

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council Zoom meeting held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Barns, Cllr Jones, Cllr Smith, Cllr Dobson, Cllr Flynn

**Others:** W Davies (Officer), K Tarburton (Development & Funding Officer), County Councillor Sheila Place and members of the public.

**17009 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies and reasons given from Cllr Fear and Cllr Wratten. Cllr Dobson proposed to approve the apologies and reasons; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council.

**17010 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda**

No Declaration of Interests received at this point of the meeting.

**17011 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive Police reports, County and District Councillor reports**

The Chair suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to speak.

Questions were raised about additional Christmas lights and increase of green spaces

District Cllr Challinor sent his apologies.

PC Martin previously submitted his police report which was circulated around the Councillors.

County Councillor Sheila Place gave the following report:

A copy of the current applications for roadworks has been given to the Officer. Cllr Place has been taking photos of pot holes and will be reporting them to Highways.

District Cllr Evans and District Cllr Schuller's reports were previously circulated and are available at the end of these minutes.

Cllr Schuller joined the meeting during this agenda item.

**17012 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

Cllr Flynn proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

**17013 To receive Chair's report**

The Chair gave the following report:

The Local Precept and Council Tax. We have received confirmation of the financial details of the precept set by the Town Council.

- As discussed previously, the increased tax base due to housing growth in Harworth and Bircotes allowed for the Town Council to increase the precept by 6%.
- This has resulted in a decrease of the precept per Band D property of 70p from last year
- The Band D property local precept for 21/22 is £113.90, compared to last year's figure of £114.60
- A further point is that in H&B, the majority of houses – around 70% - are in Band A. The 21/22 local precept for Band A is £75.93
- Housing growth – or the Tax Base – in H&B shows an increase of 145 new dwellings.

The Cost of Energy -I don't know if anyone else has received a letter from their energy supplier, but SSE wrote to me advising that this next year my energy bill – gas and electric – will rise by £150. I expect energy cost will also rise for this Council.

One idea being explored by B.D.C. is a Community Energy Scheme, which is used by some other councils elsewhere, and does provide energy at a lower cost to members of a community who join this scheme.

I am watching this possibility with interest, as it would benefit individual households; I am also trying to discover if town or parish councils would be eligible.

Another point is 'what can this Council do to address the Green Agenda'?

- Can we reduce carbon emissions?
- Can we install solar panels to reduce energy costs?
- When will we have to have an electric vehicle?

We know that 'going green` entails initial costs – money that currently we don't have – but we have to plan/budget for the future. I think a first step would be to get advice from the Climate Change Officer.

Bersahill Development, Common Lane - Work is to start on 19th March, the development will be called Madison Court.

#### **17014 To receive the cemetery health & safety inspections**

Cllr Barns reported there were no H& S actions required at the cemeteries. It was noted that moles are in the field outside the cemetery.

The donated bench has now been received – a base requires laying

Cllr Schuller has been approached by a resident regarding the access to a grave for her disabled child in a wheelchair. The Chair suggested that the council needs to visit the site and look for any solutions to help.

**17015 To consider any planning applications listed and note any appeals and planning correspondence**

At this point Cllr Schuller declared an interest in this agenda item and did not take part.

**Notts County Council: Ref ES/3943**  
 Proposed development: Importation of 3.6 million cubic metre of restoration materials (reduction from 6.2 Million cubic metres) to complete the restoration of Harworth Colliery No. 2 spoil heap  
 Location: Harworth Colliery No. 2 spoil heap, Blyth Road, Harworth  
**Consideration:** No additional comments required from the previous application.

**Application No: 21/00218/FUL**  
 Proposal: Erect Canopy Building  
 Location: Unit C7 Glassworks Way Harworth  
**Consideration:** No objections

After consideration Cllr Flynn proposed not be make additional comments or no objections to the above applications; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council.

**17016 To receive the Health & Safety Audit Report**

Following the 6 monthly Health & Safety Audit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. The Officer reported a 100% pass and no actions required. The Town Clerk was thanked for her hard work and attention to detail in achieving such an excellent result.

Cllr Flynn proposed to accept the audit report; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council.

**17017 To consider consultation response on the District Council's Public Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order 2018**

Following consideration for a three-year extension to the District Council's Public Spaces Protection Order; which is aimed at controlling anti-social behaviour related to dogs and dog ownership. Cllr Barns proposed to approve the three-year extension as above, this was seconded by Cllr Dobson and resolved by the Council.

**The Public Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order 2018** states that:-

- Owners must pick up their dogs' faeces on any land to which the public have access
- Owners must keep their dogs on leads in specified burial grounds, cemeteries and church yards
- Dogs are banned from specified fenced children's play areas
- Owners must be able to demonstrate to an authorised officer that they are carrying suitable means, such as a suitable bag, to pick up and remove dog faeces from designated land

The Areas covered by this are:

**Schedule one – Keeping of dogs on Lead**

- All Saints Churchyard, Harworth
- Harworth Cemetery, Tickhill Road, Harworth
- Harworth New Cemetery, Styrrup Road, Harworth

**Schedule two - Dog Exclusion Areas**

- Children’s playground within Snipe Park, Bircotes
- Children’s playground and multi-use games area within Tommy Simpsons Recreation Ground adjacent to Lindsey Road, Harworth

The Officer will find out if the new play area near Smiths Square will also be included.

