

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council's Health & Safety Committee Meeting held Monday 20th September 2021, at 1pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Barns (Chair) Cllr Evans, Cllr James, Cllr Jones and Cllr Flynn

Others: W Davies (Officer), K Tarburton (Community Development Manager)

No members of the public present.

17116 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence

No apologies received.

17117 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interests received.

17118 To consider Health & Safety for the 14th November 2021 Remembrance event

The Community Development Manager and the Officer had previously met with the Vicar, Royal British Legion, and the police to discuss the Remembrance event. The following arrangements were agreed:

The Church will hold a service in the church, then the congregation will walk to the cenotaph for the Remembrance service.

The Town Council will pay for the sound system at the cenotaph, as in previous years.

The Police will have no input due to lack of capacity.

The Royal British Legion - it is their national position that their branches must not have any direct involvement in the organisation or stewarding etc of these events. It was requested that any queries from ex-service men should be forward to them to deal with.

The Chair then went through the following issues:

Road closure of Main Street - apart from the emergency services, a road cannot be closed unless the request is through Highways and the implementation is done through a traffic management company which the organisers would have to pay for. The cost to close the Main Street for one hour would be £1,280; the management company would use their own stewards to manage public safety.

Liability – the fact that the police will not be involved, and that the Royal British Legion will have no direct involvement in road closures or parades, means there would be no shared responsibility for traffic management - whoever commissions the traffic management company also accepts liability. The committee felt the Town Council could not be the only organisation responsible for any liability issues and therefore will not request any road closures.

Request for a parade – There has been a request on face book for a parade from the Town Hall to the cenotaph BUT this would mean closing Harworth crossroads, which will consist of four road closures, plus a charge (noted above) per hour from the traffic management company. Also, temporary closure of any bus route would prove more problematic, which may be a concern for Highways.

The question of affordability – as noted above the cost of the traffic management and then any other costs that might be incurred e.g., insurance if available.

Previously the Fire Service has closed the road with one of their engines; however, this would be down to the fire station and their own liability to consider.

After discussion on the issues raised and the costs involved; the Chair will put together some options together for the notification for the public on the event for the committee members to approve.

Cllr Flynn proposed to approve that the Town Council will pay for the sound system at the cenotaph and notify the residents of the chosen notice option; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17119 To consider Health & Safety staff issues in the cemeteries

The Officer reported that following threats and abuse to members of the staff from residents visiting the cemeteries or on face book; if required, the cemetery gates will be closed and locked whilst the staff are working there. This behaviour is not acceptable, and the police have been informed; if this continues that the people concerned will be reported.

Cllr Jones proposed to close the cemetery gates if required whilst members of the staff are working there; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.