

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 13th October at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Evans, (Chair) Cllr James, Cllr Flynn, Cllr Smith, Cllr S Harrison, Cllr Schuller, Cllr S Whitehead, Cllr Horrocks, and Cllr Sidwells.

Others: W Davies (Officer), L Stewart (Deputy Clerk) (Community Development and Funding Manager) and members of the public

17869 To receive and consider any apologies and reasons for absence

The Cllr James proposed to accept the apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Sidwells and Cllr Wratten; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

17870 To receive Declaration of Interest on any item on the agenda

No declarations of interest received.

17871 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive reports from Police, District & County Councillors

The Chair suspended the meeting to hold the public session.

The new County Councillor Hannah John Introduced herself to the public & Council, set out her priorities for Harworth & Bircotes.

District Cllr Schuller reported that West Moorland House should be opening in November.

District Cllr Evans gave her District report – see report at the end of the minutes.

17872 To receive the Chair's report

The Chair reported on the renewal of the Police lease for the Information Centre.

It was also reported that the current Caretaker has resigned, and the post is now being advertised; meanwhile the staff are filling in with regard to the unlocking and locking up of the Town Hall.

17873 To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2025

Cllr Flynn proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and resolved by the Council. The Chair then signed the minutes.

17874 To consider planning applications as listed and any planning correspondence

Application: 25/01030/HSE

Proposal: External wall insulation with a mix of render finish to front, rear elevations and rear flank Elevations

Location: 51 Essex Road, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections – comments made as below

Application: 25/01031/HSE

Proposal: External wall insulation with a mix of render finish to front, rear elevations and flank elevations

Location: 12 Snipe Park Road, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections – comments made as below

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Application: 25/010132/HSE
Proposal: External insulation with smooth effect render finish to front, rear and flank elevations
Location: 62 Galway Road, Bircotes
Consideration: No objections – comments made as below

Application: 25/01033/HSE
Proposal: External insulation with plain render finish to front and rear elevations
Location: 33 Shrewsbury Road, Bircotes
Consideration: No objections – comments made as below

Application: 25/01034/HSE
Proposal: External insulation with plain render finish to front, rear and flank elevations
Location: 34 Snipe Park Road, Bircotes
Consideration: No objections – comments made as below

Application: 25/01035/HSE
Proposal: External insulation with plain render finish to front and rear elevations
Location: 58 Snipe Park Road, Bircotes
Consideration: No objections – comments made as below

Application: 25/01045/HSE
Proposal: Build a ground floor side extension
Location: 31 Styrrup Road, Harworth
Consideration: No objections

Application: 25/00840/HSE
Proposal: Proposed new pedestrian access and entrance gate
Location: Barnbro House, Gregory Crescent, Harworth
Consideration: No objections

Application: 24/00156/FUL
Proposal: Change of use to residential and single store side extension
Location: Manor House, Main Street, Harworth
Consideration: No objections

Cllr Jones proposed not to make any objections to the above applications - Comments were raised for applications 25/01030/HSE to 25/01035/HSE concern about potential colour choices of render finish; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

Application: 25/01071/FUL
Proposal: Erect five dwellings with parking, landscaping and other works to facilitate the development
Location: Land read or No. 37 and new access Styrrup Road, Harworth

At this point the Chair briefly left the meeting , the Vice-Chair Cllr Jones continued with the above and then the Chair returned to the meeting and the discussion continued on the above application.

After discussion, Cllr Jones proposed to object to above application due to concerns over highway issues and there is no need for additional housing as per the Bassetlaw Local Plan and Harworth & Bircotes review Neighbourhood Plan ; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

The Officer then reported on planning correspondences received.

At this point Cllr Whitehead joined the meeting.

17875 To receive the cemetery's health & Safety inspections

Cllr S Harrison confirmed that the Tickhill Road Cemetery has been inspected, and the cemetery is in a good condition with no actions required. Cllr Jones reported on the Styrrup Road Cemetery and no actions required.

