

Harworth and Bircotes Town Council

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council held on Monday 4th March 2019, at 7.00pm in the Town Hall, Scooby Road, Bircotes

Public session: No members of the public present
Notts County Council report: No report submitted
Police report: No report submitted

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Flynn, Cllr James, Cllr Wratten, Cllr Schuller, Cllr Smith, Cllr Jones, Cllr Durdy and Cllr Barns
Others: Mrs Davies (Officer) and Mrs Tarburton (Community Development & Funding Officer)

16711 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received and approved from Cllr Dean, Cllr Morgan-Kingston and Cllr Robinson

16712 To receive any declaration of interests in any item on the agenda

No declarations of interests received.

16713 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held 28th January 2019

Cllr Barns proposed to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting held 28th January 2019; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

16714 To receive update on the Harworth Intervention Scheme

KT working in partnership with BDC – HIS a lot of work done regarding the infrastructure from Via and Aspinall Verdi regarding retail with the town centre. KT met with Sheffield City Region to look at developing a master plan pulling all the plans we already have so that they are all in one document. Application gone into SCR to have the master plan work carried out; very positive – small pot of funding but it won't fund the whole document and KT is looking at alternatives in getting this money together to develop this master plan and move it forward; the master plan will also incorporate the North Boarder School project.

16715 To receive District Councillor Reports

Cllr Evans gave the following report:

Bassetlaw District Council will be holding a public consultation on 20th March at the Church Room in Harworth, when plans for the development of Common Lane will be on public display from 3pm to 7pm.

Bassetlaw District Council are exploring the possibility of further retail units on Scrooby Road.

Cllr Evans also informed the Council that Purdah starts on the 26th March and what this meant; plus a reminder that any councillors put their opinions on social media

could lead to pre-determination on their part – particularly in regard to planning applications that have not yet been considered.

16716 To receive cemetery reports

Cllr Barns gave the following cemetery reports:
 Old cemetery – no safety issues; all grit bins and water facilities in order.
 New gate sign still to fit and seats to weather proof.
 An area of fencing is leaning due to recent wind damage
 New cemetery – no safety issues; all grit bins, water facilities and hedge in order.

16717 To consider any planning applications and note any decision notices, appeals and planning correspondence

Application: 19/00008/ADV

Location: Plot 2, Blyth Road, Blyth
 Proposal: Various illuminated and non-illuminated signs for Starbuck and KFC

Application: 19/00079/HSE

Location: 12 Moor Top Road, Harworth
 Proposal: Erect two storey side exo dwelling and detached garage to side elevation

Application: 19/00143/RSB

Location: 12 Buckingham Court, Harworth
 Proposal: Erect a two storey rear extension – resubmission of PA 18/01496/HSE (obscure glass windows to first floor bedrooms and new window to side elevation in bed 3)

Street Naming

Application: 19/00015/NEWDEV

Location: Land to South of Colliery Road, Bircotes
 Proposal: Street name – Main Gates Drive
 Road names; Brinsley Way, Moorgreen Way, Selston Close, Moorgreen Way and Newstead Grove, Harworth

Cllr Barns proposed not to make any objections to the above applications; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

Notts County Council Application: 1/18/01611/CDM

Location: Harworth Colliery No.2 spoil heap
 Proposal: Importation of 6.2 million cubic metres of restoration materials to complete the restoration of Harworth Colliery No. 2 spoil heap

Cllr Barns proposed not to make any objections; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

Response to the draft Local Plan

The Town Council submitted its comments on the draft Local Plan as below:

Consultation The Town Council welcomes the opportunity for consultation with/and views of the local community.

