

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council meeting held on Monday 28th February 2022, at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

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

Others: Mrs Davies (Officer) & County Councillor Sheila Place

17180 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies and reasons received from Cllr Dean. Cllr James proposed to approve the apologies and reason; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

17181 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interests received.

17182 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive Police, County and District Councillor reports

The Chair suspended the meeting to hold a public session.

- A resident asked a question regarding the removal of Christmas wreaths in the cemetery
- A resident brought some information he has put together regarding siting some more allotments for the Councillors to view. There is a possibility of some land being available in Bircotes. The Chair asked the resident to keep the council updated with any progress
- County Cllr Sheila Place reported on the monitoring of traffic and pedestrian use of the junction at the top of Bawtry Road. The work on Scrooby Road is due to be finish around 15th April
- District Cllr Schuller gave a report; District Cllr Challinor sent his apologies and District Cllr Evans previously circulated her report as attached
- PC Martin sent his apologies and his report was previously circulated

The Chair convened the council meeting.

17183 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 17th January 2022

Cllr Flynn proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 17th January 2022 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

17184 To approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 28th February 2022

Cllr Flynn proposed as a member of the Finance Committee to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 17th January 2022 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Finance Committee Members.

17185 To approve the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held 14th February 2022

Cllr Smith proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 14th February 2022 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council – 6 votes (2 member were not present at the meeting as abstained).

17186 To receive the Chair's report**A MESSAGE FROM BCVS – APPEAL FOR NEW TRUSTEES.**

Following a conversation with the C.E.O. of B.C.V.S. I have put information from B.C.V.S. in the March edition of the magazine.

In summary, Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS) are appealing for new volunteer trustees to support governance of local charities. If anyone has a minimum of 2 hours a week to spare, BCVS will match you with local charities and groups that reflect your interests. To find out more contact 01909 476118 or involve@bcvs.org.uk

Madison Court, Common Lane.

Last week, the Vice-Chair and I were invited by Bersahill to view the semi-detached bungalows being built for Bassetlaw District Council residents.

I thought the bungalows were very light and airy, helped by 4 glass doors opening from the living room onto the rear garden patio. The spacious and well-planned kitchen area was open plan and next to the living room, each bungalow has two bedrooms.

Overall impression: modern accommodation in a pleasant environment.

Summer Planting.

You know that every year planters and hanging baskets are filled with annual bedding plants. This year, because of the Platinum Jubilee, it has been suggested that we should concentrate on flowers that are red, white and blue.

Plus

In the past, filling the flower beds around the Civic Square with annuals has proved disastrous because they were attacked by rabbits. There appears to be less rabbits now, and experts advise us that as new houses continue to appear, so the rabbits will move further back on Simpson Park. I would therefore like to see the front section of the Civic Square that runs parallel with Scrooby Road planted with annuals – again, using the red, white and blue colour theme.

Change, Grow & Live Service in Harworth and Bircotes

To clarify the current situation, the Change, Grow, Live service to residents with addiction issues is delivered from H&B Town Hall on a weekly appointment basis, along with a monthly outreach service. The Town Council continues to support this service.

17187 To receive the cemetery health & safety inspections

Cllr Barns reported that no health and safety issues raised from his inspections of both cemeteries.

The Officer reported on:

- A request for an extension to one of the runners so that a memorial stone can be installed – no issues raised
- A request for the water pipe to be looked at – this will be inspected
- The hedges in the old cemetery are too high and wide for the equipment cut the full width – the Officer will contact the tree man for a quote

17188 To approve payments and receive the financial reports as of 31st January 2022

The Officer previously circulated payments for approval; plus, January's finance reports, bank reconciliations, bank statement balances and budget (showing any new variances), for the Councillors to view.

Cllr Fear proposed to approve the payments and financial reports; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

17189 To receive the Internal Audit report carried out January 2022

The Officer previously circulated copy of the January Internal Audit report for the Councillors to view.

Cllr Barns proposed to accept the Internal Audit report; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

17190 To receive the Fire Risk Assessments for the Town Hall and Information Centre

The Officer reported that fire risk assessments were carried out on the 6th January 2022 by an independent company. No actions required at the Town Hall. A door guard to be fitted in the Information Centre and a zone plan required.

Cllr Fear proposed to accept the fire risk assessments as above; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

17191 To consider any planning applications as listed and planning correspondence

Application: 22/00056/HSE
 Proposal: Single storey rear extension
 Location: 25 Moorgreen Way, Bircotes

Application: 22/00041/COU
 Proposal: Change of use of tanning/beauty shop to tanning/beauty shop and taxi business on ground floor
 Location: 49 Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Application: 22/00116/FUL
 Proposal: Installation of a Coniston 35 wall mounted canopy system
 Location: St Patricks Roman Catholic School, White House Road, Bircotes

Cllr James proposed not to make any objections to the above applications; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

The Officer reported on the receipt of the notification of the consultation on the draft Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan.

17192 To receive update on the Town Council's Harworth projects

The Community Development Manger sent an update on the Town Council's projects which was read out in her absence.