The Council confirmed to the Officer that it had chosen to have back-to-back memorials stones on wider runners for the phase two of Styrrup Road cemetery.

17876 To consider appointing Phil Parkin Ltd as our Internal Auditor for the period of 2025/26

Cllr R Jones proposed to appoint Phil Parkin Ltd as internal Auditor for 2025/26, this was seconded by Cllr S Harrison.

17877 To receive the External Auditor's report and certificate 2024/25

The Officer reported that the Audit's report and certificate was all clear, with no issues raised as below:

The Officer reported that the External Auditor's Report and Certificate has been received. The External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2024-25 is as follows:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)m in our opinion the information in the Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory have not been met'.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of authority: None.

The Notice of conclusion of audit for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025 has been published today on the website and in the notice board for a minimum of 14 days.

17878 To receive and consider the Reinstatement Cost Assessment report for insurance purposes

Cllr S Harrison proposed to accept the Reinstatement Cost Assessment report and to submit to the insurer to update their records, and this was seconded by Cllr M Harrison.

17879 To consider quotations for installation of runners in the Styrrup Road Cemetery

This item was deferred due to waiting for additional quotations.

17880 To consider quotations for work to the Tickhill Road Cemetery entrance road

This item was deferred due to waiting for additional quotations.

17881 To consider quotations for the Tickhill Road Cemetery entrance gates and railings

This item was deferred due to waiting for additional quotations.

17882 To consider replacing the vandalised motors on the Styrrup Road Cemetery gates and installing safety measures

This item was deferred due to waiting for quotations.

17883 To consider the purchase of the freestanding poppy currently installed next to the Town Hall

Cllr J Flynn proposed to approve the purchase of the freestanding poppy statue which is installed next to the town hall and funded from the general reserves this was seconded by Cllr J Horrocks and resolved by the Council.

17884 To receive any recommendations or feedback from the Finance and HR Committee meetings held 6th October 2025

The Finance Committee has gone through the payment and financial reports and recommended that the Council approves the payments and financial reports.

17885 To consider payments as listed and the financial reports for 31st August 2025

Cllr J Flynn proposed to agree to make the payments as listed and approve bank reconciliations, bank statements, general and earmarked reserves, balance sheet and budget as of 31st August 2025; this was seconded by Cllr S Harrison and resolved by the Council.

Cllr Flynn and Cllr James confirmed the bank statements against the reports and signed the documents.

17886 To consider transferring the September precept fund from the NatWest Bank Current account to the Unity Trust Instant Access account.

Cllr S James proposed to agree to transferring the September precept payment from the NatWest current account to the Unity Trust current account and then into the Unity Trust Instant account , this was seconded by Cllr m Harrison.

17887 To receive an update following the Ombudsman's investigation regarding our new BT account

The Deputy Clerk reported that Ombudsman has agreed a refund and compensation package with BT, but issues still remain regarding the incorrect invoice prices from March 25 to date.

17888 To receive an update on the current Neighbourhood Plan Review consultation and appointment of an Independent Examiner.

The Officer reported that current six-week consultation finishes on the 27th October. The District Council has short listed two Independent Examiners which were circulated around the Neighbourhood Plan Review group for consideration; both names were put forward from the members of the group; the District Council will take this into account, and they will information us of the one that was appointed.

17889 To receive an update on the renewal of the police station lease

The Chair reported that a meeting has been held with all parties and further meeting is required with the Solicitor to draw up a new lease.

17890 To approve the scheduled Town Council meeting for 2026-27

The dates for the scheduled meeting 2026-27 are:

26th January 2026

9th March

20th April

18th May – Annual Meeting of the Town Council and Annual Parish Meeting

22nd June

27th July

7th September

19th October

30th November

18th January 2027

Cllr A Harrison proposed to approve the dates as above; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved by the Council.

