

Minutes of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council meeting which was held on Monday 28th November 2016, at 7pm in the Town Hall, Scooby Road, Bircotes

Public Session – no questions asked
County Councillor Report – not received in time for meeting
Police report – none received

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Barns, Cllr Turner, Cllr Morgan-Kingston, Cllr Leatherland, Cllr Ashworth, Cllr Flynn, Cllr Jones and Cllr Smith

Others present: Mrs Davies (Officer), J Davies (B.D.C) and one member of the public

16343 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Durdy and Cllr Robinson.

16344 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

No declarations of interests received.

At this point Cllr Wratten joined the meeting.

16345 To set the priorities for the HBTC strategic intervention plan

Joelle Davies from the District Council's Regeneration Team went through the draft Harworth & Bircotes Intervention Strategy; the next steps will be to put it in an illustrated document to be approved by the Town Council and then action plans will be put into place to work through the interventions.

16346 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 24th October 2016

Cllr Barns proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held 24th October 2016 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

16347 To receive District Councillor Reports

Cllr Evans reported on the following issues:

- Sheffield City Region – The Bassetlaw application to join the S.C.R has been received by the Secretary of State, we await his decision
- Finance – The overall predication for the next 4 years is to find savings of £4.7m. The Head of Finance has managed to find £2m+ extending over that period, including a move to shared services with A1, but that still leaves a further £2m 'missing'. It may result in cuts to some services in future years.

For this next financial year 2017/18, it is expected that fees and charges to be increased by 3%; and anticipate that Council Tax will increase by 1.9%.

16348 To receive cemetery reports

Cllr Barns gave the following cemetery reports.

Old cemetery – two graves require topping up; leaves require sweeping off the path and the amount of moss in the grass will require attention next year.

New cemetery – the footing for the bench has been completed and the ramp still to be regraded; the Officer reported that this was to be carried out next week.

16349 To approve payments and receive current financial report

The Office circulated copies of the financial report, bank statements and year to date budget figures and cheques for approval.

Cllr Barns proposed to approve the payments listed; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council.

16350 To consider any planning applications and note any decision notices, appeals and planning correspondence

Application ref: 16/01454/HSE
Location: 19 Grange view, Harworth
Proposal: Erect single storey flat detached garage in rear garden area

The Council considered the above application and resolved not to make any objections.

The Chair reported that Outline planning permission has been granted by the Planning Authority to build 44 social houses on the site of the Miner's Institute. A1 Housing clients are legible to apply.

16351 To consider response on the BT consultation regarding removal of their telephone boxes

The Chair reported on the BT consultation as above. BT has put notices in the telephone boxes asking residents for comments. Cllr Flynn commented that she hasn't had any negative comments from residents discussing this matter. The Chair asked for ideas on what the boxes could be used for if they were adopted.

16352 To discuss additional car parking

The Chair has approached Bassetlaw District Council, the owners of the land next to the health centre; to see if there is any possibility of the Town Council leasing or purchasing the land to be used as a much needed car park.

The District Council is considering this request and has come back with three options:

1. The Town Council to lease the land as a car park; the District Council to tarmac and line the area for a cost of £8,000 per year plus legal fees. This figure is based on the car park having paying customers.
2. The Town Council to lease the land unmade for non-paying customers for £4,000 per year plus legal fees
3. The Town Council to purchase the land unmade to use as a car park with sale clauses, such as a development clawback clause, for the price of £50,000.

The Town Council does not want to charge for car parking; however in the future as the town grows; fees may have to be imposed – but not at this point in time.

It was agreed to look into the above options in more detail and obtain costs to clear, level and surface the land; seek recommendations from Highways on the entrance to the site (if they will allow it).

Additional information required before considering any options. It was suggested to contact J Davies who attended at the beginning of the meeting to look at the forward plan and where the car park will fit in with the future regeneration plans.

16353 To consider possible improvement/management of the land next to Wimpey Estate

The Chair has contact the District Council with an idea to improve the land next to the Wimpey Estate. This land is a prime site for fly tipping. Currently, a wide tract has been cleared because of pipe laying. The Chair asked if we cleared the land between this tract and the houses, levelled and grassed it, the Town Council could create an open green space next to the houses on which children could play which in turn would deter fly tipping in that area. This is just an idea at this point in time and the Council agreed to have further discussions with the District Council.

