



Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 7.30pm
Held at: Council Offices, Huddersfield Road, Mirfield

Councillors Present:

V Lees-Hamilton (Chairman), D Pinder, T Hirst, J Hirst, E Armitage, M Hamilton, A Mapplebeck

In Attendance:

Administrator: Lisa Staggs
Public: Steve Benson, Darren Aveyard, Martin Connell
Press: Mirfield Reporter

MTC204/2013

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Lees-Hamilton welcomed everyone in attendance

MTC205/2013

Public Question Time:

Steve Benson from Project Mirfield asked to speak on several issues. Cllr Lees-Hamilton explains to Mr Benson that Standing Orders stipulates each person can speak once only in respect of an item on the agenda for a maximum of 3 minutes. At this point Mr Benson got up to leave. Cllr Lees-Hamilton explained that there was an item on the agenda relating to one of Mr Bensons issues MTC212(4) if he wished to address it. Mr Benson confirmed that he would and that Project Mirfield have members actively obtaining signatures for a petition against the development and asks what Mirfield Town Council are doing about this. Cllr Lees-Hamilton assured Mr Benson that if and when a planning application is sent to Kirklees MTC will do all in its power to fight such a development but until this time there is nothing to oppose. Cllrs T Hirst and Pinder agree with Cllr Lees-Hamilton. Mr Benson states that Project Mirfield would like a 7.5 ton weight restriction on access roads to the development. Cllrs Pinder and Lees-Hamilton inform Mr Benson that this will not stop a development and that the developers would obtain permission. Cllr Lees-Hamilton reads an email regarding Kirklees Planning. Kirklees intend to submit a Local Planning Strategy early 2016 with a view to adopt early 2017 until then no LDF is in place to stop developers. Mr Benson asks if MTC have a plan to fight development at Balderstone. Cllr Lees-Hamilton confirmed that MTC has a plan and had in the past fought a development at Mirfield 25 and a proposed development at Balderstone in 1999 and won. Mr Benson became aggressive and

demanded of Cllr Lees-Hamilton if MTC were going to stop the development. Cllr Lees-Hamilton said MTC would fight it. Mr Benson demanded again if MTC would stop it. Cllr Lees-Hamilton reiterated that she had said MTC would fight it but does not have legal powers to stop it. Mr Benson angrily departed the meeting at 7.45pm.

MTC206/2013

Apologies For Absence

Members are reminded that apologies should be sent to the Administrator or Chairman if they are unable to attend.

Cllrs: A Burton J Taylor, J Fearn, A White, M Bolt, K Taylor, C Walker, J Nottingham, S Harding

MTC207/2013

Declaration of Interest

Councillors to declare an interest, if applicable to any item on the agenda.

Cllr D Pinder – Royal British Legion & Mirfield Community Partnership
Cllr Lees-Hamilton Proposed to suspend Standing Orders to hear from Lady Heton Action Group on BE12 planning Cllr Mapplebeck
Seconded Vote: All in favour

MTC208/2013

Confirmation of Minutes

i. To approve minutes of the ordinary meeting of 11th February 2014 as a true and correct record including payments of **£300.00**

Cllr T Hirst **Proposed** the minutes were a true and correct record Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: 6 in favour 1 abstained.**

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

Cllr Pinder made comment on MTC202 stating that the food in the showground had been moved. Cllr Lees-Hamilton confirmed that MTC198 photographs had been taken of the public toilets. MTC 194 administrator confirms that she has spoken to Anna Fitzgerald and there are 2 grit bins on Bracken Close as one was asked to be moved by council from Bracken Grove in 2011. MTC195 Cllr Lees-Hamilton informs Cllrs of the proposed Civic Service at St Johns Church on 6th April @ 3.00pm and that ambassadors will be invited.

MTC209/2013

Worksheet of Decisions

To consider and receive information to update

1. Code of Conduct – Adjourn to next meeting
2. Declaration of Interest – Adjourn to next meeting

MTC210/2013

Finance

To consider and decide any action where necessary on the following matters:

1. Administrator Salary
2. HMRC PAYE

FEBRUARY		
Payee	Description	Amount

Administrator L Staggs HMRC	February Salary Jan PAYE	£435.32 £117.80
TOTAL		£553.12

3. Items 3 & 4 Council must debate for a reduction as service not satisfactory adjourn to next meeting
4. Item 5 adjourn to next meeting
Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** Items 1 & 2 is paid en block and items 3, 4 & 5 be adjourned Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC211/2013

Grant Application

1. To consider grant applications submitted: **NON RECEIVED**
2. To receive updates from previously approved grants: **NONE**

