

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 30th June 2025 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Jones, Cllr S Harrison, Cllr Horrocks, Cllr A Harrison, Cllr James and Cllr Flynn

Others: W Davies (Officer), K Tarburton (Community Development and Funding Manager) and L Stewart (Deputy Clerk)

17806 To receive and consider any apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Jones proposed to approve apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Wratten, Cllr Schuller, Cllr Sidwell, Cllr Smith and Cllr Whitehead; this was seconded by Cllr S Harrison and resolved by the Council.

The Officer reported that J McLaughlin has ceased to be a Member of the Town Council, and the District Council has been informed.

17807 To receive Declaration of Interest on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interests received.

17808 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive reports from Police, District & County Councillors

At this point Alison Shipperbottom, Economic Development Manager from Bassetlaw District Council attending the meeting and gave a presentation on when they are doing to support the high streets; as mentioned in the Chair's report.

No members of the public present. No police or County Council reports received.

District Councillor Evans gave her report as below:

Change at Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) – Change is a major consideration for BDC at the moment, some if it is driven by Local Government Reorganisation and the planned development of large, unitary authorities replacing multiple District Authorities.

The growth of industry, a proactive approach to green energy along with many successful bids to do this, and the STEP nuclear development at West Burton, plus the potential other energy-producing developments makes Bassetlaw attractive to any unitary. Add to this a reputation for sound financial management and repeated allocations of government funding for many projects means BDC should be a key player.

Accordingly, BDC is gearing up in preparation, and making changes in its own management structure, and this has included changes to some cabinet responsibilities e.g. District Cllr Schuller is now responsible for the Housing portfolio – which is quite a challenge; and I am responsible for a new portfolio called Legal and Governance -so a bit of a learning curve for both of us.

Planning Award – At the East Midlands Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) awards for Planning Excellence on Tuesday, the District Council won two of four awards:

1. Excellence in Plan-Making – for the Local Plan

We were commended for outstanding plan-making, for being creative, ambitious, inclusive, excelling in community engagement, promoting great outcomes for our communities and for the content going beyond good practice.

2. Planning Authority of the Year – for the achievements of the whole planning service for overcoming a range of obstacles, having financial stability, improving customer service and being an exemplar to other Local Planning Authorities about how to deliver great outcomes in the current climate.

Quite an achievement because the East Midlands covers, Derbyshire, Leicester, Rutland, Lincoln, Northampton, and Nottinghamshire.

17809 To receive the Chair's report

The Chair gave her following report:

Town Centre Regeneration – Bassetlaw District Council is investing over £200k to support high street and wider businesses from start-ups to those looking to grow, and this included Harworth and Bircotes, along with Worksop, Retford and Tuxford.

The money from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is being made available through a range of business support services including a range of grants. One outcome will hopefully be less vacant retail units and new types of shops.

Cemetery Security – A CCTV camera has been installed in the Tickhill Road Cemetery; hopefully, this will deter any anti-social behaviour.

Staff Change – We have another new caretaker; and she has a very positive attitude.

Planned Events – We have some items to mention at the Town Hall:

1. 19th August 2025 – Department of Wages & Pensions (DWP) will be having a pre job fair training (invite only)
2. 9th September – DWP will be holding a Jobs Fair which is open to everyone
3. Week commencing 7th September to 14th September, Tom Simpson events and talks
 - a) 7th September – Simpson sortive
 - b) 8th – 11th September – talks and community events
 - c) 12th – 15th September – Retro weekend

Tom Simpson Cycling Festival – look at cyclinglegends.co.uk

17810 To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025

Cllr S Harrison proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

17811 To consider planning applications as listed and any planning correspondence

Application: 25/00546/HSE

Proposal: Erect first floor extension above existing ground floor rear extension

Location: 5 Norfolk Drive, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections

Application: 25/00509/FUL

Proposal: Erection of 7 No. 2 & 3-bedroom town houses including formation of new access onto Well Hill Drive

Location: Land north of 38 Well Hill Drive, Harworth

Consideration: No objections

Application: 25/00571/VOC – Land off Beverley Road

Proposal: Variation of condition six on P/A 24/01288/VOC – To allow for enhancement works to be completed no later than the completion of the final dwelling on the development

Location: Land of Beverley Road, Harworth

Consideration: No objections

Cllr James proposed not to make any objections as above; this was seconded by Cllr A Harrison and resolved by the Council.

17812 To consider payments as listed and the financial reports for 30th April and 31st May 2025

The Officer previously circulated the list of payments for approval and financial reports, bank statements for the Councillors to view, reconciliations, still to catch up with budget figures and will be available in June, general and earmarked reserves.

Cllr Flynn proposed to approve the above payments and reports; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council.

Cllr Flynn and Cllr S Harrison confirmed the above bank balance against the financial reports and signed the documents.

17813 To consider costs of an alternative Christmas Tree for the events area and consider EMR for a 10-year plan

K Tarburton reported that she has contacted four companies the price of an 18^{-foot} Christmas tree due to the current supplier no longer has any large trees left.

The tree prices varied between £250 to £495 and one price of £1,255 for the tree, to deliver and install. The rest of the other companies did not deliver or install the trees and remove them, which would be an additional cost each year of £950.