Items to note:

New Business Forum – we are currently in the process of supporting the development of a new business forum

- Retro Bike event – we are again supporting this year’s event, which is over 2 days 10th & 11th September and based at the Town Hall. Hopefully, there will be a market for cyclists on the civic square and demonstrations in the Town Hall on the evening
- Harworth & Bircotes Food and Drink Show – working in partnership with North Notts BID; the aim is to bring food and drinks traders to Harworth on the 9th April to encourage more footfall into the Town Centre area. There will be activities for the children to take part in and the event is for all the family
- Platinum Jubilee – suggestions are for an over 70s’ party to be held in the Town Hall and a family fun day on Snipe Park which will include entertainment for children
- There will be a planting scheme of red, white and blue throughout the Town
- Harworth & Bircotes market – We are currently looking at how the market can become more sustainable for the traders who unfortunately were not getting the footfall required to make it viable for them to attend, particular the bread and fruit & veg stalls. It has been suggested that we look at a monthly market rather than a weekly market with the occasional farmer’s market
- Christmas event – After the success of the Winter Wonderland last, we are looking at doing this again but making it a much bigger event which will take place on 2nd, 3rd and 4th December.

Friday 2nd – Lighting switch on event – inside the Town Hall winter wonderland; outside children’s fairground rides, entertainment, plus a Choir

Saturday 3rd – Day time winter wonderland and entertainment; plus an evening pantomime

Sunday 4th – Craft market in the Town Hall

17193 To receive items for information or for the next agenda

The Officer requested an additional meeting in March to review policies – date to be arranged.

17194 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The next scheduled Town Council meeting will be on the 11th April 2022 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

17195 To exclude members of the public under the (Public Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, to allow considerations of the following agenda items:

The members of the public present left the meeting.

- **To consider grass cutting quotations**

The Officer went through the information and quotes received from three contractors. After consideration Cllr Fear proposed to appoint Ulyett landscapes Ltd; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

- **To consider staff matters**

- 1) Following discussion regarding a covid policy for staff with covid; Cllr Barns proposed not to have a policy but to use general advice; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.
- 2) Following recommendations from the HR Committee regarding appointing a new member of staff; Cllr Barns proposed to appoint the applicant on a 6 month probation period for the same hourly rate as the previous member of staff which has resigned; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved by the Council – 8 votes
- 3) The Officer reported that the auditor suggested that due to the year's delay to date in the setting of the 2021-22 spinal column points; that the Council adopts the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) spinal column points for the Officer to the Town Council. Cllr Smith proposed to adopt the NJC spinal column points as suggested; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

- **To consider setting a management company up for future developments**

Following information regarding the setting up of a management company for the Common Lane development; it was proposed by Cllr Barns to ask for more information regarding the surplus funds as it would not be beneficial to the Town Council to do this, if there isn't a financial benefit that could be used for the community; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 8 votes.

District Councillor's June Evans Report

WEST BURTON POWER STATION A Site – it's on the Fusion Energy Plant shortlist of 5 sites being considered for the production of carbon-neutral energy by generating electricity from fusion. The U.K. Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) is looking for the right site for the project, known as S.T.E.P. or Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production, to help meet the U.K.'s carbon-zero target. Assessment of the West Burton site began in February; the decision about which site has been chosen should be known by the end of the year.

If West Burton is selected, this would be good news for Bassetlaw, as it would mean huge investment and new jobs in our district, though whichever site is finally chosen, it won't become operational until 2040.

View the website at <https://step.ukaea.uk>;

Producing Local Energy: Update on Solar Farm, Sturton-Le-Steeple

The solar farm developer at Sturton-Le-Steeple has recently discharged conditions and applied under Section 73 to extend the life-span of the solar farm from 30 to 40 years. The construction phase is 12-16 weeks; it is anticipated the solar farm will be operational by mid-summer. This is in addition to the Tuxford solar farm.

Citizens Advice Bassetlaw and 2 Shires Credit Union

Both these organisations, which were previously housed in Queen's Building at Bassetlaw District Council, Worksop, have moved into a property owned by the District Council on 100/102 Bridge Street.

The rooms vacated by the C.A.B. and Credit Union will assist the transfer of N.H.S. staff into District Council offices, where D.W.P. and the Police already operate from. The plan is that these community-based N.H.S. staff who help those with mental health problems will be ideally placed to work with both D.W.P. and Police on behalf of their patients, should the need arise.

Contractors will start the fit-out of all rooms allocated to the N.H.S. – staff are expected to move into their accommodation in August.

The Bridge – Skills Hub.

I think you are all aware of the development in Worksop known as The Bridge. It will be open to students, businesses and learners from 4th April, though the educational year will start fully in September.

Rotherham and North Notts Group will expand the current level of provision by offering access to Higher Education Diplomas from levels 4, 5 and 6, in addition to courses starting in the new academic year in September.

Details on how to apply for all of the courses provided by the RNN Group at 'The Bridge' can be found at <https://www.nnc.ac.uk/higher-education/how-to-apply/> or by emailing enquiries@rnntesting.co.uk

[To make enquiries about booking space or becoming an education or training provider at The Bridge, please contact Julie Beresford, Economic Development](#)