

Minutes Harworth & Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020, at 6.45pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP

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

Others: Wendy Davies (Officer) and Karen Tarburton (Community Development and Funding Officer)

16865 To receive and approve any apologies for absence

Apologies received and approved from Cllr Wratten.

16866 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

Cllr Schuller declared an interest in the planning agenda item 16873.

16867 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive Police reports

No Police or County Councillor reports submitted. No members of the public present.

16868 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 23rd December 2019

Cllr James proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 23rd December 2019 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

16869 To receive District Councillors reports

District Cllr Schuller gave the following report:

- An inspection on the Wimpy Estate has been completed
- A community litter pick has been arranged for the Brookside Walk and Snipe Park areas on the 25th January
- A Councillor litter pick has been arranged for the 29th January
- The Draft Local Plan consultation has started; 23rd January consultation will be in the Town Hall
- Attended a Child Obesity Pathway meeting with the Clinical Commissioning Group
- There is a Trail Blazing Obesity meeting at the Children's Centre tomorrow
- A Start the Change meeting on Thursday which will be looking at an initiative for funding from the Police Commissioner; to set up an email account for people to confidentially share information on anti-social behaviour and any crimes they witness
- Annual service at the Church for Miners and Mining next Sunday

District Cllr Evans gave the following report:

It has been a relatively quiet time over the Christmas period, but we have seen a number of reports and plans.

1. The publication of the Draft Local Plan. You may notice there will be **no** further housing allocations for Harworth & Bircotes. The next step is a programme of Public Consultation, and I look forward with interest to comments from local people.
2. Bassetlaw District Council is hoping to change from a 51 week to 52-week payment programme for council house tenants, all of whom are being consulted; currently the system is not compatible with the Department of Works & Pensions 52-week system and payments of Universal Credit – which includes Housing Benefit. Traditionally, week 52 has been seen by some as a ‘free’ week – it isn’t – and the point to remember is that the **total amount** for the year remains the same, there is no extra payment.
3. Bassetlaw District Council Housing will be creating drives for people living on The Green because of parking problems – tenants know about this.
4. We have placed an order for 5 Happy to Chat plaques from the District Council to be attached to public benches
5. A major development since the return of Council House Services to Bassetlaw District Council there has been a Housing Stock Review: a third of houses were surveyed, the remaining two thirds will be surveyed in 20/21 and 21/22. This means the District Council has a more comprehensive view of housing stock; one outcome of the survey that standards have been met regarding Decent Homes e.g. modern kitchens and bathrooms, but attention **is** required to the external aspects of houses, and also to the environment of some estates – this has now been included in the Housing Capital Programme.

16870 To receive Chair’s report

First, just some small items.

- We have received a request from Bassetlaw District Council for information about any footpaths that need re-surfacing
- Councillors have been notified about the Service of Remembrance on 26th January 2020 at All Saints Church
- Is anyone available tomorrow for the Child Obesity Group, here at the Children’s Centre?

Informal Hearing: Planning Application for 199 Houses Behind Grange Farm

The Appeal by the developer was heard on 14th Jan. Both Bassetlaw District Council AND Harworth Group had expert representation; unfortunately, the Town Council only had me; naturally my role was related strictly to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Much of the discussion related to Policy CS1 and Policy CS4, which currently operate within Bassetlaw’s Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. To explain:

- Policy CS1 is about new development in accordance to Settlement Hierarchy – this includes containing developments **within** the settlement boundary.
- Policy CS4 relates specifically to H&B: key is the statement ‘at least 22% (1560) houses of the District’s housing requirement will be delivered at H&B` - in fact,

more than 2,000 are already confirmed (these are either built, or in the process of being built, or are approved planning applications already in the pipeline).

- There was also reference to an objective in the Core Strategy, namely, that the development of brownfield sites will be a priority, where applicable, before green field sites. This applies to Harworth & Bircotes.
- The Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. I felt the Inspector was interested in the impact of growth on infrastructure, and how it is affecting local people.

The discussions did focus on the weight accorded to the documents – the Core Strategy and its policies, if it was outdated against the lack of a Local Plan, plus new Planning legislation – this led to examples of previous appeals and previous decisions taken by the Planning Inspectorate. The same argument was also applied to the Neighbourhood Plan.

North Notts Border School Site: Update from Meeting 17th January

At the last Town Council meeting, I indicated that negotiations with County were ongoing; a meeting on 17th January raised several discussion points put forward by all present.

1. The plans/design options were looked at; it was the Conservation Officer who pointed out the issue of Article 4 and the need to preserve part of the original building – one option does that
2. Delta made it clear they don't want the building, whereas the Town Council made clear we would be looking for freehold, not a leasehold.
3. I did outline the problems with trespass, and the nuisance factor for people living nearby; I also asked who would be responsible if there was a death (Delta)
4. I had previously made B.D.C. aware of the poor security; they had obtained a quote for hoardings; Delta asked for a new quote for steel barriers.

When discussion turned to the potential use of the **whole** site, County asked about our plans. The desire for a Community Hub was raised and what this could contain/deliver in terms of community benefits. It was then agreed that any planning application should include the whole site – accommodation **and** a Community Hub - the architect was happy to do this. I should point out that any outline plan for a Community Hub at this stage needs to be flexible, as this is something very much for the future.

County reported that the Leader of the County Council is interested in the scheme, but, as always with public money, there has to be transparency, V.F.M. and a series of steps to follow. Therefore, the business case will have to demonstrate sound benefits to the community to convince County (and the public) that this is a worthwhile project.

