

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council held on Monday 17th May 2021 at 7pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes

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

Others: Mrs Davies (Officer)

Public Session – no public present.

17040 Election of Chair

Cllr Flynn proposed Cllr Evans for the Chair; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council. No other proposals put forward.

17041 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Evans proposed Cllr Smith for the Vice-Chair; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council. No other proposals put forward.

17042 To received signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office from the Chair & Vice-Chair

The Officer received the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the Chair.

Due to Cllr Smith not being present at the meeting; Cllr Barns proposed for Cllr Smith to sign her Declaration on or before the next meeting; this was seconded Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17043 To receive apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Dobson, Cllr Schuller, Cllr Smith and Cllr Wratten which were approved.

17044 To receive Declarations of Interests on any item on the agenda

No Declaration of Interests received.

17045 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 26th April 2021

After amendment to include Cllr Dobson and Cllr Jones as present - Cllr James proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 26th April 2021 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council.

17046 To receive completed GDPR security compliance checklist from Members

Completed forms received from all Members present.

17047 To receive the Internal Audit report for 2020-21

The Officer previously circulated copy of the AGAR Internal report from the internal auditor; plus, his report which was noted. It was agreed to agenda the Officer's salary at the next meeting.

Cllr Fear proposed to accept the above reports for the Internal Audit 2020-21; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

17048 To consider the Annual Governance Statements for 2020-21

The Chair and Officer went through the Annual Governance Statements for 2020-21 questions with the Councillors. Cllr Barns proposed to approve the responses given, this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

The Chair and Officer signed the form.

17049 To consider the Annual Statements of Accounts for 2020-21

The Officer previously circulated copies of the Annual Statements of Accounts for the Councillor to consider.

Cllr Jones proposed to approve the Annual Statements of Account for 2020-21; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council.

The Chair signed the Statement.

17050 To review the Asset Register

The Officer circulated copy of the asset register as at 31.3.2021 and went through the new and disposed of items.

Cllr Fear proposed to approve the asset register as at 31.3.21; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council.

17051 To appoint the Internal Auditor for 2021-22

Cllr Jones proposed to appoint Phil Parkin for the Internal Auditor for 2021-22; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17052 To consider the insurance renewal for 2021-22

The Officer circulated copies of the insurance renewal documents for 2021-22 for the Councillors to view.

Cllr Barns proposed to accept the renewal documents; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

17053 To approve payments and receive finance reports

The Officer previously circulated payments to date for consideration. Cllr Barns proposed to approve the payments as listed; this was seconded by Cllr Fear and resolved by the Council.

The Officer circulated copies of the end of year finances at the previous meeting; the April finances have not yet been finalised due to the signing off of the end of year accounts by the Accountant. The April finances will be circulated when they are completed.

17054 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 21st June 2021 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes.

At this point the Chair gave the following response:

CHAIR'S ELECTION/ACCEPTANCE

Thank you for your vote of confidence after what has been a very difficult year for all of us.

A priority for Council is returning to normal – opening the Town Hall, getting people and groups back, attracting new users – in other words, we are now open for business. Some of our previous users have been enquiring when they can return, the Hall has been used this month by new customers, and a craft fair has recently been held in the building...we are aware that all activity must comply with the current regulations and safety arrangements.

Looking back over the last year, a major achievement has been establishing a weekly market to Harworth and Bircotes; it was just bad luck that introducing the market was quickly followed by the covid lockdown, but we worked our way through that, and the market is now a regular feature of life in this community.

Looking at this year:

As always, we face a number of challenges; as always most will entail working with the community, involving them, seeking their opinion:

- The Harworth and Bircotes Master Plan, which is a long-term blueprint for further development of the Town Centre
- Start a review of the Neighbourhood Plan, which in part no longer reflects the current development of the town; this will be challenging because the changes to planning regulations have resulted in unprecedented housing development not anticipated by the people or this Council. The good news is that the Bassetlaw District Council's Local Plan states there will be no new allocation of housing development sites until 2037, but we are stuck with the current planning permissions and we just have to get on with it.
- We also need to review how we communicate with local residents and update our current website.
- We also need to consider community events.

As ever, we need to keep an eye on the budget.

Looking to the Future:

Regarding North Notts Border School, the difficulty is determining what Nottinghamshire County Council thinks should happen to it. I have notified senior managers at Bassetlaw District Council and the Council Leader that this Town Council intends writing to the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council informing him of our plans and asking for a decision. I did this out of courtesy because Bassetlaw Council are involved by their consultations with Homes England and funding, on our behalf.

Finally, thank you for your support and involvement, in anticipation of new challenges yet to appear.

June Evans