An alternative cone shaped Christmas trees would be a one-off purchase cost £7,955 and should last for ten-year period; this would work out of an annual cost of £795 per year. The contractor would store and check the tree, deliver and dress it within the contract price. Any damage would be an additional cost.

Also, a suggestion was put forward to put aside an ear marked reserve of £10k to cover for future works on the Main Street Christmas lights wrapped around the village green tree, to maintain the small Christmas trees on the shops and the wrapping of Christmas tree lights on the shop front trees.

After considerations regarding the costs of an alternative Christmas Tree and the ear marked reserve to cover the above, Cllr James proposed to purchase the cone shape Christmas tree and ear

mark £10k to use for the maintenance of the various trees over the Christmas periods; this was seconded by Cllr S Harrison and resolved by the Council.

17814 To consider extension of gritting contract

After discussion and consideration, Cllr Jones proposed to continue extending the gritting contract for 2025-26; seconded by Cllr S Harrison and resolved by the Council.

17815 To consider contracts for the Town Hall and Information Centre water supply

The Deputy Clerk explained the comparison costs against the current water supply and other companies.

After discussion and consideration, Cllr S Harrison proposed to appoint the current water supplier Water Plus, under a new three contract rather than the deemed contract we have after the handing over from Severn Trent water some years ago; this will result in a cheaper contact rate; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council

17815 To review the Equality Policy

Cllr A Harrison proposed to approve the Equality Policy with no amendments; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council.

It was noted that the disabled toilet in the Town Hall could be used for Transgender people.

17816 To receive any update on the Neighbourhood Plan Review consultations

The Officer reported that the review consultations has now finished, to date only three residents responded via emails and no local stakeholders returned any comments. All the documents received have been sent to the consultants ready for the Neighbourhood Plan group's meeting on the 28th July.

17817 To receive items for information

- The Officer reported that a lot of work on review and new policies is taking place
- The CCTV camera in the Tickhill Road Cemetery has been installed and signs are in place
- The fabricator has visited the Tickhill Road Cemetery to look at the gates and fencing with a view to replace or refurbish
- A sandpit will be put on the Civic Square from the end of July to the end of August
- Another Halloween disco will take place in October

Cemetery reports – Cllr Jones reported all was okay in the Styruup Road Cemetery and Cllr S Harrison reported all was ok in the Tickhill Road Cemetery.

17818 Time and date of the next scheduled Town Council meeting

The next Scheduled Town Council meeting will be held on 1st September at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Harworth & Bircotes Town Council

Bank-Cash Reconciliation as at 30th June 2025

Bank Statement Balances

30.6.2025	NatWest Current A/c	£	406,743.47
30.6.2025	NatWest Deposit A/c	£	133,890.81
30.6.2025	Unity Trust A/c	£	79,228.55
30.6.2025	Unity Trust Deposite A/c	£	108,733.87

£ 728,596.70

Less unrepresented Payments

£ -

Plus receipts not on Bank Statement

£ -

£ 728,596.70

Closing Cash Book Balances

All Cash Bank Accounts

NatWest Current Account	£	406,743.47
NatWest Deposit A/c	£	133,890.81
Unity Trust A/c	£	79,228.55
Unity Trust Deposite A/c	£	108,733.87
	£	728,596.70

Represented by

General Reserves	£	456,990.12
Earmarked Reserves	£	271,606.58
	£	728,596.70

Harworth & Bircotes Town Council

Bank-Cash Reconciliation as at 30th April 2025

Bank Statement Balances

30.4.2025	NatWest Current A/c	£	406,012.95		
30.4.2025	NatWest Deposit A/c	£	133,645.01		
30.4.2025	Unity Trust A/c	£	122,783.83		
30.4.2025	Unity Trust Deposit A/c	£	108,101.55		
				£	770,543.34

Less unrepresented Payments

£ -

Plus receipts not on Bank Statement

£ -

£ 770,543.34

Closing Cash Book Balances

All Cash Bank Accounts

NatWest Current Account	£	406,012.95
NatWest Deposit A/c	£	133,645.01
Unity Trust A/c	£	122,783.83
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	£	108,101.55
	£	770,543.34

Represented by

General Reserves	£	526,411.76
Earmarked Reserves	£	244,131.58
	£	770,543.34

Signed: W Davies

Date: 24.6.25

Harworth & Bircotes Town Council

Bank-Cash Reconciliation as at 31st May 2025

Bank Statement Balances

31.5.2025	NatWest Current A/c	£	406,445.37	
31.5.2025	NatWest Deposit A/c	£	133,765.84	
31.5.2025	Unity Trust A/c	£	108,101.55	
31.5.2025	Unity Trust Deposit A/c	£	108,249.03	
				£ 756,561.79

Less unpresented Payments

£ -

Plus receipts not on Bank Statement

£ -

£ 756,561.79

Closing Cash Book Balances

All Cash Bank Accounts

NatWest Current Account	£	406,445.37
NatWest Deposit A/c	£	133,765.84
Unity Trust A/c	£	108,249.03
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	£	108,101.55
	£	756,561.79

Represented by

General Reserves	£	484,955.21
Earmarked Reserves	£	271,606.58
	£	756,561.79

Signed: W Davies

Date: 24.6.25