There was also confirmation that County would expect some financial reward; the Conservation Officer did point out that the site could not be sold to a commercial developer, because of Article 4 status.

A site-visit then took place.

I have updated our County Councillor, Sheila Place, on progress so far – she is very supportive of the scheme.

16871 To receive Funding and Community Development reports, consider event dates and setting up an Events Committee

Karen gave the following report:

- The three short listed options plans for the North Border School phase 1 development were circulated for the councillors to view. The Council needs people to come in to talk to us about the options; this will be part of the consultations that is required by Homes England who are the funders; which will take place on Thursday along with the consultation on the Bassetlaw Draft Local Plan
- **The Draft Local Plan** consultation in Harworth will take place on the 23rd January 2-5pm at the Town Hall. Karen read out the other consultation dates in other parishes; Karen will be attending these consultations as part of her service level agreement with Bassetlaw
- **The Craft Markets** were very successful last year; we have 6 dates booked already for this year which are:
5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 4th October, 1st November and 6th December
- **Down and Dirty in the Woodlands** - on the 7th February 10am to 12 noon, there will be a woodland clear up to remove overgrown brambles/branches to encourage wild flower growth. All equipment will be provided
- **Community Group Calendar** – on the 3rd February at 4.30pm in the Town Hall; there will be a meeting for anyone that is involved in other local community groups to get together and look at how we can all work better together to join up to actually build in the community spirit of the town. This will be to see which groups are doing what and when they are doing it and how we can all help each other
- **Lottery 25 Funding application** – Karen has applied for funding for an inter-generational project to take place in October 2020. This will be a food sharing activity between children and the elderly people and playing some little table top games together
- **Events Committee** – Karen is looking for a number of councillors (not District Cllrs) to form an events committee to work together to put on a specific event in the summer. Anyone interested please let the Officer know.

Karen and Lee will also be visiting the local businesses to see if they will come together and work together towards the Christmas event.

16872 To receive cemetery report

CLlr Barns gave a report on his cemetery inspections 20th January 2020

Old cemetery

- Generally the cemetery is looking tidy
- fencing around the bin storage needs attention
- Suggested removing the wooden seats in section G and replace with ones of a weatherproof construction
- Grass will be ready to cut shortly and some hedge trimmings require clearing up
- No health and safety issues

New cemetery

- No health and safety issues
- Water points, grit bin and hedges all in order

16873 To consider any planning applications and note any appeals and planning correspondence

Application: 20/00027/HSE

Location: 43 Styrrup Road, Harworth,

Proposal: Erect two storey rear extension (re submission of P.A 191/01393/HSE)

Consideration: No objections

Application: 19/00433/FUL

Location: Land off Beverley Road, Harworth

Proposal: Proposed residential development for 108 dwellings

The Chair commented on the above application:

It was noted that this application for 108 dwelling is more than the original outline application; this was confirmed by the Planning Officer who said that the site is now bigger due to the purchase of extra land.

There are a number of objections:

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, who want further investigation and a report from the hydrologist
- The Bassetlaw District Council's Tree Officer is concerned about the lack of tree landscaping on the site
- Nottinghamshire Area Rights of Way, regarding the two established footpaths. I contacted them and a map has been sent to me
- Notts County Council Highways, who say there is inadequate space on driveways, plus a street parking issue

Plus I noted on the planning application that the site was more than 60m from any waterway; which is not correct.

Consideration: The Harworth & Bircotes supports the development of this site **but objects to planning approval being given until the above objections have been addressed**; and consider that the information requested by the Local Flood Authority is a high priority that should be addressed before any work begins on the site.

Cllr Fear proposed to approve the consideration of the above planning applications; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council. Cllr Schuller abstained.

16874 To review the Internal Control

Cllr Barns proposed to accept the Internal Control review document; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved by the Council.

16875 To approve payments and receive the financial reports for December 2019

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

The Officer went through the financial reports, variances and budget figures as at 31st December 2019.

Cllr Dobson proposed to accept the financial reports as above; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved by the Council.

Cllr Fear proposed to approve the virements from the unused community bus budget as discussed; this was seconded by Cllr Dean and resolved by the Council.

16876 To consider the Precept for 2020-21

The Officer and Chair went through the budget figures as at 31.12.19 and the proposed budget figures for 2020-21 for the Council to consider.

The Council then looked at the precept with regard to the impact on the taxpayer; this is currently £111.26 for a band D property.

After consideration; it was proposed to increase the impact on the tax payer by 3% which is in line with the District Council increase and inflation (currently 2.78%). The impact on the taxpayer for a band D property will be an increase of £3.34 for the year. It is noted that 73% of houses in Harworth & Bircotes are Band A properties.

Cllr Smith proposed to increase the precept impact on taxpayers by 3%; this was seconded by Cllr Dean and resolved by the Council.

16877 To receive items for information and the next agenda

Items to note:

Query over places for 16 year old at Serlby Academy – this is something for the County Council to be asked

- The Officer asked there could be a compromise regarding the closing of the men's public toilets due to the continual vandalising of the toilets and extreme racist graffiti being painted on the walls; would it be possible to lock the cubicles which will then leave the urinals in use. It was agreed for the Councillors to come back with comments and suggestions.
- The Officer read a request to paint a mural to celebrate the 100th years of the Brass Band on the hall walls inside the town hall. Unfortunately all the walls in the hall are fitted with sound boards; the Officer will ask if the band could look for an alternative suggestion

No request for items for the next agenda received.

16878 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held at 6.45pm on the 2nd March 2020 at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.