

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022, at 7.15pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

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

**Others:** Mrs Davies (Officer) members of the public

**17283 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence**

Cllr Schuller, Cllr Fear and Cllr Smith sent their apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllr James proposed to accept the apologies and reasons given; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

**17284 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda**

No Declaration of Interests received.

**17285 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive Police, County and District Councillor reports**

Representatives from the Harworth Brass Band came to discuss their issues regarding access to their instruments in the hall storage room. Following discussion; the Chair will re look at the situation.

No Police or County Councillor present.

District Councillors Challinor and Schuller sent their apologies.

District Councillor Evan gave her report as follows:

**U.K. Shared Prosperity Fund**

Bassetlaw District Council have successfully bid for and won £1.3m. The money will be used to:

1. Increase the capacity within the Economic Development Team at Bassetlaw District Council.
2. Help current businesses to grow and attract new businesses into the district.

**Levelling Up Fund**

Bassetlaw District Council hope to hear this month if their bid into this fund has been successful. The work undertaken was overseen by a Board of representatives; the bid is based on regenerating Worksop Town Centre.

The proposals are based on the results of a survey of the public and local businesses, and their ideas put forward include a leisure facility, better connectivity, and a better retail experience, plus the use of disused sites for housing, and an improved local economy.

The regeneration plan would match the new Bassetlaw District Council development for skills and education known as The Bridge, which is central to the proposed regeneration area.

### **Purchase of the Priory Shopping Centre**

This is key to the plans for Worksop Town Centre and is included in the Levelling Up bid, with the approval of the overseeing Board. For this reason, Cabinet has agreed to the purchase of the Priory Shopping Centre.

### **The Rising Cost of Living**

Bassetlaw District Council has awarded £65,000 in grants to local organisations to support their work in helping residents deal with the rising cost of living.

The grants focus on addressing the key cost of living issues facing people in the district, which have been identified by the Bassetlaw Financial Inclusion Forum – a group of district-wide community partners, of which the Council is a member. The grants are part of a package of measures from the Council to help residents across the district. These organisations are providing a range of valuable services through money and debt advice, offering warm and safe spaces, or access to affordable food. There are also plans to launch a hardship fund.

## **17286 To receive the Chair's report**

### **North Notts Border School: Update**

As you know, Nottinghamshire County Council has asked for Heads of Terms regarding our request for them to transfer the site to the Town Council. Freeth's, a leading national law firm, are completing these; I have also agreed that Freeth's will represent the Town Council in this matter.

I am hopeful that County will agree to the transfer; you are aware that plans for over-55's accommodation have been approved. The big problem is funding, Bassetlaw District Council are supportive of the scheme and are exploring several options.

### **Cemetery Signs**

Signs have been put up in both cemeteries regarding Christmas wreaths, informing the public wreaths will be collected at the end of February.

### **Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday**

This was discussed at the last Council meeting; arrangements have been made to close Main Street during the service.

### **Closure of Doncaster Sheffield Airport.**

Despite Bassetlaw District Council leaders submitting their own comprehensive report which found there are a wide range of opportunities for the airport, the owners Peel Group have announced that DSA will close, despite almost universal public support for the airport to remain open.

This will have a negative impact on businesses who supply the airport, harm the local economy, and reduce travel options for millions of people who live within 1 hour of DSA. **Worse still**, 2700 jobs will be lost at a time when people are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

### **Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (S.T.E.P). at West Burton**

Bassetlaw is set to become a global hub for a wide range of engineering, technological and scientific expertise, following the announcement that the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Agency have chosen West Burton as the home of their STEP project. The project will pave the way for the future development of commercial nuclear fusion plants capable of supplying a limitless supply of low carbon, clean energy.

The STEP project means a huge £17.5 billion investment in Bassetlaw which will attract high-tech companies into the district, leading to jobs, skills up lift and an improved local economy; it is anticipated 30 – 50 firms will eventually appear on the site. For more information look at <https://step.ukaea.uk/>

#### **17287 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Cllr Jones proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

#### **17288 To approve payments and receive the financial reports for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Officer previously circulated list of payments for approval. Copies of the finance reports, budget, variances and reserves were circulated for the Council to consider.

After discussion of the above, Cllr James proposed to approve the payments and accept the financial reports as listed; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

After checking the finance figures with the bank statements; two councillors signed and initialled the reports.

The Officer reported that the Bacs application has been approved by NatWest.

#### **17289 To receive the cemetery health & safety inspections and any items from the Officer**

Cllr Barns gave his inspection report – no H&S actions required. A damage fencing post and panel to be removed around the bin area.

The Officer reported that the donation bench has now been received for the new cemetery.

