

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 14th October 2019, at 6.45pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr James, Cllr Flynn, Cllr Barns, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Fear, Cllr Jones, Cllr Schuller and Cllr Dobson

Others: W Davies (Officer), K Tarburton (Community Development and Funding Manager), representatives from Bassetlaw's District Council's Planning Policy Team and members of the public

16821 To receive and approve any apologies for absence

Apologies received and approved from Cllr Wratten. Cllr Smith will be a few minutes late.

16822 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

No Declaration of Interests received.

16823 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive County Cllr and Police reports

No County Councillor or Police report received.

Members of the public thanked the Chair and Town Council for speaking at the planning committee; against the application for 650 houses on the Land South of Tickhill Road, Harworth. The Chair went through various issues regarding the application and will also be looking into finding help with the complaints over the smell from the sewerage works.

Cllr Smith joined the meeting towards the end of this agenda item.

A resident attended the meeting with regard to street naming

16824 To receive a presentation from Planning Policy on the Neighbourhood Plan review

Two representatives from the District Council's Planning Policy team attended the meeting to discuss the review of the Neighbourhood Plan which is now due.

16825 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 9th September 2019

Cllr James proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 9th September 2019 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Fear and resolved by the Council.

16826 To receive the District Councillors reports

District Councillor reports were received from Cllr Evans and Cllr Schuller.

It was noted that the planning application for the Land South of Tickhill Road for 650 houses went before the planning committee on the 9th October and was granted by the District Council despite the overwhelming number of objections.

Cllr Evans (as a District Councillor) and Cllr Smith (as a Town Councillor) spoke against the application; the objections were based on constrained capacity of infrastructure and the known odour nuisance. Tickhill Council also spoke against, as did the Harworth Group.

Interestingly, Doncaster Met. Borough Council had withdrawn their objection and accepted the offer from the developer to improve and signalise Tickhill Spital.

We all understand the difficulty facing Bassetlaw District Council because of ongoing changes by government to the Planning Policies that make up the National Planning Policy Framework, just as a national policy change last year affected the weight of Neighbourhood Plans in terms of planning consideration.

Cllr Evans thanked the Council for the support shown to her and Cllr Smith; she wished we could have achieved a different outcome.

16827 To receive the Chair's report

The Chair gave the following report:

Becoming More Strategic to Make Things Happen

Recent events have proved the need for the Town Council to be more strategic, although taking on higher authorities and big organisations is challenging.

The recent battle with planning uncovered several issues.

1. The u-turn by Notts County Council on road infrastructure –
 - a. Harworth Crossroads and
 - b. Improvements to Scrooby Road – these were both in the County Council's travel plan, but have now been removed. Instead, County Council has come up with a number mitigating measures
2. The decision NOT to allow a new Primary School on the colliery site – despite it being in the Neighbourhood Plan; instead they plan to extend Serlby Park
3. The regard given to the priorities in the Neighbourhood Plan, at both District and County Council level

Questions:

1. How can we lift the profile of Harworth & Bircotes?
2. How can we challenge decisions taken by others?
3. Strategically, how can we interact and influence other authorities?
4. Can we strengthen the Neighbourhood Plan against District and County decisions?
5. What is the opinion/role of the public?

16828 To receive cemetery reports

Cllr Barns carried out inspections of the old and new cemeteries on 12th October 2019.

There were no issues regarding safety. Repairs required to one tap and fence around the bin storage. It was noted that two fencing panels have been stolen.

