



## Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

**Held on:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.35pm the rising of the previous meeting

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

### **Councillors Present:**

S Naisbett (Chairman), J Roberts, S Guy, J Hirst, B Harrison, M Brown, D Hirst, P Tolson, Imran Ali, M Connell, M Sullivan

### **In Attendance:**

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: 3 x Residents, 2 x Member Friends of Mirfield Library, MP K Leadbeater & assistant

Press: None

### **MTC71 /2024**

#### **Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:**

The Chairman Cllr Naisbett welcomed Cllrs and members of the public. He welcome MP K Leadbeater and reported that he had attended the final service at St Paul's. He also reported attending the Melham's Civic Service. Cllr Naisbett updated Cllrs that one of the key members of the NP steering group was moving to North Yorkshire, so to keep the Np on track more members were required. Cllr Guy **Proposed** a vote of thanks to the member for all their work with Save Mirfield, GLAAG and the NP Cllr Tolson

**Seconded Vote: All in favour**

### **MTC72/2024**

#### **Apologies for Absence:**

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllrs Itrat Ali, V Lees-Hamilton, M Bolt & M Hamilton sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Connell **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Connell **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**  
Cllr Hinchliffe was absent but did not send apologies nor a reason for absence

### **MTC73/2024**

#### **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 MTC75(1)

### **MTC74/2024**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes:**

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 as a true & correct record including payments of **Nil**. Cllr

## MTC75/2024

Sullivan **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting  
Cllr Connell **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 on Mirfield Library and decide any action necessary –Member of Friends of Mirfield Library is in attendance but had no update. Cllr Naisbett states that there are conflicting reports and as it was not called in, will now go to a public consultation. Cllr Guy states that he can see all libraries losing paid staff with maximum of 15 hours paid, he believes. Cllr Brown mentioned possible apprenticeships within Kirklees to help staff libraries.
2. To receive an update from Cllr Naisbett on Christmas Light Switch on and agree any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reports a curve ball thrown in by Kirklees regarding the lighting columns and having features installed on them. He is meeting with Bradford Festival lighting to complete the paperwork for Kirklees. Cllr Dad will switch on the lights this year. Clerk reports that the cost of a Christmas tree from Kirklees is £188 plus VAT, Cllr Naisbett confirms Haigh's will supply the tree again this year. There will be vendors inside the library as per last year and the maker's market.

## MTC76/2024

### **Finance:**

To approve the following accounts for payment:

1. To agree Clerk Sept Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance Sept by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC Sept PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk Sept pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist Sept Room Hire by Bacs £80.00
6. To agree Able Gardens Sept Maintenance by Bacs £110.00
7. To agree St Mary's Community Centre Hire Civic Service £140.00
8. To agree ML Badges Past Mayor Badges £273.60
9. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/07/24
10. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/07/24
11. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/08/24
12. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/08/24

Cllr Guy **Proposed** to pay items 1-8 en bloc & note items 9-12 Cllr Brown  
**Seconded Vote: All in favour**

## MTC77/2024

### **Community:**

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

1. To receive an introduction from MP K Leadbeater and update Cllrs on her objectives for Mirfield and her Mirfield constituents and how she will represent their views and concerns in Parliament – The MP is present and begins by explaining the boundary change resulting in her being the MP for Spen Valley. She states she is happy to represent Mirfield irrespective of politics and intends to serve the people of Mirfield and not make her term political. So far, she has only been invited to MTC but is keen to listen and learn. She states that she is active in her constituency but must go to Parliament when Parliament is sitting. She reports she has set up a new group Friends of Mirfield forum, which she hopes will support different organisations, groups, charities and businesses and network how her office can support and what groups within Mirfield are doing, the first group being 19<sup>th</sup> September. She has also set up a Pubs forum and asks Cllrs to pass on information of this to any local landlords. She is also happy to actively support with the Christmas Lights Switch on. Cllr Connell thanks the MP for attending and agrees that MTC also want the best for the town and not be political. Cllr Naisbett states MTC will be happy to help her and vice versa and hopes that she can attend meetings at least once per quarter. She confirms that she will endeavour to do this, Clerk to send schedule of meetings. Cllr