#### **17290 To consider any planning applications as listed below and planning correspondence**

##### **Planning applications:**

**Application:** 22/01329/HSE  
**Proposal:** Erect single storey rear extension  
**Location:** 14 Oxford Drive, Harworth  
**Consideration:** No objections

**Application:** 22/01310/HSE

**Proposal:** Erect composite grey coloured fence panels to existing wall including new driveway gate

**Location:** 139 Bawtry Road, Harworth

**Consideration:** No objections

Cllr James proposed not to make any objections to the above applications; this seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

The Officer then reported on the current and new planning enforcement cases.

#### **17291 To consider the replacement costs of the water boiler in the main kitchen**

The Officer reported that the original tea water boiler which is approximately 13 years old in the main kitchen has broken and been condemned. There are many water boilers on the internet to choose from and a variety of prices; however, the plumber has recommended the updated version of the current one which is not the cheapest but is more robust and will last longer.

After consideration, Cllr Jones proposed to purchase the recommended water boiler including installation for the price of £1,234.60; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

#### **17292 To consider quotes to update the CCTV system and cameras at the Town Hall**

The Officer reported on the 3 quotations requested for the security and CCTV cameras. One quote received, second received today but in a format that cannot be opened, and another is on its way but not in time for the meeting. After discussion, Cllr Barns proposed to delegate the Officer to appoint the contract with a cap of around £3,000-£3,200; this was seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

#### **17293 To approve annual servicing of fire doors and roller shutters**

The Officer reported that several companies were previously contacted to obtain quotes for the repair or replacement of a broken exit fire door; only one company was interested and they were appointed to carry out the work. The Officer requested that as they were the only company interested; if the Council would extend their appointment to carry out the service of the rest of the exit fire doors and the roller shutters.

After discussion, Cllr Jones proposed to appoint R.P.Manufacturers to carry out the service and maintenance work for the exit fire doors and roller shutters; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

### **17294 To discuss any ideas for the 2023-24 budget**

The Officer reported that this agenda item is initially for the Councillors to think of any additional projects and expenditure for 2022-23; so that the Officer can look at costing etc ready for the draft budget figures.

Funds to consider putting aside for:

- A continuous rolling programme for the cemetery's independent memorial inspections
- Continue to build funds towards the development of phase two of the new cemetery
- Cost towards an election if one is called mid-term – this could be around £5,000.
- If the work isn't carried out prior to the end of this financial year, additional funds for hedge cutting around the boundary of the old cemetery and overhanging tree at the allotments; additional tree inspection in the old cemetery
- Coronation of the King

The Officer also mentioned that with the cuts Notts County Council may be making soon; these could include the youth activities in our area. If this is the case, then the Town Council may consider working in partnership with the District Council to provide these activities. Some years ago, the Town Council investigated an activity centre for the older youth and retail units on the area between the health centre and Aldi. This project is still on the back burner regarding forward development for the site.

### **17295 To approve investigation into opportunities for investment**

The Chair explained how the larger councils invest their funds and suggested that the Town Council considers looking for a low risk, safe investment with immediate access.

After discussion, Cllr Barns proposed that the Town Council investigates various building societies/banks for a safe investment/savings; this was seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 7 votes

### **17296 To prioritise use of the Community Infrastructure Levy money**

After discussion, Cllr Jones proposed to keep the Community Infrastructure Levy money with the District Council and use it for match funding for future larger projects; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

### **17297 To approve small training courses within the budget for the Officer and Line Manager**

After consideration, Cllr Jones proposed to allow the Officer to sign up for NALC training courses without requiring permission; these courses are usual between £30

to £40 which will come under the training budget; this was seconded by Cllr Wratten and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

**17298 To consider using a preferred provider list**

The Officer has raised this previously that the Council holds a preferred provider list of contractors that it uses for repairs to the building, cemeteries, trees, annual servicing etc.

Cllr James proposed to approve putting a preferred provider list together; this was seconded by Cllr Wratten and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

**17299 To approve changing the name of the Information Centre**

Bassetlaw District Council has set up a working group to discuss possible proposals for memorials to the late Queen. The range of ideas will be shared with parish/town councils, who may have their own thoughts on what is most appropriate for their community.

The Chair commented on the idea of a memorial for Queen Elizabeth II; the idea of renaming the Information Centre was put forward.

After consideration of a memorial for Queen Elizabeth II, Cllr Hughes proposed to rename the Information Centre to the Queen Elizabeth II Centre; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

An article will be put in the magazine for residents to consider the Council's idea or to receive any suggestions.

**17300 To receive items for information**

- The District Council has advise that the Town Council can now co-opt for the vacancy.
- The Officer reported that following the approval to investigate improving the website; she had circulated the additional costs for the improvement. One Member had asked if a local supplier could be used; the Town Council is under contract and the cost to reset up with another provider would be a few hundred pounds. The Council confirmed that approval had already been given to carry on with the improvements with the existing contractor.

**17301 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting**

The next Town Council meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.15pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes DN11 8JP

**17302 To exclude members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to allow discussion regarding staffing**

This item was deferred.