16829 To receive the Community Development and Funding Manager report

Karen gave the following report

- The first craft market went very well; we have two more scheduled – we do need more tables for the next event in November; if anyone knows where we can borrow some from
- Karen is also working on a large Reaching Communities application for the District Council, which covers four large parks; one of which is Snipe Park. This is for approx. £500k to cover projects over 5 years
- Two pantos are booked on the 8th & 16th December on a first come first served basis
- A Christmas party and entertainment is booked for the 21st December; we are working with the Church on this event
- In the New Year the Town Council and Church will be working together to set of a Community Group Forum and anyone that represents a group can attend and all work together on a calendar of events
- A funding surgery will be held in Harworth & Bircotes for anyone in the district to attend
- Karen was approached by someone wanting to set up a Harworth & Bircotes Community Choir
- North Boarder School – we are now stuck at the due diligence stage of the application; along with 6 other groups in the East Midlands; which is driving everyone made as the funds have not yet been released and the money has to be spent by the end of March 2020

The Chair gave a special thank you to Karen; she was at here on Saturday evening running the fashion show and then very early Sunday morning; setting up for the craft market and then tidying up after everyone afterwards. Without Karen none of these events would happen.

16830 To consider any planning applications and note any appeals and planning correspondence

At this point Cllr Schuller declared any interest on all planning applications due to being a member of the District Council's Planning Committee.

Planning applications for consideration

Application: 19/01138/FUL

Location: Land North of Faraday Close, Harworth

Proposal: Create hard standings adjacent to existing industrial buildings

Application: 19/01215/HSE

Location: 1 Talbot Road, Bircotes

Proposal: Two storey side extension and outbuilding to rear

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

Planning correspondence to note:

- a) Letter from the Planning Inspectorate re cancellation of Informal Hearing 15th October 2019 for application 18/00903/OUT – Land rear of Grange Farm, Blyth Road, Harworth
- b) Letter from the Planning Inspectorate informing us of a planning appeal for application 19/00560/FUL – Rutland Crescent Care Home, 25-27 Rutland Crescent, Harworth
- c) Notification that planning application 19/00876/OUT Land south of Tickhill Road, Harworth will be considered at the District Council's planning committee on the 9th October 2019. The Chair will be speaking against as a District Councillor and Cllr Smith will be speaking against as a Town Councillor.

16831 To receive the external audit review and certificate

The Officer reported that the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19 has been received.

The External Auditor report was as follows:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

*Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:
None*

The Officer has published the Notice of Conclusion of audit for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2019.

16832 To approve payments and receive financial update

The Officer reported on the current finances, budget figures and bank statements as at the 30th September 2019. The only variance to report is an increase of income above the budgeted amount.

Cllr Smith proposed to approve the payments as listed; this was seconded by Cllr Fear and resolved by the Council.

16833 To receive the Health & Safety 6 monthly audit and fire risk assessments

Fire risk assessments:

The Information Centre and Town Hall have received their Certificates of Compliance following its Fire Risk Assessment carried out by an Independent Assessor. No actions were required at either site.

Health & Safety Audit:

The Officer reported that the Council's Health and Safety Audit took place on the 13th September 2019; with an inspection score of 94.51%.

The Executive Summary was given as follows *"The health and safety at Harworth and Bircotes Town Council improves without fail each year. Wendy really cares about ensuring the health and safety is above a beyond legal compliance. All of the actions from last year's audit have been completed and only a couple of additional requirements have been found this year. Namely the emergency lighting annual inspection and the locations of the signed risk assessments"*. The Officer reported that the electricians are organising the emergency lighting now that the hall repairs are completed and the signed risk assessments are in the previous audit paperwork which is archived.

The Chair proposed to note the outcome of the audit and assessments; this was seconded by Cllr Fear and resolved by the Council.

16834 To receive items of correspondence or information for future agenda items

Items to note for the next agenda:

- Neighbourhood Plan review

16835 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held on the 25th November 2019 at 6.45pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes.

16836 To exclude members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to allow consideration of confidential information in the following agenda item

No members of the public present.

16837 To discuss the Harworth & Bircotes Master Plan

Karen gave a report on the Master Plan. Cllr James proposed that in line with One Public Estate (Funders) guide lines; to agree to utilise Estus Consultancy Ltd to put together the Master Plan for Harworth & Bircotes; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved by the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm