



mirfield
town council

Minutes of Mirfield Town Council Meeting

Held on: Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.43pm

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

Councillors Present:

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

In Attendance:

Clerk: L Staggs

Public: 10 x members of the public, 2 x PC's, Chief Superintendent Griffiths, West
Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime A Lowe & MP K Leadbeater

Press: None

MTC148/2024 **Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:**

The Chairman Cllr Naisbett welcomed Cllrs, members of the public, MP K Leadbeater, Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime A Lowe and Chief Superintendent Griffiths

MTC149/2024 **Apologies for Absence:**

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

1. To receive apologies – Cllrs Guy, Imran Ali, Itrat Ali, Lees-Hamilton, Hamilton & Hinchliffe sent apologies with reasons for absence. Cllr Sullivan **Proposed** to accept the apologies Cllr D Hirst **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

2. To approve reasons for absence – Cllr Sullivan **Proposed** to approve the reasons for absence Cllr D Hirst **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC150/2024 **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

MTC151/2024 **Confirmation of Minutes:**

To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting of 5th February 2025 including payments of **Nil**. **Amendment:** Cllr Harrison's apologies were missing from the minutes, to amend to include. Cllr Connell **Proposed** once the amendment was made the minutes were a true & correct record of the meeting Cllr Sullivan **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC152/2024 **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 was now live and the emails will be ready shortly.

2. To receive an update on Mirfield Library and decide any action necessary – No update

MTC153/2024

Finance:

To approve the following accounts for payment

1. To agree Clerk Feb Salary by Bacs
2. To agree Clerk Working Allowance Feb by Bacs
3. To agree HMRC Feb PAYE by Bacs
4. To agree Clerk Feb Pension contributions by D/D
5. To agree Trinity Methodist Feb Room Hire by Bacs £80.00
6. To agree Able Gardens Feb Maintenance by Bacs £55.00
7. To agree Kirklees Gritters Cost Parade £4495.32 (Includes fee for installation and removal of concrete boulders)
8. To receive Bank Reconciliation to 31/01/25 - **Noted**
9. To receive Monthly Budget to 31/01/25 - **Noted**

Cllr Bolt **Proposed** to pay items 1-7 en bloc Cllr Connell **Seconded Vote: All in favour**

MTC154/2024

Community:

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

1. To receive questions from Cllrs and members of the public on Policing & Crime within the Mirfield area and discuss with MP K Leadbeater and the West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime – MP K Leadbeater started the session stating she had been MP for Spen Valley for 7 months, which were intense with serious challenges locally and for the government. She reported 4 meetings of the Mirfield Forum connecting with groups/schools and businesses, the next meeting in June. She circulated a booklet that had Help, Support & Advice for residents. Cllr Bolt asked MP & WYP what they could do to help the small Jewish community within Mirfield. MP stated she was happy to meet with the group. WYDM A Lowe stated she met regularly with the Leeds Jewish community and since Israel/Gaza conflict she had met more to offer support, she is happy to meet the members and discuss interventions with WYP. Questions had been sent to the Clerk by Cllrs and residents.
 - 1) Will petty crime and shop theft, including children stealing, be targeted to deter young people from crime – CS Griffiths states theft from shops is a challenge across Kirklees, he would encourage business owners to report any incidents. Youth justice service is very robust in Kirklees, 99% of those who have an intervention do not re-offend in 6 mths with lots of young criminals being very vulnerable. He reiterates that reporting incidents is key as it gives trends and patterns that can be acted on and a focus deterrent car deployed in these areas. WYDM Lowe states there is a Retail Crime Action Plan that 43 Chief Constables have signed up to. She is happy to meet with any BID (Business Improvement District). There are core prevention partnerships taking place with local authorities and youth services by April to prevent children entering the justice system with a violence reduction partnership, 20 in the country inc West Yorkshire with £4.3M to test youth hub, working with schools. Police Education – WYP specialist 60 courses age appropriate for victims or perpetrators, free to all schools with 95% of schools signed up.
 - 2) The Police force/service is under the auspices of West Yorkshire Police and the strategic command of the Mayor of West Yorkshire. As such, we should see equality and consistency across the whole force area and policies. Why then is Mirfield penalised by having to pay for “Hostile Vehicle Mitigation” costing several thousand pounds each year from a police force which is committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and where other parades such as

the TUC annual parade in the centre of Leeds do not have to provide the same security. Can you provide us with either your policy on treatment of communities and veterans or reasons why some parts of west Yorkshire get penalised? – CS WYP states that this is not specific to Mirfield, WYP are preventing terrorism. Leeds city centre already has bollards in place, Mirfield does not. Each parade is assessed on its own merits and all assessed by the counter terrorism team.