MTC212/2013

Planning

1. To consider *planning applications received from Kirklees Council.
2014/90326 & 2014/90375 No Objections/Comments
2013/94023 Former Swan Inn Cllr Lees-Hamilton stated that the pub was an eyesore as it stands but the application that has been submitted is inappropriate for this historical end of Mirfield and out of character with the existing street scene. Cllr T Hirst commented that there were plenty takeaways in the vicinity and a supermarket would cause traffic congestion. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** that MTC object on the grounds of highway safety, visual impact, detrimental to the environment & local residents and not in accordance with the village design statement. Cllr Mapplebeck **Seconded** and commented that there should be numerous records of accidents when this was a public house due to the junctions at Church Lane, Steanard Lane and Boat Yard **Vote: All in favour**
2. To consider * planning decision notifications from Kirklees Council
No Comments/Noted
3. Mirfield Moor – No Update keep on agenda
4. Balderstone Hall Lane – No planning application. Decide course of action if and when submitted.
5. Darren Aveyard thanks Mirfield Town Council for all its help with planning in Mirfield and the Ben Bailey development. He confirms that until a planning application was submitted that the group had nothing to fight. Darren confirms that members of Lady Heton Action Group have found discrepancies within Section 4.28 Policy BE12. Policy states 21m from existing building but Kirklees internal guidance document states from the original boundary excluding extensions etc., which means more house builds on plots of land this also means that houses can be built much closer together than the stipulated 21m, this is detrimental to living amenity. Cllr Lees-Hamilton said it looked like it had been approved as a clarification but this had been amended to policy and that MTC should fight on this basis as the committee have changed policy not just clarification. Darren confirms that this would reduce the proposed amount of builds considerably. Martin confirms that he has checked other Ben Bailey sites and that they have built on this basis and he is concerned for residents safety as too many houses. Cllr Lees-

Hamilton states that Kirklees have used this policy as argument for other developments MTC has objected to. Cllr Hamilton asked Martin if this was true of all developers or just Ben Bailey. Martin confirmed that he had looked at other builders sites and it appeared to be the same. He also commented on how the amount of extra residents would impact on a town's infrastructure. Cllr Armitage comments that Britain builds the smallest houses in Europe, that builders make them smaller to fit more on plots. Cllr Lees-Hamilton sums up that Lady Heton Action Group have done an excellent job and wishes that all action groups were so proactive and diligent. All Cllrs present agree to support Lady Heton Action Group and Cllr Lees-Hamilton asks administrator to contact all absent Cllrs and ask them to support via email to Peter Morgan. Cllr Pinder **Proposed** this be added to the agenda for next meeting Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour.**
Cllr T Hirst Proposed to reinstate Standing Orders Cllr Pinder Seconded Vote: All in favour.

MTC213/2013

Community

To receive an update/discuss/note:

1. Mirfield Public Toilets – Cllr Pinder notifies council of a meeting with Cllr Lees-Hamilton and Tracy Martin from 'Well Polished' cleaning company. A copy of the cleaning quotation is viewed. Cllr Pinder confirms that this is a very competitive quotation from a capable company who will provide all cleaning products and confirms that the Working Party agrees. Cllr Pinder **Proposed** that in view of this MTC should proceed with quotation and ask 'Well Polished' to prepare a contract Cllr Mapplebeck **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
Cllr Lees-Hamilton thanks Cllr Pinder for providing the cleaning products to date.

MTC214/2013

Correspondence

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

1. Update on National Planning – **NOTED**
2. YLCA – CIL. Cllr Pinder notifies Cllrs of a conversation with YLCA regarding this and the Village Design Statement. He confirms that YLCA will be happy to look at Mirfields Village Design Statement and advise what needs changing to turn this into a Village Plan. YLCA informed Cllr Pinder that this can be done for approx. £100. Once a local plan is in force Town Councils receive 25% from developers as opposed to 15% (capped at £100 per house). Cllr Pinder **Proposed** MTC sends the Village Design Statement to YLCA to overview, with a view to changing this to a plan Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour.**
3. Kirklees – Arts Council England – **NOTED Cllr Lees-Hamilton asks administrator to invite Adele Poppleton to the next meeting.**

MTC215/2013

Internal Matters:

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

1. Website –.Cllr Harding absent. Cllr Lees-Hamilton confirms that Cllr Harding has contacted Deborah Nicholson regarding Kantara and is awaiting a reply.

2. Mirfield Design Statement – **CIL comments in MTC214(2)**
3. Allotments – Quotation of £200 diseased tree. Cllr Mapplebeck states that this is an extremely reasonable quotation. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** MTC inform Tony Wainwright that this is a reasonable quotation and to proceed as per quotation Cllr Mapplebeck **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC216/2013

Knowl House:

To discuss future of Knowl House in view of recent events in Kirklees Council.

Cllr Lees-Hamilton states she has the historic file for Knowl House and shows this to Cllrs. She confirms that Knowl House was left to the people of Mirfield by the Walker family and was not intended to be sold off by Kirklees. She reports that the 'Batley Bacon' cannot be sold as it belongs to the people of Batley and believes this should be the case with Knowl House. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** that she takes the file to a solicitor for a free hour advice Cllr Pinder **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC217/2013

Matters for Report and Information

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

Cllr Pinder reports Armed Forces Day is 28th June.

MTC218/2013

The Date Of The Next Town Council Meeting:

Cllr Lees-Hamilton thanked everyone for their attendance.

Date of next meeting **Tuesday 11th March 2014**

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.30pm**.....