Cllr Barns proposed to approve the three-year extension as above, this was seconded by Cllr Dobson and resolved by the Council.

**17018 To approve payments and receive the financial reports as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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

The Officer circulated copy of the finances as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, bank statement, budget and variances for the Councillor to view.

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

**17019 To receive items for information or the next agenda**

No additional items of information received.

**17020 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting**

The next Town Council meeting will be held via Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 @ 7pm.

**17021 To exclude Members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 10960 to enable consideration of the following agenda items**

Members of the public left the meeting to allow discussion on the following items.

**17022 To receive Officer appraisal**

The Chair reported that an appraisal has been carried out with the Officer.

**17023 To consider action following liable and incorrect information about the Town Council on facebook**

The Chair gave a brief statement regarding the above item.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL Report from Cllr Evans

Update from the District Council's Budget Meeting 4th March

### Financial Position

- B.D.C., like many councils, finds itself in a significant overspend situation, due mainly to the impact of covid-19 - this relates to losses from income streams and extra expenditure.
- Govt. has compensated councils by 75% of these costs.
- B.D.C. had set the budget for 20/21, again like other councils, before the pandemic struck – some councils are now in financial difficulties; fortunately, the district council has been careful in building up reserves and is able to use them to address the cost of the pandemic, so far.

### Changes in Council Tax 21/22

1. As you probably know, B.D.C. has increased council tax by £5, or 2.8%, for Band D properties. This gives a figure of £183.48

2. All precepting bodies have increased their precept:

- N.C.C. by 2.99% = £1,431.21 + £149.64 for adult social care = £1,580.85
- Police by 6.52% = £244.26
- Fire by 1.95% = 82.95
- The average rise for town and parish councils is 6.11%
- This gives a total Band D Council Tax of £2091.54p, for Band A the figure is £1394.36.

### The Green Agenda at Bassetlaw District Council

One of the developments is addressing the Green Agenda and reducing the Carbon Footprint. In-year, B.D.C. appointed a Climate Change Officer, with the result that a number of projects are being developed:

1. Decarbonisation of Council Buildings
2. Solar panels on Queens Building and Carlton Forest
3. Charging points for electric vehicles
4. A future challenge will be electrification of the fleet.

This, I believe, is food for thought for the Town Council.

### Test and Trace – Retford

From Tuesday 9th March a Covid-19 Testing Facility opens in the Butter Market at Retford Town Hall

On the same date, the testing facility at Sandy Lane, Worksop, will close and residents be invited to use the facility at Manton Sports Club.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL Report from Cllr Schuller

### Council of Governors

Cases for Covid 19 continue to fall; although slowly, the current position is that the numbers are now comparable with October last year.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March the overall figure was 54; Bassetlaw had 39 cases – the age range was 31 – 94. This points out that this is not only an elderly issue.

The Trust continue to ask that people only use Emergency Departments for Emergency care. If you are in contact with anyone in the local area please signpost to other means of accessing support with 111 being a good first point of call if symptoms are not life threatening. This allows for good use of service pathways.

Find out more : [DBTH.nhs.uk](http://DBTH.nhs.uk)

### Full District Council meeting

At the recent full council meeting 3 motions were raised in relation to statutory sick pay; enabling people to effectively shield following contact with C19, raise concerns in relation to the possible relocation of acute mental health care to Mansfield from Bassetlaw, raise objections to the recent White paper and the possibility of aligning Bassetlaw to the Nottingham and Notts County Integrated Care System.

Each of the motions were supported. They are all relevant to our community and therefore to yourselves as Town Cllrs.

1. Statutory sick pay being provided to those in need of shielding and or self isolating is a proven effective tool to slow down the progression of C19; and all virus/ infections within the work place. It protects communities from outbreaks by allowing the person to remove themselves, thus protecting the community.
2. The re location of acute mental health services to Mansfield rather than the current Bassetlaw based services directly disadvantages some of the most vulnerable within our community. I was contacted by a number of residents who outlined that to travel to Mansfield by public transport takes approximately 2.5hrs. One of the acute facilities is that dementia care, this often requires their carers; many who are also elderly to travel. I would urge you all to take part in the survey as to opinions of how this service should be provided moving forward.
3. Alignment of Bassetlaw to the Notts ICS has the potential to remove the current links we have to the successful South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS. This is well established and; due to our geography and the links across our acute trust, provides accessible and speedy links to the care we require. The White Paper which is under discussion wishes to remove this and look to county boundaries; for which we have poor transport links etc.

It does speak to our Council actively wishing to work for our Community in bringing and support these motions.

Food-bank - With the removal of the local food-bank I would once again remind everyone, if you are aware of anyone in need of support please refer them to 01909 533533; Bassetlaw Council who provide a holistic package including advice re money management and ability to book a food delivery.

Obesity strategy - A reminder that in conjunction with the Notts County Council the Children's centre is providing a food package, alongside advice on healthy eating. This input runs on a Tuesday Morning. It is a pre-book facility therefore please speak to members of the Children's Centre to refer.