9. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/05//23 - **Noted**
10. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/05//23 - **Noted**

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1-8 en bloc & note item 9 & 10 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

Clerk updates council on 2 matters. She reports that there will be a small charge from Kirklees for admin costs for the uncontested election of £242.25. She also reports that she has emailed the diocese regarding the lease at Eastthorpe Gardens, who stated, "Any sale of the church and churchyard would be obliged to respect the existing rights of third parties."

Cllrs discuss the fact that yet again the Mirfield Roundtable is holding the Beer Festival at St Paul's, last year this expanded into the gardens, without prior approval from the Clerk. The same this year, with nobody from the Church or Roundtable contacting the Clerk to ask permission. Cllrs are concerned that there may be damage to the gardens. Clerk to ask Able Gardens how much it would cost for any damages and charge a deposit relative to this to the Roundtable for the use of the gardens.

**MTC30/2023**

**Internal Matters:**

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

1. To receive an update on Mirfield Library from Kirklees Library Services

and decide any action necessary – Jill is present from Library Services and updates Cllrs. She starts by saying there has been a gap since the presentation in Nov 21 with the improvement plan. She states that the Capital Programme for the library has been paused due to budget, increased pressures & costs of the plan. Library services are working with corporate landlord but there is a major turnaround from the original project. The changing places toilet grant is not going ahead because the other related costs are paused, but will continue to seek support for accessible facilities. Cllr Bolt asks the Clerk to read the minutes 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2019. Cllr Bolt asks what happened to the £200-£300k bid? Who makes the decision to pause? How often is the Capital Programme re-profiled? What is happening to the toilet building? Jill replies: Capital Bid progressed to feasibility stages and is ongoing but reviewed in terms of priority, will check & come back with answer. They will continue to look for bids for the toilets, again will find out. Capital board made up of officers she believes, but will check and come back. Cllr Connell stated that 106 monies are not coming back into facilities, he states new residents need new & effective facilities with a library fit for purpose as more groups like Andy's Mans Club are wanting to use it. Cllr Brown states that the library is essential for some young people who use for homework. Jill states the library is very active in the community and they prioritise young people using libraries, she was not aware of any barriers with this. Cllr Connell **Proposed** Clerk ask Kirklees who is on the Capital Board and what has happened to the funding Cllr Bolt **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Jill states she will remain in touch with the Friends group and keep MTC updated. Cllr Roberts asks if there are any issues with employment at the library? Jill confirms no issue with jobs or staffing levels. Clerk to liaise with Jill for possible September meeting update. 7.55pm Jill and members Friends of Mirfield Library leave, Cllr Connell called a 5-minute break & resolved to reinstate standing orders.

**MTC31/2023**

**Internal Matters:**

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

1. To decide on a course of action regarding the grant request from Mirfield Team Parish and legal advice from NALC & YLCA. NALC Legal Briefing Note was circulated by email prior to the meeting and grant criteria – The legal note from NALC regarding the financial assistance to the church was circulated with accompanying documents and advice from YLCA and the auditor prior to the meeting. Members had declared that they had been lobbied and the Chairman and Clerk declared they had received emails from a Mrs Walker, which was circulated to all Cllrs and an email from an external source known to Mrs Walker. Cllr Connell read out points for Cllrs to refer to & consider when discussing and making a decision. He reiterated that the item was to discuss if Cllrs were minded to ignore the advice given by our consultary bodies as above and consider hearing the grant application. He reminded Cllrs that MTC is a member of YLCA and NALC both of which the Clerk had sought advice from. The Clerk was thanked for all the information she had provided. The Clerk stated that she did not advise that MTC ignore the advice given by NALC & YLCA and therefore did not recommend Cllrs consider the grant, she confirmed that this advice would be minuted. Cllrs discuss the legal implications

and Cllr Tolson asked the Clerk what the repercussions would be if they considered a grant. Clerk referred Cllrs to the legislation and the NALC legal note and all the information and advice she had received. Cllr Tolson argued that there were benefits to considering the grant as a heritage landmark, as there was no current case law, but he did think the amount requested was too high. Cllr Sullivan stated that it was not up to MTC to establish case law following the act and not up to MTC to challenge an act of Parliament. Cllr Lees-Hamilton stated that she was not minded to ignore the advice of the proper officer nor YLCA, NALC and the auditor. Cllr Bolt stated that if MTC were to agree in principle to ignore the legal advice from NALC, YLCA and the Clerk, this would set a precedent and MTC would be open to the church and other religious bodies applying for grants. Cllr Tolson stated he would retract his earlier comments and agreed with Cllr Bolt. Cllr Tolson **Proposed** MTC accepts and endorses the advice given by YLCA, NALC & the Clerk regarding the financial assistance to the church and resolved that MTC would not consider the grant from Mirfield Team Parish, therefore not setting a precedent for other churches and religious bodies Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

**MTC32/2023**

**Public Question Time:**

None

**MTC33/2023**

**The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.45pm**.....