

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

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

Others: Mrs Davies (Officer) and Mrs Tarburton (Community Development Officer)

18065 To receive and consider any apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Whitehead proposed to approve apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Jones, Cllr Gratten and Cllr Smith; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

18066 To receive Declaration of Interest on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interest received.

18067 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive a presentation on Domestic abuse in Rural Areas; plus to receive reports from Police, District & County Councillors

The Chair suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to speak.

The public session started with Patricia Choo, a representative from Equation giving a presentation on domestic abuse in rural areas – Bassetlaw. Equation is a specialist Domestic Abuse charity working in Nottinghamshire to reduce the harm caused by Domestic abuse. Equation has been commissioned to deliver a project on Domestic abuse in Rural areas. The area of focus this year is Bassetlaw concentrating on Harworth Bircotes, Misterton and surrounding villages.

The project is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the aims of the project include:

- Raising awareness in communities about Domestic abuse
- Awareness campaigns so survivors get information about specialist support services
- Training for professionals around Domestic abuse in Rural areas
- Creating J9 Safe Spaces in the community for survivors
- Holding community drop ins for Male and LGBTQ+ survivors

No reports from District or County councillors or the police.

The meeting was reinstated.

18068 To receive the Chair's report

The Chair gave her report:

Local Government Reorganisation

You are all aware that the Government's decision is for Notts to have two unitary councils; one appears to be large and rural, the other is much smaller, but it appears both have similar sized populations.

One new council will serve Nottingham City plus **parts of** Broxtowe, Gedling, and Rushcliffe. The second will cover Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood, and Mansfield, together with parts of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe.

What happens next?

The next stage will be the **transition period**, with elections for the new unitary councils expected to take place in **May 2027**. Following those elections, **two shadow authorities** will be created to oversee preparations ahead of the new councils officially coming into operation in **April 2028**. There is still significant work to be done before the new councils are established.

Public Toilets

I have advised BDC that the Town Council intends to close them, given the continual vandalism and associated costs. BDC are looking for any contractual agreement between us and them

School Places in Harworth & Bircotes

Efforts have been made by your District Councillors; at this point Cllr Schuller gave an update.

18069 To receive the cemetery's health & Safety inspections

Cllr Harrison reported:

My inspection of the Old Cemetery today brought up one or two issues with slight movements of some of the pathways around the Old Cemetery - the exceptionally high temperatures have caused this, and I expect a fourth heatwave this week, which I believe will perhaps cause more movement of the pathways where there are some tripping hazards.

There is a tree that needs some of its lower branches removing, as the branches pose a hazard of hitting people in the face. The contractor will be informed to carry out work on the tree.

Cllr Jones sent her report – no actions required in the Styrrup Road cemetery.

18070 To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2026

Cllr Flynn proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2026 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and resolved by the Council. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

18071 To consider planning applications as listed and any planning correspondence

Application: 26/00768/FUL – 103 Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Proposal: Change of use of existing first floor ancillary storage accommodation associated with the Ground Floor hot food takeaway (Sui Generis) to form one self-contained one-bedroom dwelling (Use case C3). No external alterations are proposed.

Consideration: No objects

Application: 26/00817/HAZ – Great Bear Distribution Ltd, Harworth DC1 Nook Flatt Road, Blyth

Application for hazardous substances consent for storage of various hazardous substances

Consideration: To make objections until the Health & Safety issues are in place.

Cllr Harrison proposed to approve the considerations as above; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

18072 To consider payments as listed and the financial reports as of 30th May and 31st June 2026

The Officer previously circulated the payments for approval and financial reports of 30th May and 31st June 2026, bank reconciliation, bank statements, general and earmarked reserves, budget and balance sheet for the councillors to view.

The Officer went through the June's budget (which is the 1st quarter of the year) explaining that the income received in the first quarter is 48.8% of the budget; this includes the first percept amount received. The expenditure spent in the first quarter is 30.3% of the budget.

The Officer when through the earmarked reserves used to date which was the beginning of the updating of the lighting in the town hall and payment towards the new cemetery electric supply.

Cllr Cobby proposed to approve the payments and financial reports as above; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

Cllr Harrison and Cllr Flynn both confirmed that the finances for May and June 2026 are in line with the back reconciliations and signed the documents.

Bank reconciliation 31st May 2026

Bank Statement Balances on 31st May 2026

Natwest Current A/c	£242,210.08	
Natwest Deposit A/c	£135,070.25	
Unity Trust A/c	£209,410.16	
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£198,817.05</u>	
		£785,507.54
Less unrepresented payments		£000,000.00
Plus receipts not on bank statement		<u>£000,000.00</u>
		<u>£785,507.54</u>

Closing Cash Book Balances 31st May 2026

Natwest Current A/c	£242,210.08
Natwest Deposit A/c	£135,070.25
Unity Trust A/c	£209,410.16
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£198,817.05</u>
	<u>£785,507.54</u>

Presented by :	General Reserves	£416,124.89
	Earmarked Reserves	<u>£369,382.65</u>
		<u>£785,507.54</u>