17891 To receive items for information

- Adverts and Promotional banners tied to fences near roads are a distraction that should be reported to VIA - Highways

17892 Time and date of the next scheduled Town Council meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 6.30pm on 24th November 2025 in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP

District Councillor Evan's Report

Staring with the Royal British Legion Campaign: Bassetlaw District Council (B.D.C) is supporting the R.B.L. in their campaign for **military compensation to be discounted as income** when calculating means tested welfare benefits, including local benefits.

I know Bassetlaw District Council already discounts military compensation when calculating some local benefits, including Council Tax Support, Housing Benefit and Disabled Facilities Grant. This is in addition to the support the Council provides to Armed Forces Veterans and their families, serving members of the Armed Forces and Reservists, through its commitment to the **Armed Forces Covenant**.

Last year, Bassetlaw District Council was awarded the Gold Award of the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme – I think everyone should know how supportive the District Council is to veterans and their families.

Moving to Energy: B.D.C. is fortunate in having such a successful energy team, who have led the way in helping residents make their homes more energy efficient and environmentally friendly as part of the latest **Government Funded Home Upgrade Grant scheme**.

Of all the district authorities in Nottinghamshire and a collection of Derbyshire authorities, Bassetlaw topped the tables by upgrading 117 homes. This was the highest number of any participating district, with 66% of these properties reaching energy performance ratings of A–C, **also** the largest proportion in Nottinghamshire.

In addition, Bassetlaw was also the leading district under the scheme for solar panel installations, with 43% of all solar panels in Nottinghamshire being fitted in Bassetlaw.

Warm Homes Scheme: following on from past success, Bassetlaw District Council has been awarded central government funding to help households achieve reduced energy bills and make carbon savings. The funding is made available from the Warm Homes: Local Grants, a scheme launched by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) aimed to reduce poverty and aid in reaching the UK's Net Zero target. The scheme involves installing energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems in resident's homes; the Council has been approved to deliver both Bassetlaw and Bolsover's allocation to install home upgrades; The total funding for both Bolsover and Bassetlaw District Councils is £2,519,000.00 over the three-year period.

Investment in Recycling: as you know, a new kerbside glass collection service will be introduced on March 30th, 2026, under the gov. Simpler Recycling scheme; households in Bassetlaw will receive new 180 litre bins in which to place glass, which will be collected every six-weeks. Food waste collections will start in 2027.

B.D.C. Council is making a significant investment in how it collects waste – this includes new bins for glass, new and additional collection vehicles which will lead to a larger fleet of refuse wagons, an app to provide information on bin collections for the public, and necessary improved infrastructure to the Carlton Forest site itself.

This investment is a '**must do**', especially when looking to the future and the introduction of food waste collections.

Growth in Bassetlaw

Plans are in place to develop a small modular reactor at the former Cottam coal-fired power station designed to provide power to new, advanced data systems on site. By transforming the site, the project could create thousands of high-skilled manufacturing and construction jobs and long-term roles in operations for the community.

The project will help transform the UK's historic "Megawatt Valley" sites into a hub for clean energy and new investment opportunities; feasibility studies and early-stage investment discussions are now underway, and

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the project is due to come online this decade to form part of the Trent Valley Supercluster, which includes the S.T.E.P. project at West Burton.

Harworth & Bircotes Town Council

Bank-Cash Reconciliation as at 31st August 2025

Bank Statement Balances

31.8.2025	NatWest Current A/c	£	227,754.06
31.8.2025	NatWest Deposit A/c	£	134,124.95
31.8.2025	Unity Trust A/c	£	119,114.11
31.8.2025	Unity Trust Deposite A/c	£	195,752.87

£ 676,745.99

Less unrepresented Payments

£ -

Plus receipts not on Bank Statement

£ -

£ 676,745.99

Closing Cash Book Balances

All Cash Bank Accounts

NatWest Current Account	£	227,754.06
NatWest Deposit A/c	£	134,124.95
Unity Trust A/c	£	119,114.11
Unity Trust Deposite A/c	£	195,752.87

£ 676,745.99

Represented by

General Reserves	£	397,804.57
Earmarked Reserves	£	278,941.42

£ 676,745.99