

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council meeting held 4th July 2022 at 2pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 9JP

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Barns, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Smith, Cllr James, Cllr Flynn & Cllr Barns

Others: W Davies (Officer) PC Martin and member of the public

17243 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies and reasons were received from Cllr Jones, Cllr Fear and Cllr Wratten.

Cllr Smith proposed to accept the apologies and reasons; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the council – 7 votes.

17244 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

None received.

17245 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session and receive the Police, County and District Councillor reports.

Apologies received from County Cllr Sheila Place and District Cllr David Challinor.

Public session – resident spoke about some additional allotments; he is going to contact K Tarburton to discuss further.

PC Martin gave his police report.

District Cllr June Evans gave her District report – see attached.

17246 To receive the Chair's Report

The Chair gave her report – see attached.

17247 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2022

Cllr Flynn proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2022 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

17248 To consider any planning applications as listed and planning correspondence

Karen Tarburton (Community Development and Funding Manager) joined the meeting during this item.

Application: 22/00578/COU

Proposal: Change of use to a therapy and spa wellbeing

Location: 67 Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Consideration: No objections

Application: 22/00801/FUL

Proposal: Revised scheme proposal for the ongoing redevelopment of Harworth Cinema and to its change of business class use including formation of four domestic units

Location: 19 Scrooby Road Bircotes

Consideration: No objections

Application: 22/00905/PIP

Proposal: Permission in principle for residential development of 2 to 4 dwellings

Location: Land rear of 73 to 81 Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Consideration: Objections made regarding access to and from the site; plus highway issues

Application: 22/00785/RES

Proposal: Reserved matters application for phase 2A of outline permission 19/00866/VOC for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, including consideration of conditions

Location: Phase 2A (Unit 3) Mulberry Logistics Park, Blyth Road, Harworth

Consideration: No objections

Application: 22/00787/RES

Proposal: Reserved matters application of phase 2B of outline permission 19/00866/VOV for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, including consideration of conditions

Location: Phase 2B (Unit 4) Mulberry Logistics Park, Blyth Road, Harworth

Consideration: No objections

Consideration of correspondence

The consultant carrying out the Harworth Master Plan has started the Supplementary Planning Guidance documents for the Scrooby Road site and the former North Border School. The consultant asked the Town Council if it was acceptable for all the documents go out for the consultations together.

Cllr Barns proposed to approve the above suggestion; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

17249 To receive the cemetery health & safety inspections

Cllr Barns reported on his cemetery inspections; no health & safety issues raised.

The Officer reported that a request to donate a bench has been received for the new cemetery. The Officer will visit the site and see if it fits in with the seating plan.

Further to previous discussion regarding the independent memorial inspections; the Officer has also contacted the District Council to see if they have their own inspection team that could help prior to obtaining quotations.

The Officer also reported on future costs for the capital work required at the new cemetery over the next few years. This consists of an electric supply to the cemetery, automatic gates, monitored CCTV and lighting.

The Officer also discussed an on-going matter regarding encroachment on an old reserved burial plot at the old cemetery.

17250 To approve payments and financial reports as of 31st May 2022

The Officer previously circulated payments for approval; finance reports, reserves, budget, variances and bank statement balances for the councillors to view.

Cllr James proposed to approve the payments and financial reports; this was seconded by Cllr Hughes and resolved by the Council – 7 votes.

17251 To received items for information

Nothing put forward.

17252 Time and Date of the next Town Council meeting

The Officer reported that a meeting had previously been pencilled in for the 1st August if it was required; this was due to not having any meetings during August and the length of time before the September meeting.

The Officer would like to call this meeting mainly cover financial items, the Councillors were happy to do this.

The time and date of the next Town Council meeting will be at 7.15pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

See attached reports below.

HARWORTH AND BIRCOTES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**04/07/2022****CHAIR'S REPORT****Launch of the Official Launch of the Youth Hub 14th June**

This very successful event was officially opened by Malachi Carroll, Bassetlaw Youth Mayor. It was well-attended by Bassetlaw businesses and the public, and a busy session it was, too. I learned a lot by talking to both young people and businesses; I even discovered educational courses open to adults of all ages and found myself enrolling on a short course! We are all hoping the success of the current weekly Youth Hub will continue.

The new Community Luncheon Club which started in June is operating in the Town Hall every Wednesday, and this, too, is proving popular. As you know, it costs £3 for a two-course meal freshly cooked on the premises; it is limited to 35 diners, therefore interested residents need to reserve their seat. It is open to anyone.

Proposed Refurbishment of Westmorland House

BDC Housing met with tenants of Westmorland House last week, regarding the proposed refurbishment of the scheme. It was, I am told, a very positive meeting, and the plan is to speak to each resident individually over the next few weeks to determine their preferences for temporary or permanent rehousing.

Management had intended to include the three District Councillors in the meeting but forgot to send the invitations – arrangements are being made to remedy this – and then we will know more about the proposals.

Master Plan for H&B Town Centre

There is no update to report – this is because of a number of factors.

