



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 7.15pm

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

Councillors Present:

S Guy (Chairman), P Tolson, J Nottingham, K Taylor, J Hirst, D Pinder, M Burton, M Bolt,

In Attendance:

Clerk: Lisa Staggs
Public: R Hartley
Press: None

MTC137/2016 Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Guy welcomed Cllrs and Richard Hartley.

MTC138/2016 Public Question Time:

None

MTC139/2016 Apologies For Absence:

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

Cllrs: A Burton, V Lees-Hamilton, J Taylor, P Blakeley, M Ibberson, C Walker, K Sibbald

MTC140/2016 Declaration of Interest:

Councillors to declare an interest, if applicable to any item on the agenda or not declared on the members register of pecuniary interests.

None declared

MTC141/2016 Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of 20th September 2016 as a true and correct record including payments of **£5168.65** Cllr Pinder **Proposed** the minutes were a true and correct record Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC142/2016 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 Defibrillators – Clerk confirms that the defibrillators have been ordered via Wel-Medical
2. To receive an update Mirfield Public Toilets – No issues to report
3. To receive an update on Christmas Festival – Clerk is in receipt of an email listing questions for approval and Richard Hartley is present to update. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC proceed without Stewards, proceed without official First Aider, Cllrs Blakeley & Ibberson (reserve Cllr Pinder) to judge High

Street windows 26/11/16, Cllrs to judge the rest of the town following week and MTC not to man a balloon gazebo Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

Clerk updates on insurance and licenses. Clerk to check with Ben Hardcastle access for Fun Fair. **7.45pm R Hartley leaves.**

MTC143/2016

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant applications submitted: Mirfield & District Round Table Bonfire – Cllrs discuss the late application, lack of documentation and lack of presentation on the night. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to delegate powers to the Clerk to request full documentation from groups as stipulated in the guidelines, if absent from original submission Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllrs are unsure why a grant is required or if there is a shortfall in funds without sight of accounts. Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC rejects the application due to late/short notice, lack of relevant documentation and no presentation at the meeting Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To receive updates from previously approved grants: **None**

MTC144/2016

Planning:

1. To consider planning applications received from Kirklees Council.
2016/91003 3 Moorcroft Close – **Noted**
2016/93480 62 Manor Park – **Noted**
2016/93517 Orchard View Formation of access – Cllr Bolt **Proposed** MTC submits the same comments of objections as per the previous application Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To consider planning decision notifications from Kirklees Council – **No Comments/Noted**
3. To consider potential controversial planning applications. **None**

MTC145/2016

Outside Bodies: (Updates via email from Cllrs)

To receive updates and decide any action where necessary.

None Received

MTC146/2016

Mirfield Matters:

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

1. To receive an update on Council Offices and decide a course of action – Cllr Guy reads the email from Cllr Lees-Hamilton with a brief update. Cllr Guy states that if the Town Council want to consider an asset transfer of the Council Buildings it must invest a substantial amount. MTC has no reserves and no budget for 6 figure investment. To proceed MTC may have to consider a loan or mortgage. He states that for the most time the meetings are Cllrs only and that the current situation at St Mary's is more than adequate for this without any significant financial burden on the council. He asks Cllrs in turn their views. Cllr Tolson states there is an emotional attachment as an aspect of the town but believes MTC should break with emotion as the financial and business responsibility is too great. Cllr Nottingham agrees and states the current condition of the building is a huge liability. Cllr Pinder states Mirfield is a big enough town to have this type of building but the practicality is that it is not in a viable condition and he cannot see how MTC could fund this and believes that MTC will not be afforded the same terms by Kirklees as Meltham and Holmfirth. Cllr Bolt states that MTC has resided at the Council Offices since 1988 free of charge with no other occupiers. He states that MTC is managing practically at St Mary's and an office is not required as Clerk is happy working from home (Clerk confirms this). MTC may struggle to find people to rent office space and would need to employ someone full time to manage the property in addition to the estimated £150k for repairs all from public funds.

Cllr Burton agrees with all the previous comments as does Cllr Hirst. Cllr Taylor also agrees but adds she has concerns borrowing money and the implications it may have on future Cllrs. Cllr Guy concludes that MTC cannot justify raising the precept to fund the building and the precept is still needed for grants/sponsorship and doing good for the town. Cllr Guy

Proposed MTC writes to Kirklees with the following: Having considered all issues and debated at length MTC resolves that due to long term neglect by Kirklees and at their own estimated costs of £250k - £360k to make good the building (the costs involved with a building that would not be owned by MTC) and delays confirming the position of possible transfer from Kirklees, the council has reluctantly come to a conclusion that prudently it could not burden present and future residents with this encumbrance and withdraws the expression of interest for a possible asset transfer of the Council Offices from Kirklees to MTC Cllr Nottingham

Seconded Vote: All in favour. Vote carried unanimously.
Cllr Bolt **Proposed** the Clerks working arrangements remain as they are with Clerk working from home, to be reviewed if the Clerk wishes to change the arrangement or circumstances change Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Taylor **Proposed** to extend the hire of St Mary's for a further 6 months from January 2017 Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Clerk to email a copy of this to all Cllrs so that absent Cllrs are in possession of the motion that has been passed.

MTC147/2016

Correspondence:

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

1. DCLG Notes on Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr Bolt reports the application to designate the area has been acknowledged by Kirklees and is to be progressed to cabinet.
2. YLCA Council Tax referendum – **Noted**
3. YLCA Locality weekly digest - **Noted**

MTC148/2016

Matters for Report and Information:

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

Cllr Guy reports the remembrance parade is 13th November 1.30pm Lowlands, 2.00pm parade. Clerk reports NKCCG have agreed to a public meeting December 13th. Clerk to contact larger venues for availability. Cllr Taylor reports Gilder Hall outline planning will shortly expire.

MTC149/2016

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:

Date of next meeting **Tuesday 15th November 2016**

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.25pm**.....