Bank reconciliation 30th June 2026

Bank Statement Balances on 30th June 2026

Natwest Current A/c	£221,211.40	
Natwest Deposit A/c	£135,170.91	
Unity Trust A/c	£181,765.25	
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£199,783.63</u>	
		£737,932.19
Less unpresented payments		£000,000.00
Plus receipts not on bank statement		<u>£000,000.00</u>
		<u>£737,931.19</u>

Closing Cash Book Balances 30th June 2026

Natwest Current A/c	£221,211.40
Natwest Deposit A/c	£135,170.91
Unity Trust A/c	£181,765.25
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£199,783.63</u>
	<u>£737,931.19</u>

Presented by:

General Reserves	£380,949.99
Earmarked Reserves	<u>£356,981.20</u>
	<u>£737,931.19</u>

18073 To consider extending the electric supply contract with SSE Energy Solution for the Tickhill Road Cemetery

Cllr Sidwells proposed to accept the three-year extension of the unmetered electric supply for the Tickhill Road Cemetery; this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and resolved by the Council.

18074 To review the policies as listed:

- Vexatious Complaints Procedure Policy
- Terms of Reference for the Town Council
- Accessibility Statement for the website

The Officer previously circulated copies of the above policies for the Councillors to view.

Cllr Harrison proposed to approve the review of the above policies with no adjustments; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

18075 To consider gritting rates for 2026-27

Cllr James proposed to accept this year's gritting rates for 2026-27; this was seconded by Cllr Whitehead and resolved by the Council.

18076 To receive updates on the ongoing projects and events

Snipe Wood Local Improvement Project - The Deputy Clerk sent his update on the project he is currently working on which was arranged prior to covid and then the UKSPF projects took over; so now is a good time to pick up this project. This is a Town Council project and where appropriate, it can work alongside of the District Council.

The Town Council is looking to carrying out with local volunteers to improve the Snipe Wood.

The time frame is starting on the Tuesday 11th August onwards, 10am to 12pm working with volunteers. The ground works starts late summer or early autumn, so we are getting more towards the end of bird nesting season. Preparation needs to start as soon as possible to ensure the project is successful, we are waiting for a plan from Ground Works to ensure we can work collaboratively within the wood, but no response received yet.

It has been explained that work should be guarded by the existing management plan and only with the approval and oversight of the District Council's Parks and Open Spaces as they own the land.

The Proposal is:

The Town Council has some existing budget remaining to help facilitate regular sessions for habitat managements sessions. These could include a range of activities including the following

- Clearing vegetation overgrowing footpaths and removing silt etc. from semi-bound aggregate surfacing
- Working on the central glade to improve floristic diversity, reduce bracken in trial areas
- Creating small trial areas within woodland to remove bramble and promote greater floristic diversity
- Litter picking areas of work
- Training and botanical recording

Longer term we would also like to begin control of Snowberry along the boundary with the park with the view to replacing it with native hedging. Some work may involve removing self-set Sycamore below 100mm DBH. No powered machinery will be used, and all PPE and risk assessments will be provided.

We would also like to update the existing management plan which is out of date and simplify/condense the plan into a 'working documents' that is easy to keep current. The botanical survey could also be updated as part of the plan. The work will be carried out by Mr Stewart and Mr Withington the Ecologist, with support from volunteers from the town and nature lovers from surrounding area.

The Community Development Officer then gave her report regarding events during the year.

As from Friday this week the beach events will be on the civic centre; ten tonne of sand to be delivered tomorrow and any volunteers available to help with it would be appreciated as only one member of staff available; Cllr Harrison kindly offered to help putting the sand in the sand pit.

North Notts Bid has funded the summer holiday events.

Dates in the diary confirmed are:

- Every Friday over the school holidays the events will take place on the civic centre between the hours of 10am to 2pm
- The Christmas event this year will be reduced down to one day on the 27th November as previously mentioned. The idea this year will be to involve local people in decorating a Christmas tree; KT will contact local groups to see if they would like to be involved. Items have been purchased for people to decorate and then return to the town council. The local schools will also be contacted to be involved; the Christmas trees will then be displayed in the hall. The stalls will be in the hall, the TRA will be in the committee room, and the entertainment will be outside. The events will be approximately between 4pm to 7pm with the tree lighting at 5pm
- A pantomime has been booked for Saturday 12th December
- Discussion took place regarding a Halloween Party; UKSPF funded this event for the previous two years – if the council wished to hold a pantomime the cost would be £1,200. It was noted that the only date available for the panto would be a Thursday when children would be at school and it would interfere with two local groups who use the town hall on a weekly basis; therefore, the council will not be taking this forward. Cllr Schuller suggested holding the event over the weekend; however there is not the staff to do this but if the councillors would like to take this on

18077 To receive items for information

Nothing to highlight.

18078 Time and date of the next scheduled Town Council Meeting – 7th September 2026

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th September 2026 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

18079 To exclude members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to allow discussion of legal matters

No members of the public present.

18080 To consider legal matters

The Officer and Chair passed on information regarding current leases being reviewed.