

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 15th December at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

**Present:** Cllr Evans, (Chair) Cllr James, Cllr Flynn, Cllr S Harrison, Cllr S Whitehead, Cllr Horrocks, Cllr Schuller, Cllr R Jones and Cllr Sidwells,

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

**17925 To receive and consider any apologies and reasons for absence**

Cllr S Harrison proposed to accept the apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Smith and Cllr Wratten; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council.

**17926 To receive Declaration of Interest on any item on the agenda**

No declarations of interest received.

**17927 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.

- District Cllr Schuller raised the issue Parishioners are facing with obtaining Bus passes.
- District Cllr Evans gave her report as attached.

The meeting was reconvened.

**17928 To receive the Chair's report**

The Chair gave her report as below.

Starting with some good news! North Notts Border School – Last week, Nottinghamshire County Council signed the S106 document, which means plans to demolish the building can go ahead.

Details are:

1. Planning already exists to replace the school with accommodation for residents over fifty-five,
2. A planning app/ for the remainder of the site, previously submitted, should go before the Planning Committee 1 January 2026
3. When approved, the demolition team will then be able to clear the entire site
4. Delta will pay for the removal of any hazardous waste e.g. asbestos
5. Contractors who will demolish all buildings/clear the site have been appointed and have been briefed
6. A letter will be sent to nearby houses before any work starts

More good news: for members of the BCSSS staff superannuation Scheme – The Government has approved the transfer of the £2.3b B.C.S.S. Investments Reserve, which will deliver a new bonus pension of 41% to each member's individual guaranteed pension. This will be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024. This is the result of a co-coordinated effort across a number of ex-mining communities, including local residents and the M.Ps.

Update on the Neighbour Plan – The draft Neighbourhood Review Plan, which is essentially is a planning policy for our town, is now with the Planning Inspector and he is assessing the Plan, as

expected, is asking questions and seeking further clarification on some of the content. The Town Council and Bassetlaw District Council are currently engaged in providing him with the extra information required.

Community Centres – the Community Centres are listed as assets and accordingly are included in the District Council’s Asset Strategy Plan. Having again asked if any decision is pending, I was told to expect some movement in the New Year.

Phase Two of the Styrrup Road Cemetery development – 2026 will see work in this cemetery, new runners will be in put in readiness for headstone that will be needed soon. A major future development that the Council is planning for is an extension of the road in the cemetery.

As Big Thankyou to Staff – During the period which sat the Town Council without a caretaker, it fell to other staff to undertake opening and locking the Town Hall, especially for evening activities and special events. I believe we owe them our thanks for ‘keeping the ship afloat’ and ensuring normal service was maintained. I also have to thank the staff for another successful ‘Winter Wonderland,’ despite the dreadful weather affecting the stalls and entertainment outside.

Finally, I hope to see you all next year, so have a good Christmas and New Year.

**17929 To consider planning applications as listed and any planning correspondence**

None received.

**17930 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.

**17931 To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

To be deferred to the January Meeting.

**17932 To consider adopting a Statement of Internal Control and to consider the Internal Control Testing for 2025-26**

Cllr Harrison proposed to adopt the Statement of Internal Control and approved the Internal Control Testing; this was seconded by Cllr Sidwells and resolved by the Council.

The Internal Control Testing report was initialled.

**17933 To consider payments as listed and the financial reports for 31<sup>st</sup> October 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 James proposed to approve the payments as listed; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

The Officer then went through the financial reports as above and after consideration, Cllr Flynn proposed to approve the financial reports as above; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council. Two councillors signed the documents after confirming the bank balances.

Bank reconciliation 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025Bank Statement Balances on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Natwest Current A/c	£227,585.78	
Natwest Deposit A/c	£134,364.09	
Unity Trust A/c	£208,972.56	
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£196,712.83</u>	
		£767,635.26
Less unrepresented payments	£000,000.00	
Plus receipts not on bank statement	<u>£000,000.00</u>	
		<u>£767,635.26</u>

Closing Cash Book Balances 31<sup>st</sup> November 2025

Natwest Current A/c	£227,585.78	
Natwest Deposit A/c	£134,364.09	
Unity Trust A/c	£208,972.56	
Unity Trust Deposit A/c	<u>£196,712.83</u>	
		<u>£767,635.26</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>	General Reserves	£432,088.84
	Earmarked Reserves	<u>£335,546.42</u>
		<u>£767,635.26</u>

**17934 To receive recommendations from the HR Committee to appoint a new Caretaker**

After consideration, Cllr Jones proposed to Authorise the appointment of the new Caretaker for the Town Hall this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and resolved by the Council.

**17935 To consider the purchase of a mobile phone contract for the new Caretaker**

After consideration, Cllr Sidwells proposed to purchase a new mobile phone and a mobile phone contract for the Caretaker; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

**17936 To consider purchase of five screens to use as dividers in the town hall**

After consideration, Cllr Horrocks proposed to Authorise the purchase of five screens for the Town Hall this was seconded by Cllr Schuller and resolved by the Council.

**17937 To approve replacing current lights in the office with LED lights (EMR) and repairs/replace emergency lighting**

After consideration, Cllr Jones proposed to authorise replacing current lights with LED for the conference room (Office) and repairs/replacing some emergency lights in the Town Hall this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and resolved by the Council.

**17938 To consider having a formal review of town hall building since the 2019 repairs**

After consideration, Cllr James proposed to authorise a review of the Town Hall building after the work carried out in 2019 this was seconded by Cllr Harrison and resolved by the Council.

**17939 To consider items for the 2026-27 draft budget**

The Chair asked the Councillors to think about additional budget items to think about and to pass on ready for the December finances.

The Chair suggested that we look at future spending, what the community and Town Council requires and what is affordable.

The Officer then discussed the November budget figures as these were available to pass on the information Income received on 30<sup>th</sup> November which is 100.2% and expenses are 79.2% so the budget is doing well.

A suggestion was made to see if the Town Council could assist the District Council with Snipe Park.

No consideration required.

**17940 To exclude members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to enable considerations regarding legal advice**

No members of the public present.

**17941 To consider legal advice regarding the review of the Police building lease, receive feedback from the proposal, consideration of next steps and appointment of an Asset Management Company**

The Officer, Deputy Clerk and the Chair reported on the work for the lease which has been already carried out and the deadlines required to submit the document by; after discussion with the solicitor, it would be more beneficial to appoint a surveyor to help as we do not have any knowledge or experience in this matter.

The Deputy Clerk contacted several surveyors for quotations to help as we had a deadline of submit by; however only one contractor was able to carry out the work for us before the deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the rest were not able to start this work till after the New Year.

After consideration, Cllr Jones proposed to authorise procurement for legal advice and to appoint asset management company F & S Consultants to negotiate lease for Town Council this was seconded by Cllr Sidwell and resolved by the Council.

**17942 To receive items for information**

- The Officer reported that at the moment the new AGAR Assertion 10 requires discussion and arrangements for some training to comply with what is required.

**17943 Time and date of the next scheduled Town Council Meeting**

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.