

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council minuting held on Monday 24th November at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Jones (Chair for the meeting), Cllr Flynn, Cllr James, Cllr S Harrison, Cllr A Harrison, Cllr Sidwells, Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Smith

Others: Mrs Davies (Officer) Mrs Tarburton (Community Development and Funding Officer and County Cllrs Hana Jone joined the meeting later in the meeting.

17893 To receive and consider any apologies and reasons for absence

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

17894 To receive Declaration of Interest on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interests received.

17895 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive reports from Police, District & County Councillors

No members of the public present. District Cllr June Evans submitted her District Council report – see attached.

17896 To receive the Chair's report

Cllr June Evans submitted her Chair's report in her absence.

- Police Station lease – this is currently ongoing with our solicitors to help draft a new lease for consideration by the Police
- Local Government Reorganisation – This evening, Bassetlaw District Council will be voting on which model of unity structure they support for Nottinghamshire. There are some 'difference of options' on the preferred model, but it seems there is a preference for two unitary structures. Ultimately, the decision lies with the Government.
- What does this mean for Bassetlaw? There will be no Bassetlaw Council, possible from 2028. The number of elected District Councillors will probably reduce, and Officers will have to apply for position in the new unitary.
- What will this mean for Parish/Town Councils? This is unknown, BUT the government has spoken of devolving down some responsibilities. To do this, it may be necessary to have a number of councils working together – we have to wait and see.
- Events
 - The Halloween event was highly successful. The children danced to the music provided by the D.J and the free drinks and hot dogs went down a treat
 - Winter Wonderland – preparations are well in hand, Santa is ready to attend, and we will see the delivery of the new Christmas tree.
 - Community Events – We are seeing ongoing use of the town hall by Community groups, which we welcome. Yesterday saw an indoor market with stalls manned by local residents selling crafts, and new and used items.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support during the past year, and I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

17897 To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2025

After amendment to include Cllr Jones at the meeting, Cllr Whitehead proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 13th October 2025 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr A Harrison and resolved by the Council.

17898 To consider planning applications as listed and any planning correspondence

Application: 25/01175/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of existing school building and surrounding site clearance

Location: Former North Border Infants School, Snipe Park Road, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections

Street Naming Applications:

Application: 25/00057/REVNUM

Proposal: Revised street naming and property numbering – eight plots

Location: Plots 474 to 476 & plots 488 to 492. Land to the south of Tickhill Road, Harworth

Consideration: No objections

Nottinghamshire County Council submitted two addition applications:

Ref H/SLW/TRO1335/2550396

Application - The Nottinghamshire County Council (B6463 Carr Lane, B6463 Main Street and Styrrup Lane, Styrrup) (30 M.P.H Speed Limited) Order 2025 (1335) – public advert

Ref H/CLW/TRO1337/2450229

Application – Mulberry Way and Scrooby Road, Harworth ‘No Waiting’ restrictions (TRO 1337) – Public Advert

After consideration, Cllr Smith proposed not to make any options for the above applications; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

17899 To receive the cemetery’s health & Safety inspections

- Cllr A Harrison gave his Tickhill Road Cemetery inspection – no H&S actions.
- Cllr Jones will carry out her Styrrup Road Cemetery inspection at a later date.

17900 To review the Investment Strategy

After consideration, Cllr Whitehead proposed to approve the Investment Strategy with no amendments; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17901 To receive and consider the Local Infrastructure Money Notification

The Officer previously circulated copies of the report on the Bassetlaw Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and its Local Infrastructure Money Notification letter. The Officer confirmed that the criteria for the CIL money is still in place – the Officer is CiLCA qualified and holds a General Power of Competence.

The CIL money collected for 2024-25 is £22,334.00 and after consideration, Cllr Flynn proposed that the CIL money is to be retained by the District Council until required; this was seconded by Cllr Sidwell and resolved by the Council. The Town Council’s Annual Report is on the Town Council’s and the District Council’s website.

17902 To consider payments as listed and the financial reports for 30th September 2025

The Officer previously circulated the list of payments for approval, financial reports, Bank statements, budget, variances, general and earmarked reserves for the Council to view.