1. The Growth and Enterprise Team have been occupied in preparing the BDC bid for the government's Levelling Up Fund, which concentrates on Worksop Town Centre.
2. The team are also working on a bid for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which has to be submitted in August. I am attending a presentation on this next Thursday, so will then be better informed.
3. The overlapping workload from 2 bids and their short timescales have put a lot of pressure on the team, therefore they have had to prioritise.

4. The Growth and Enterprise team is currently working with 5 vacant posts, despite efforts to recruit – this is a national problem across many councils, affecting many departments.

I am aware of the many hours Natalie, Karen and other members of the team have been working, not only on preparing these bids but in carrying out many other responsibilities that make up their workload. The good news is that work on the Town Centre Master Plan should resume in September.

Review of Neighbourhood Plan: Pilot Project

A new way of developing a neighbourhood plan is being trialled by BDC in partnership with the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). This is also being trialled in six other local authority areas in England.

Rather than moving straight to reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, the idea is to first focus on developing a better understanding of the local area. This will involve assembling data and local insights to create a neighbourhood profile (giving a detailed evidence base) and a neighbourhood priorities statement (statement of priorities informed by the evidence base). The review of the Neighbourhood Plan would then follow, based on the neighbourhood profile and neighbourhood priorities statement.

However, BDC is still waiting for feedback from DLUHC on the Delivery Plan submitted to them over a month ago. If BDC gets the go-ahead, work will probably begin in Autumn.

2021 Census Results: National Population Increase:

Phase 1 of the Office of National Statistics 2021 Census Results show that the population of England and Wales has increased by more than 3.5m (6.3%) in the last decade. This means that for England, the population is 56,597,300m and in Wales it is 3,107,500m. Females represent 51% of the population, males 49%. Phase 1 also gives population results for the different regions/L.A.'s.

For Older Age Groups, there are more people than ever before aged over 65 years; this is a 2.2% increase nationally since 2011 and this group now represents 18.6% of the population.

Turning to Bassetlaw, the population has increased by 4.4%, moving from 112,900 in 2011 to 117,000 in 2021 – this is lower than the overall average of 7.7% for E. Midlands. For comparison with other districts in Nottinghamshire, Gedling’s population increased by 3.3%, Newark and Sherwood by 7% and Rushcliffe by 7.1%. As for near neighbours, Doncaster increased by 1.9%, and Chesterfield **decreased** by 0.2%

The Main Age Groups in Bassetlaw show:

a 2.4% increase in children under 15 years, or 16.3% of the population
 a 1.1% decrease in 15 – 64 years, or 61.5% of the population, and
 a 24.6% increase in the population aged 65 and over, representing 22.2% of the population in Bassetlaw.

What about population increases in Harworth and Bircotes? We won’t know this until the O.N.S. releases an analysis of all Districts, ward by ward – this will probably be in 2023.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

04/07/22

The Annual Canvass.

Bassetlaw Electoral Services Team will start the Annual Canvass in July, which has to be done to check that the Electoral Register is up to date. Those with an email address will be contacted by election@bassetlaw.gov.uk around the 19th July; others will receive a letter anytime from 25th July.

Levelling Up Fund: BDC Bid

The bid is overseen by a multi-agency Board, which signed it off on 1st July; the bid, along with all the documentation and letters of support, has to be submitted to government by 6th July.

The main elements are:

- The money awarded will be £18m, plus £2m from BDC – it has to be spent by 31/3/23
- The criteria are Transport, Regeneration, Town Centre and Culture – the government is looking for high impact bids
- Bassetlaw Council has chosen Worksop Town Centre as their focus area

The Worksop Project:

Following consultation with the public, the bid is focused on:

- Acquisition of land and property – people want a leisure centre, bars and restaurants

- Installation of a new footbridge over the canal, thus forming a link with to the northern part of Worksop town
- Creation of a cycling hub and café
- Installation of a new tow path
- Improved quality town centre living (housing)
- Creation of a central market/food court area, and
- A multi-functional public realm space

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

This fund is another part of the Levelling Up agenda; the invitation to bid was launched 13th April 22 and the dead line is 1st August. It has 3 main elements:

- Communities and Place
- Support for Local Businesses, and
- People and Skills

I will have more details later this week.

New Development at Gamston Airport

B.D.C. has been working closely with a company interested in working in Bassetlaw.

Thatcham Research, a widely recognised UK company, have announced they will be making a multi-million-pound investment at Gamston Airport to develop a future UK 'centre of excellence` around vehicle technology, testing and safety research. There will also be upgrades to runway and infrastructure to continue safe ongoing aviation operations.

So, good news for Bassetlaw.

Cost of Living Crisis

B.D.C. has put aside a sum of money to help residents. A number of ideas have been discussed, but a meeting with 3rd sector partners has been arranged to look at practical actions that can be taken locally to assist residents dealing with some of the challenges arising from the rises in cost of living – especially Fuel Poverty, Food Poverty, Access to Services, Exploitation, Rural factors, isolation, communication.

The intention is to look at these issues in the round rather than a specific subject area. I might add that BDC has a good record for partnership working with the voluntary sector.

Karen Tarburton is attending a Cost-of-Living meeting to discuss how organisations can impact on the crisis; this is within her Rural Officer role.