

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 24th April 2023, at 7.15pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Smith, Cllr Jones, Cllr S Harrison, Cllr A Harrison, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Fear, Cllr Sidwells, Cllr Barns, Cllr James & Cllr Flynn

Others: Mrs Davies (Officer)

17369 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Wratten and Cllr Schuller sent their apologies & reasons for absence. Cllr James proposed to accept the apologies and reasons; this was seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.

17370 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interests received.

17371 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session

No members of the public present.

17372 To receive the Chair's report

Memorial Wildflower Meadow and Memorial Wood

Last month you approved a memorial wood and wildflower meadow on the land at the rear of the New Cemetery, which is 2.25 acres in size. Preliminary costings for specific wild flower seeds in an area of this size comes to £2,000.

A later suggestion has been to 'lay' the Hawthorn hedge surrounding the field, which needs some attention where there are gaps. Laying would initiate new growth and make the hedge healthier and more robust; it would also make a substantial linear corridor for birds and small mammals. Hedge laying is a skilled and expensive job.

The creation of the ecological-friendly meadow and laying the hedge is Phase 1 of the development of this land; Phase 2 would be the establishment of the Memorial Wood.

The Town Council has therefore submitted a bid to Seed Corn Funding through National England for Phase 1.

Bikeability

The Town Council is currently in negotiations with the Bikeability scheme, run by Notts. County Council. The Bikeability team is willing to come to the town to teach children how to ride a bike, and about road safety.

Similarly, the Pavilion is willing to provide their facilities as a suitable area for the children; final details are yet to be finalised. The current suggestion is that this happens during the school holidays, when the team isn't booked at local schools.

17373 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 27th March 2023

Cllr Jones proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 27th March 2023 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.

17374 To receive the cemetery health & safety reports

Cllr Barns reported on his cemetery inspections – no health & safety issues raised.

17375 To receive the Health & Safety Audit report for 2022-23

The Officer reported that a health & safety audit was carried out on the 23rd September 2023; risk assessments were reviewed and updated. No actions were raised by the consultant.

17376 To approve the HR renewal for 2023-26

The Officer went through the HR consultant renewal document. Cllr Barns proposed to extend the current HR contract as discussed; this was seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.

17377 To consider the purchase of bark for the event area planters

The Officer reported on prices and recommendation for bark for the event's area planters. Cllr A Harrison proposed to approve the purchase of the bark with a cap of £2,000; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.

17378 To consider purchase price of a laptop

The Council has previously approved the purchase of a laptop for the Administrator. The Officer reported that after looking online for laptop and prices and after consulting with our IT contractors; they were able to find an HP notebook with a 21% discount.

Cllr Hughes proposed to approve to purchase of £525.00 HP notebook; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.

17379 To approve payments as listed and receive the Draft financial reports for 31st March 2023

The Officer previously circulated copies of the payments for approval, financial reports as of 31st March 2023, copies of the bank statement balances - budget figures and variances will be circulated once the year end accounts are finished in May.

Cllr Hughes proposed to approve the payments as attached and approve the finances as above. Two Councillors confirmed the bank statement balances with the finance reports and initialled them.

17380 To consider moving monies between the Natwest accounts and Unity Trust online banking accounts

The Officer requested that the Council considers moving funds from its Natwest Account (with no on-line banking) and cheques are still being used; into the Unity Trust

current account (which is now set up for internet banking). The amount of cheques lost in the post or suppliers not accepting cheques are increasing. The ear marked reserve funds will be moved into the Natwest savings or Unity Trust savings accounts.

Cllr Jones proposed to move towards internet banking and transferring the funds as required; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 11votes.

17381 To consider any planning applications as attached below and planning correspondence

Application: 23/00355/HSE

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension

Location: 6 Crewe Road, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections

Application: 23/00430/VOC

Proposal: Variation of condition 3 of 21/00966/COU – to change opening time to .30am to open a coffee shop

Location: 69 Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections

Application: 23/00466/FUL

Proposal: Erect 3 industrial buildings to be sub-divided into 6 smaller units

Location: Land at Faraday Close, Harworth

Consideration: No objections

Application: 23/00386/HSE

Proposal: Application for erection of fencing to the front of the property (Retain)

Location: 127A Bawtry Road, Harworth

Consideration: Objections – some of the fence appears to be over the public highway and the height of the fencing

Cllr Fear proposed to approve the considerations as shown above; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.

17382 To receive items for information

The Chair passed on items for information – nothing put forward for the next agenda.

17383 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Town Council to be held on the 22nd May 2023 at 7.20pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

17384 To exclude member of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to receive update on staff wages.

No members of the public present.

The Officer gave an update from the on the HR meeting regarding the living wage and column point increases for staff.

Cllr James proposed to approve the 2023 increases; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 11 votes.