After consideration, Cllr Flynn proposed to approve the payments as listed; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

The Officer went through the financial reports as above and after consideration, Cllr Whitehead proposed to approve the financial reports as above; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved by the Council.

Two councillors signed the documents after confirming the bank balances.

Bank reconciliation 30th September 2025Bank Statement Balances on 30th September 2025

Natwest Current A/c	£401,417.65	
Natwest Deposit A/c	£134,248.42	
Unity Trust A/c	£083,868.19	
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£196,712.83</u>	
		£815,247.09
Less unpresented payments		£000,000.00
Plus receipts not on bank statement		<u>£000,000.00</u>
		<u>£815,247.09</u>

Closing Cash Book Balances 30th September 2025

Natwest Current A/c		£401,417.65
Natwest Deposit A/c		£134,248.42
Unity Trust A/c		£083,868.19
Unity Trust Deposit A/c		<u>£196,712.83</u>
		<u>£815,247.09</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>	General Reserves	£478,260.67
	Earmarked Reserves	<u>£336,986.42</u>
		<u>£815,247.09</u>

17903 To consider having Web Access to our accounting software

The Officer explained that our Accounts software from Rialtas Business Solution now has a data backup and security options which also allows the Officer to have web access to the accounts.

After consideration, Cllr Smith proposed to have web access starting at the new financial year; this was seconded by Cllr A Harrison and resolved by the Council.

17904 To consider quotations for installation of runners in the Styrrup Road Cemetery

The Officer passed on information from the quotations and after discussion, Cllr S Harrison proposed to appoint DBS Construction Ltd to carry out the installation of ten runners in phase two of the Styrrup Road cemetery; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17905 To consider replacing the vandalised motors on the Styrrup Road Cemetery gates and installing safety measures

The Officer went through the additional work for the current contractor to renew everything that is currently on the vandalised cemetery gates and also to install the latest equipment to improve the safety and security of the area.

After consideration, Cllr James proposed to carry out the additional work as discussed; this was seconded by Cllr A Harrison and resolved by the Council.

17906 To consider quotations for work to the Tickhill Road Cemetery entrance road

Deferred to a later meeting.

17907 To consider quotations for the Tickhill Road Cemetery entrance gates and railings

Deferred to a later meeting.

17908 To consider the draft proposal for the review of the Police station lease

The Officer reported that our lease proposal has been sent to the Police and we are currently awaiting a response from them.

After considering, Cllr James proposed to accept the current lease proposal which includes the need to include additional service charges as well as the rent, this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

17909 To consider items for the 2026-27 budget

Suggestions were but forward were;

- The refurbish of the hall floor- budget
- Upgrading of lighting in the hall and rooms - EMR
- Upgrading of the new cemeteries – CCTV etc. - EMR
- Corporate branding on the staff uniforms - budget
- Allocating staff parking spaces – staff no areas
- Forward planning costs to purchasing of decorations for annual events i.e. Christmas lighting events, Halloween – budget/EMR
- Work to the new cemetery hedges and wood - EMR

Costings would be required for the above; plus, some items will be part of the current earmarked reserves.

The Officer went through the September budget with the Councillors; it was noted that the for the first six months the income received to date is 95.7% and expenses cost is 56.3%. Coming up to the end of the year we are hoping that some of our projects will be moving forward so money from the EMRs will also be spent before 31st of March.

The Officer also explained that some of the usual annual guaranteed income on the budget may not be guaranteed this and next year until the Local Government Reorganization takes over; it is not 100% clear what will be happening with income from the leases, rent and grants.

The Officer then discussed how she is estimating various income and expenses so that we can estimate the income and expenses as of 31st March 2026 and also for 2026-27 budget.

After consideration, Cllr Flynn approved looking into the above suggestions and noted the Officers comments; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17910 To receive items for information

Items suggested for the next meeting:

- to review the building and purchase of five screens for the hall

County Councillor Hanan John joined the meeting and at this point gave her county report.

17911 Time and date of the next scheduled Town Council meeting

The Next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.