Plan Structure It is well-structured and makes clear the objectives of the Plan, and the relevant planning policies influencing the priorities, such as:

- A balanced approach to housing growth, economic development and retail/leisure facilities in Bassetlaw, plus recognition of the need for conservation of local heritage, and
- A balanced approach that is underpinned by the intention to deliver the strategic priorities for the area
- The acknowledgement that where there is housing growth, it should be in a managed way.
- It is pleasing that the Local Plan recognises the differences between settlements, pays attention to the rural community, and continues to support Neighbourhood Plans.
- It is reassuring that the Local Plan pays attention to the priorities, plans and aspirations for future developments, as detailed in individual Neighbourhood Plans

With Regard to Harworth and Bircotes: The Local Regeneration Town

We note that the Local Plan identifies Harworth and Bircotes as the Local Regeneration Town; certainly, the growth in new housing and employment opportunities we have seen in recent years supports this. It is recognised that the development of the brownfield site that was Harworth Colliery is ongoing; we agree the appearance of new houses needs to be accompanied by further employment opportunities to ensure viability, and to this end we look to the future development of Harworth South.

Housing

- Social Housing has recently been developed in Harworth and Bircotes with the appearance of Housing Association homes and new Council Houses that replaced older Council dwellings. There are also properties available for rent from private landlords. However, there is always a demand for accommodation from our growing number of older residents; the Town Council hopes for assistance with this issue if a potential opportunity is proven viable.
- The Town Council hopes to see a future focus on homes suitable for the elderly within all Housing Developments.
- Private Housing is attracting in-migration into the Town, but a common complaint is that there are no bungalows to purchase. Unattractive as they are to developers, there is an obvious need and market for bungalows; residents who own their own houses wish to downsize in preparation for their retirement years.
- It would be interesting to discover what could be done in the future to persuade developers to address this obvious need, in terms of Planning Policy.

The Local Plan identifies that the Regeneration of Harworth and Bircotes Town Centre requires attention to both Retail and Infrastructure:

Retail

Policy 11. in the Local Plan states ‘there is no requirement for expansion of the Primary Shopping Area` – ‘including new retail floor space`. The Town Council **strongly disagrees** with this.

Expert market analysis of the Town Centre identifies the need for further retail development; the current retail layout resembles a ‘seaside town` design with retail outlets along the northern side of Scrooby Road.

The recommendation is to create further retail units on the southern side of the main shopping area, thus creating a more balanced High Street (Report from Aspinall Verdi, Harworth and Bircotes Town Centre: Growth Plan)

The Town Council believes the current comments in the Local Plan should be corrected to reflect the need for a better balance of retail availability in the main shopping area.

Infrastructure

The ongoing planned growth of Harworth and Bircotes supporting the regeneration of the Town demands changes and improvements to the current infrastructure – this is acknowledged in the Local Plan, which states the normal route to achieve infrastructure improvement is ‘via direct developer onsite provision and developer contributions`.

The Town Council understands this process.

However, in terms of regeneration of the Town Centre, there is a need to mitigate the impact of the large-scale housing growth in Harworth on the current local infrastructure and implement:

- Improvements to Harworth Crossroads. This is a main junction for five roads facilitated by two min-roundabouts, it is a key point of access to the Town, the Town Centre and Bircotes, and the A1M. It has been under discussion with N.C.C. for the last decade; the Town Council/local residents are aware of the evident and growing pressure from traffic and the need for a better system of traffic control – this is paramount to the delivery of further growth of the Town.
- A new design for improved traffic management and pedestrian safety in the main shopping area; a Traffic Management Plan has already been developed by Via. Implementation of the T.M.P. would:
 1. Control vehicular traffic
 2. Increase pedestrian safety – currently sadly lacking
 3. Establish connectivity with Simpson Park for both vehicles and pedestrians – a ‘must-do`
 4. Support retail and the local economy and enhance the retail experience.

The Town Council recognises these infrastructure improvements are necessary for the successful Regeneration Programme of the Town and Town Centre, and is also aware that local opinion, which so far has been supportive of housing growth and particularly the development of Simpson Park, is now questioning the advisability of further growth without improvements to the infrastructure.

The Town Council also recognises the costs will not be met by developer contributions alone.

The Town Council believes these two major schemes relating to infrastructure are integral to the future regeneration of Harworth and Bircotes, they are key to underpinning the desired 'balance' between housing, employment and retail, and therefore should be highlighted in the Local Plan.