Naisbett states that crime & ASB is a key issue and MTC have asked WYP to attend meetings but other than PCSO this has not happened. MP states that we all need to work together and will contact WYP and Police & Crime Commissioner on behalf of MTC, feel free to email her office for any help needed. Cllr Brown states that Cllr Naisbett will be doing a talk at Castle Hall to try get young people involved in the town and volunteering. MP confirms that she has been doing this in Cleckheaton and is more than happy to attend schools to do a talk. Cllr Naisbett states that Mirfield is to be a pilot council for Martyn's Law and that there is a new website launching that will have links to groups etc, he will add a link to MP website on the new MTC one. Cllrs thank the MP for attending and her update.

8.05pm MP & assistant leave.

**MTC78/2024**

### **Internal Matters:**

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

1. To discuss a forward plan for Mirfield, to decide key ambitions for this period of council, Mayor & government and decide any action necessary. Previously deferred – Clerk reads out an email from Cllr Bolt with suggestions for key ambitions. Cllr Connell states there are lots of opportunities in Mirfield, try to alleviate costs to residents.

Key Ambitions:

- Railway Station enhancement (Network Rail, train operators, Kirklees and West Yorkshire authorities)
- Riverside environmental improvements (Promised action by Kirklees on their land at Battyeford; they have failed to do this, also Canal & River Trust)
- Flooding (Responsible agencies are Kirklees as Lead Local Flood Authority, Mayor Brabin as major funder and Govt and Environment Agency as national funders and responsible authorities)
- Transport (a ban on HGV traffic on minor roads, except for access, keeping them to the two main roads, improvement in traffic management.(Responsibility for this is Kirklees, Mayor Brabin but crucially as a key corridor the transport minister should be asked to review via the MP)
- Community Wardens (address issues such as dangerous and anti-social parking at schools, educate pupils on road safety and active travel and could also cover fines for littering etc.)
- Speed Limits Kirklees should again be pressed to work with us to deliver, and reduce speed limits around schools as many other councils have done
- Fairtrade & Sustainable town
- Tutoring Hub within library for children who have fallen behind in school or from deprived backgrounds
- Children's Mental Health Provision
- Possible introduction of Beavers to build natural dams as other councils have done
- Neighbourhood Plan to finalise
- Crime & ASB
- Regain Mirfield Showground from Kirklees by either Show committee or MTC

**Key Ambitions Proposed by Cllr Naisbett Seconded by Cllr Tolson Vote: All in favour**

Clerk to contact Dr Jones for an update, TPU and Police.

2. To receive a report from the Clerk regarding Public Liability of the boulders placed in the Lidl car park to mitigate incidents at the Remembrance Parade and decide the course of action regarding the

license – Clerk updates Cllrs on the placement of the boulders in Lidl car park along the edge of Lowlands to mitigate drive through during the parade. Lidl have stipulated a license must be in force between us and them. This was sent to Williams & Co to check over and advise legal implication. During exchanges between Williams & Co and Lidl, a clause has been added that the Clerk is not agreeable with, without Cllrs approval, which put liability on the council in the event of an accident/incident with/on the boulders. The only alternative to the clause is to fully remove the huge boulders. Cllrs discuss at length. Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** Clerk emails Williams & Co to liaise with Lidl on placing warning signage on the boulders and ask their legal opinion regarding signage Cllr Brown **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

**MTC79/2024**

**Public Question Time:**

None notified prior to the meeting. 2 residents were present and asked to update on Manor Park. Cllr Naisbett under Chair's discretion allowed them to update. They report that they intend to write to OFSTED as a license is required, to oppose the use and ask Cllrs to support. Clerk confirms that as this is under Chair's discretion and not an item on the agenda, a resolution cannot be made. If Cllrs are minded, she can add to the next agenda for discussion. Cllrs agree to add as an item to discuss at the next meeting.

**MTC80/2024**

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

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Time Meeting Closed.....**9.27pm**.....