



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 7.35pm

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

Councillors Present:

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

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: P Doubell

Press: None

MTC139/2024

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:

The Chairman Cllr Naisbett welcomed Cllrs and members of the public to the meeting. He apologised he could not attend the Hartshead Memorial as he was ill, Cllr Guy stated it was well attended.

MTC140/2024

Apologies for Absence:

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllrs M Hamilton, M Bolt, & J Hinchliffe sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr Ali **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr Ali **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC141/2024

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.

NONE

MTC142/2024

Confirmation of Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 22nd January 2025 including payments of **£125.00** plus Clerk Salary, Working Allowance, HMRC & Nest Pension as a true and correct record. Cllr P Tolson **Proposed** the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC143/2024

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 website and decide any action necessary – Cllr Naisbett reported the website just needed a few more tweaks and domain transfer then ready to go.
2. To receive an update on Mirfield Library and decide any action necessary – No update from Kirklees or Friends Group
3. To receive an update from Cllr Guy on two new London Hearts match funded defibrillators and agree any action necessary – Cllr Guy reports he is waiting for the electrician to confirm a date for fitting. He asked the Clerk to order new Pads for existing defibs. Cllrs discuss potential sites for other defibs and groups to match fund. Wheatley Park, Shepley Bridge Marina and Castle Hall fields were mentioned. Cllrs to contact groups who may be interested to match fund these areas.

MTC144/2024

Grant Applications:

1. To consider grant applications submitted – 868 (Mirfield) Squadron £595.00 to fund Outdoor training event in March (Documents circulated prior to the meeting) - Member confirms that year on year the event costs have increased and do not want to pass this on to the cadets. £595 is the cost of the building for indoor catering & activities and fair-weather backup. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to grant the full amount of £595 and note MTC fully supports this well established and respected group Cllr Brown **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
7.46pm P Doubell leaves

MTC145/2024

Internal Matters:

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

1. To agree date of Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Council meeting (Suggested dates 7th or 14th May 2025) – Clerk confirms that both dates do not conflict with Kirklees Annual Meeting on 21st May. Cllr Guy **Proposed** to set the date of 14th May for the Annual Town Meeting & Annual Town Council Meeting and have these as the only meetings in May due to Spring Bank holiday Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
2. To discuss and approve 2025/2026 Budget – Cllrs were asked at the previous meeting to send any recommendations and costings to the Clerk. The Clerk had prepared a draft budget which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Changes in **purple**.

Budget:

- Column 1 Admin **Increase to £10k** general increases year on year
- Column 2 Wages **Increase to £26k** Salary increases and increase to NI
- Column 3 Chair Allowance Remain at £1k
- Column 4 Eastthorpe Gardens Remain at £1.5k
- Column 5 Christmas Lights **Increase to £15k** increases, potential lamppost costs and new lights
- Column 6 Civic & Cultural Remain at £15k as £20k budgeted reserves
- Column 7 Grants & Match Funding Remain at £15k
- Column 8 Grants & Community Events Remain at £38k
- Column 9 **Reduce to £5k** as not used in 24/25 and can draw from General Reserves if needed
- Column 10 Regeneration **Increase to £20k** due to possible service & asset transfers. Cllr Lees-Hamilton discusses possible funding for Knowl Park to cover shortfall from Kirklees. Clerk to

add to next agenda to discuss

- Column 11 Change to Policing Costs £6250 Cllr Lees-Hamilton had submitted costings for Operation Trimburg, policing in Mirfield

Reserves:

- Election Reserves Remain at £34k for all out-election costs
- Regeneration Reserves **Increase to £50k** to cover possible services/asset transfers/Kirklees shortfalls
- Civic & Cultural Reserves Remain at £20k
- General Reserves Remain at £10k
- Neighbourhood Plan, Allotments, Stalls & Sports Council Ringfenced £1718.86

After reviewing and discussing the draft budget and reserves, Cllrs agree that MTC can provide better services and policing by setting this budget Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** to accept Clerk recommendations regarding budget and reserves and set the budget at £152,750.00, committed reserves at £115,718.86 & uncommitted reserves at £23,811.71 Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

3. To discuss and approve 2025/2026 Precept – Having set the budget and reserves Cllrs discuss the amount required for the precept. Cllrs are mindful that they do not want to set too high a burden on Mirfield residents, but still need to deliver the budget and hold reserves for any eventualities that may occur between now and April 26 especially regarding potential transfer of assets from Kirklees and other services. Clerk has supplied various options in the Budget Detail for Band D Costings. There are no council tax referendum principles for mayoral combined authorities or town and parish councils Cllr Naisbett **Proposed** to set the 2025/2026 Precept at £125,000 with a Band D costing of £17.54 a £2.44 increase year on year Cllr Connell **Seconded Vote: All in favour**
4. To agree appointment of Internal Auditor by Northern Internal Audit Services for first audit 2024/2025 – Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** to appoint Northern Audit Services Cllr Guy **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC146/2024

Public Question Time

None

MTC147/2024

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th February 2025

Cllr Naisbett reminded Cllrs that MP K Leadbeater and Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime A Lowe will be attending the next meeting. Could Cllrs please send well formulated questions to the Clerk to circulate prior to the meeting.

Time Meeting Closed.....**8.40pm**.....