16718 To approve payments and receive financial reports

The Officer previously circulated a copy of the payments for approval; see list attached. The Chair proposed to approve the payments; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

The Officer circulated the accounts as at 31st January and a copy of the bank statement for the councillors to view. The Officer went through any variances on the budget and Cllr Barns proposed to make the appropriate virements from the environment account; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

16719 To receive internal audit reports

The Officer circulated copies and reported on the interim internal audit carried out on the 23rd January 2019 for the 2018/19 period. Copies of the internal reports for the 2017/18 period had also been circulated during the previous year; however the Officer had reported on these during meetings last year but did not minute it separately – the internal auditor asked if confirmation of this could be minuted during this meeting as well. The Internal Auditor also asked if it was minuted that there was no cause for any concerns regarding the chosen contractor following the financial review and tender evaluation.

16720 To consider the Deed of Grant document

This item was deferred as the solicitors are now amending the draft deed.

16721 To form a working group for the Gilbert Road Garages

The Officer reported that the Notts Community Housing Association are still waiting to hear back from their solicitors over the transfer of the site. The Town Council's solicitors haven't heard anything.

Cllr James, Cllr Flynn and Cllr Schuller volunteered to be the working group for the project.

16722 To receive Councillors reports

- Cllr Jones reported a tree on Common Lane which N.C.C has now been dealt with
- Overhanging hedging on Styrrup Road near the A1 Bridge has been reported
- Complaints regarding the overhanging hedging on Scrooby Road between Colliery Road and the Town Hall car park; this has already been reported several times to Highways

- Enquiry regarding the proposed market on the new civic centre – see KT report below
- Enquiry regarding any news on the incinerator application – no further information has been received. The last information received was that NCC is still waiting for information from the applicant with a deadline in March.

16723 **To receive Community Development report**

Karen Tarburton reported that she is working on a few events as below:

- On 16th March an opening event for the new Snipe Park interacted DJ booth and sona interactive funk dance floor. This event will also be used to carry out a consultation regarding Snipe Park and to engage with the community
- Community litter picks on April 2nd, 9th and 16th.on the Snipe Park area
- Markets – Karen has been working with the District Council's Market Manager to deliver a market on the new civic centre; hopefully around Easter time subject to all the legal procedures being completed by then. The Town Council will be hosting the markets and the District Council will be running the market
- Craft markets – Karen is planning three craft markets (cottage industry type crafts of a good standard) for October, November and December. These markets will be held in the Town Hall
- Christmas event – this year the event will be held on 6 & 7th December with a more traditional theme
- Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast has been booked for the Monday 16th December; this was approved by the Councillors. A second pantomime will also be held during the month
- .Possibly a Christmas lunch for isolated people of any age
- An application has been submitted to Homes England for funding towards the North Boarder School project; this is going to the National Board next Monday with recommendations to be supported with funding
- Today on behalf of BDC another Holmes England application has been submitted to fund an Housing envoy Group to support community housing projects
- On 1st June another fashion show has been booked
- Avondale Project – funding has been secured from the District Council for 12 weeks in house growing project which will be followed by work being carried out within Snipe Park and surrounding area; this project has been very well received. Karen will also be looking for any available funding that could help Avondale to carry on with other projects.

The Officer informed the Councillors that Karen has brought in £320k in funding for various projects and equipment; all for the long term benefit of the community.

16724 **To exclude members of public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to enable discussion as below**

No public present.

16725 To consider contracts for the second phase of the civic square

The council discussed and considered two projects; the first is the second phase of the civic centre which will be on the second bund – this is to provide a grassed area with a walkway and a new tarmac pavement to match the civic centre; which connect to the Jones Homes development. This will then link the new housing development to the town centre facilities.

The second project is to build a hardstanding area with a canopy to store the market stalls.

This will be a six month project from the removal of the bund.

16726 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 6.45pm on the 8th April 2019.

The Town Council meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm on the 8th April 2019 in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes.

Signed: *GJ Evans 8th April 2019*