- 3) Under age vaping is at chronic levels with new data showing significant risk to health. What is being done to target illegal sales of vapes to children – CS WYP states WYP are targeting more shops than most areas and over and above what should be doing, particularly the illegal side. MP Tobacco & Vape Bill to ban disposable vapes will soon be heard. She reports being involved with Revd Butler in the Respect Program and happy to help where she can with this.
- 4) Mirfield has had issues with travellers illegally breaking into our recreational spaces. The law has changed to allow first response officers to move these groups on. Why is first response action not taken to move them ? It would save both cleaning up costs and antisocial behaviour – CS WYP states that they have to be careful when using this legislation, every incident is different and is a big operation to remove by force, if they refuse to leave. If it was, for instance, in a school car park, then the legislation would be used. WYP do not see spikes in crime when travellers move in. WYDM Lowe Local authorities need to give more sites to travellers as not enough nationally. Cllr Bolt states that the site in Birstall allocated in Local Plan is permanently occupied so no room for travellers. CS WYP if significant damage, the legislation will be used in the correct circumstances.
- 5) The plans for the new HQ, which should be available as a planning application for public scrutiny, why did the Police request that the design and access statement, a key planning document was not available for such scrutiny – CS WYP Design plans were withheld for security reasons as are all plans of this nature
- 6) What are the practical implications for the public interaction with the police from the new HQ proposals as It means at least two bus journeys for Mirfield residents – CS WYP current site is not fit for purpose and no parking at Huddersfield at all. The decision was that it be better in one side or the other for response times, Dewsbury & Huddersfield very similar arrest patterns. Much better site, with more police vehicles going through Mirfield and multi storey car parking. Site to be completed Sept 25.
- 7) Exactly how do dangerous narrow lanes with 30mph speed limits see this limit enforced? It seems to us that we cannot expect any enforcement until there is a fatality, is this the case? CS WYP there is a certain criteria, 1st instance, officers on a regular basis doing speed checks. Will add to his list to take away and try to speak to Kirklees regarding installation of SID. WYDM Lowe will report the area to Vision Q. CS WYP keep reporting.
- 8) Vehicles parking on and blocking pavements. This practice is very dangerous for blind people, people in wheelchairs, disability scooters, other disabled people and people with pushchairs. it occurs very frequently in St Paul's road where we live - CS WYP keep reporting to the police, not a crime to park on the pavement but it is a crime to cause an obstruction, so when reporting, report as an obstruction. WYP is intelligence driven, the more reports, the more WYP can act. MP will look to relaunch campaign on pavement parking and use national legislation Operation Snap.
- 9) Residents from Wilson Ave have several questions regarding a Kirklees Housing tenant – One resident gives a timeline of incidents and reporting of the neighbour, including ASB, drug dealing, number

plate changing, domestic violence, knife attacks, speeding of cars, petrol bombing etc – CS WYP and WYDM Lowe advise residents to contact police and keep reporting. WYDM Lowe states she will assist with MP to get an eviction of the tenant for over occupancy. CS WYP takes information from the residents and states that he will take this further and be in touch with them. MP & WYDM will also assist as much as possible to restore normality to the neighbourhood. Cllr Connell states this is the reason MTC holds fortnightly meetings, so that residents can attend meetings and MTC can offer help & support, signpost residents in the right direction or act on their behalf. Cllr Naisbett thanks everyone for attending the meeting. 9.15pm Residents, PC's, MP, WYDM Lowe & CS WYP leave the meeting.

MTC155/2024

Internal Matters:

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

1. To receive the motion: To discuss and decide any action or costs on Knowl Park Playable Spaces Scheme: The project is in the design phase cost estimates are based on available funding from Kirklees S106, Ward budgets and possible funding from MTC. The amount to consider being the shortfall from Playable Spaces, Section 106 and Ward budget of £25,776.00 **Current committed budget from Playable Spaces, ward contributions and S106: £192,969.** Current cost estimate for: Full Scheme: **£218,745** (variance of £25,776 from budget) Current cost estimate for:
 - Full Scheme: £218,745 (variance of £25,776 from budget)
 - Skate park extension (concrete elements)
 - Play area – new equipment, new surfacing, additional fencing (to increase size), repair of zip wire in situ with surfacing and groundwork improvements to connect with active travel route around the park.
 - Benches along the path, in play area and skate park
 - Circular path (various materials - tarmac & crushed
 - Diagonal path (1.8m tarmac) – **Defer to 19th March meeting**

MTC156/2024

Public Question Time

None

MTC157/2024

The Date of The Next Town Council Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2025

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