16354 To receive report from the H&S Committee meeting and consider proposals

The Officer reported on the Health & Safety Committee meeting and outlined the priorities which are:

- To carry out H&S consultations with employees; Cllr Robinson, K Tarburton to arrange meetings
- Arrange Health & Safety training – the Officer went through costs and different training options and recommendations – it was to arrange training as required. The Officer commented that the training certificate lasts for three years so the outlay of costs would be every three years when renewals are required.
- The Councillors volunteered to assist with weekly risk assessments of the Council's public places; KT circulated copies of risk assessments to use and will also draw up two additional assessments for the allotments and War Memorial.
- It was agreed that the Officer will work through the policies; put into groups and identify roles that the Councillors can assist with.
- The Officer asked if delegated responsibility could be given regarding costs re training/requirements to comply with without have to wait for Council meetings; examples would be purchasing PPE equipment/small tools; it was agreed to take this to full council and suggest a cap on the amounts.

The Chair therefore proposed to approve the delegation up to the Health and Safety budget figures; this was seconded by Cllr Barns and resolved by the Council.

- As an initial priority it was agreed that Cllr Robinson and K Tarburton will arrange and carry out staff supervision meetings with staff to go through H&S and employment matters; and also to set up staff personal development plans.
- The next meeting will review actions and priorities from the first meeting. It was agreed that the Officer will requested further committee meetings as and when required.

16355 To consider budget ideas for the 2017 precept

The Clerk circulated copies of the year to date budget figures for the Councillors to view and asked them to think of future projects to be included in next year's budget e.g. additional car park.

16356 To receive reports from Councillors and Community Development Officer

Apologies from the Community Development Officer as she is unable to attend tonight; she did email her reports to the Officer but they haven't come through in time for the meeting. Reports to be circulated via email when they have been received.

- Cllr Letherland – Thank you for all those who helped at the Armistice and Remembrance Day events. Cllr Letherland to supply contact details so that thank you letters can be sent out.
- Request for an overgrown bush to be cut back
- Complaints that the Today magazine are not being delivered to all the residents – this information has already been passed on to the Editor
- Cllr Flynn reported at the Armistice Day event that a lady stopped in her car to ask if they needed a bugler to play; she went home to fetch her bugle and played for them at the cenotaph; this was a very kind gesture and greatly appreciated.
- Cllr Ashworth enquired about the faulty lights on Styrrup Road; Cllr Jones passed on information of her many calls to Highways over the months and still nothing has happened. Cllr Jones to pass this information onto the Chair to deal with.
- Cllr Jones reported that there is an ongoing debate between Highways and Severn Trent regarding who is responsible for drains which are flooding near the hairdressers.
- Cllr Smith asked if there was any update on the empty Airey Houses; the Chair will enquire
- Cllr Turner commented on flooding in the village
- Cllr Barns complained about the state of the pavement next to the flats on Beverley Road; the Enforcement Office is currently dealing with this matter.

The Chair gave the following reports:

- The public consultation held on the housing development west of Blyth Road proved to be a popular and positive consultation; the overall outcome seems to be that people want to see an upmarket development of both houses and bungalows. It is now up to the developer to plan and design proposals for the site
- Removal of Bunds – this has now been done, thanks to Harworth Estates. We need to temporarily grass the area – Cllr Ashworth will look into this and look at costs for small bollards to prevent parking on the area. The aim is to create a town centre community seating and events area; rough estimates show a cost of £100,000. Efforts to gain external funding require public consultation which Karen has been doing
- Christmas Lighting Event – there was a high attendance at the event which was a success. However, listening to public comments I think the Council needs to continue to make some changes and evolve with the times; already we had some suggestions. Thank you for the Councillors, staff and volunteers who helped with this event and for all the hard work on the day. We are grateful to Cllr Durdy for siting the Christmas tree and to Karen Tarburton for consulting with the public on the future design of the community events space
- Replacement Pre-School Building – This is now on the field opposite the flats on Thoresby Close, which are on the perimeter of the Wimpey Estate. The County Council's contractor is confident that the work will be completed by Christmas

16357 To receive items of correspondence for information and future agenda items

- Considering joining the National Allotment Association
- 2017 meeting dates

16358 To Exclude members of the public under Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960) to enable the review of staff wages to be considered

The member of the public was asked to leave to enable the review of staff wages. After consideration it was resolved to increase the staff wages in line with the local government recommendation.

16359 Time and date of the next Town Council meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held 9th January 2017 at 7pm in the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.

Signed (Chair).....

Date.....