

# Harworth & Bircotes Annual Parish Meeting

The Harworth & Bircotes Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at 6.45pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Everyone welcome

## AGENDA

- APM18/1 Apologies for absence
- APM18/2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (attached)
- APM18/3 Town Council Chair's Report for 2017/18
- APM18/4 Open session

Cllr June Evans  
Chair of the Town Council  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

# Unapproved Minutes

## Harworth & Bircotes Annual Parish Meeting

The Harworth & Bircotes Annual Parish Meeting took place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 6.45pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes.

**Present:** Cllr Evans (Chair of the Town Council), Mrs Davies (Officer) PC Martin and 8 members of the public

### **APM17/1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies sent from Mr Durdy and Mrs Dean.

### **APM17/2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parrish Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**

The Meeting approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 and the Chair signed the minutes.

### **APM17/3 Chair's Town Council Report for 2016/17**

We will remember the past year because we lost two long-serving Councillors, Bob Turner and Brian Letherland. Both gave many years to this Council, both cared deeply about Harworth and Bircotes. Replacing them will be no easy task.

This time last year Council agreed that now was the time to step up to the next level – challenging, yes, but we are committed to and well established on that pathway. In-year we have witnessed the growth of this township, and this presents Council with not only new opportunities but also with an ever- broader remit of responsibility. Without growth, this community would not survive, and Council must meet the challenges that such expansion brings; this not only includes forward planning e.g. talking to developers, finding an extra car park, ensuring we get attractive green spaces – it also means remembering and attending to the everyday things that are important to people, such as litter and bins, seating, and community amenities and events.

**Looking at Growth:** we recognise there are a number of external factors influencing this. **Bassetlaw District Council** has made Harworth & Bircotes a main growth area in Bassetlaw; this because they recognise both the need for regeneration, and the opportunities for development that exist here. The Regeneration Team work behind the scenes to make this happen- you all know about the Harworth & Bircotes Intervention Strategy – but the successful bid to both Sheffield City Region/D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships resulted in the £1.55m investment at Junction 34, which isn't just about improving traffic flow, it's about unlocking employment and job opportunities to the north of the junction.

**Key to growth is commercial development:** we have seen planning permission granted for Harworth South, and recently to the site next to the A1M known as DB Symmetry; I spoke publicly in favour of both - it was interesting that there were only a few protesters

present at the latter application, whereas previously I almost got lynched for supporting Harworth South.

We have seen commercial growth on Snape Lane – perhaps the most important will be brick manufacture – and growth on Plumtree.

Why is commercial growth important? Yes, it offers job opportunities, but also it works in tandem with house building – people who work here may want to live here, and vice versa. The bad news is the intended closure of the DHL site and the impact on unemployment locally.

**Regarding House Building:** Jones Homes will soon be complete, the Persimmon site is well established, the Bryndale site was approved, the Institute site is actively building and the big success story is the replacement Airey Houses. We know there is yet more to come, but the overall message is that Harworth is a good place to live – it is up to this Council to make sure that message is delivered.

**This past year has presented Council with both success and challenges.**

**The Success:**

1. The gifting/removal of the Bunds.
2. The Memorial Garden is now well established, as is the second cemetery,
3. The car park was re-surfaced and the community bus service extended.
4. We housed the pre-school for 18 months without too much hassle.
5. Karen Tarburton joined our team to help us with strategic development.
6. We have been successful regarding management of our Finances, thanks to Wendy, and to Karen for successful bids for external funding.
7. All staff have been fully trained in Health & Safety – thank to Steph for her input, and for her help in sorting out H.R. issues – which is perhaps the most difficult thing to do in terms of staff management.
8. And then there was the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, followed by
9. District approval for the Harworth & Bircotes Intervention Strategy – in other words, a commitment to making it happen.

**The Challenges:**

1. Developing the Community Event/Seating and Meeting Area. Karen and a member of the regeneration team are key to making this happen.
2. Raising the profile of community events. I look to colleagues to manage this.
3. Improving the local environment. Wendy negotiated the right price for the right effect when it came to planting schemes.
4. Getting a Business Forum established where still the attitude is ‘we are only a pit village’, though Karen never stops trying -we need new business, new faces.
5. Negativity also presents itself via social media: those armchair critics can do a lot of harm, though they are never willing to step up, get stuck in; I have learned that fear of negative publicity has stopped some people from joining the Council – being a Councillor is like living in a goldfish bowl, but we do need to recruit new members. Therefore, one challenge is to overcome negativity, to keep communicating with local people and ensure they understand what is really happening, what is really planned, and why.
6. A big challenge for this year is addressing the structural problems with the Town Hall. Does this take precedent over plans to build a nursery? I’m afraid so – until we know where we stand on costs v insurance, we cannot commit to any major projects.

7. Development of the Colliery site is a long-term challenge, as are some ideas, proposals, or developments from there that may impact on the Town; getting the preliminaries right is therefore key.

**Overall**, we are viewed as a successful Council – proactive, forward thinking, one you can do business with. As District Councillors, Anita and I can tell you that this generates some envy – “Harworth gets everything” is not new to our ears, but as far as we are concerned our response is “and about time, too”!

It is the attitude of this Council that has made, and will continue to make, Harworth and Bircotes the third most important town in Bassetlaw. What we need to do is deliver, by thinking outside the box, considering new ideas and approaches, and working in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council and others – and I need your support, Councillors, to make sure this happens.

I therefore ask the question, colleagues – “are we all in support of a step-change programme of development, improvement and growth? Are we in this together?” I hope so.

#### **APM17/4 Public Session**

No matters raised.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7pm.

Signed..... Date.....