

Harworth and Bircotes Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Harworth and Bircotes Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.15pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair of the Town Council), Mrs Davies (Officer to the Town Council) and members of the Public

APM24/1 Apologies for absence

No Apologies received.

APM24/2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 22nd May 2023

Mr Barns proposed to approve the Annual Parish Meeting minutes 22nd May 2023; this was seconded by Mrs Flynn and resolved by the member of public

APM24/3 Town Council Chair's Report for 2023/24

The Chair gave her report as follows:

2023 has not been the easiest year for our residents. The cost of living is still a problem; earlier high inflation rates may have dropped to 3.2%, but prices continue to rise.

For the Town Council, 2023 has been a year of re-establishing stability. One pleasing fact is that previous users or back, and again using the Town Council building; in-year, demand has grown and is now greater than capacity. A focus on meeting the needs of our growing community must be a priority, hence we are exploring the possibility of expanding our estate. The Town Council has expressed an interest in acquiring local Community Centres; listening to your comments, Devonshire Road Community Centre must feature in those discussions.

It is always rewarding to look at achievements during the past year.

- The luncheon club is thriving, but we should remain aware of the demand placed on food banks throughout Bassetlaw, and elsewhere.

- The expanded summer planting scheme is now a regular feature of the town centre,
- we enjoyed the annual Retro-Bike event, with hopes that it will continue to grow,
- And the changes to the Christmas event brought comments of approval.
- The Town Council's responsibility for closing Main Street on Remembrance Day has been established, working in partnership with the Church and Royal British Legion
- Work started on the review of the Neighbourhood Plan, and
- The War Memorial and the memorial to Tommy Simpson have been cleaned

I want to mention North Notts Border School. During the past year, Bassetlaw District Council was successful in gaining grant funding from the Levelling Up Fund. £1m of this was allocated to the demolition of the school - discussions with the contractor are ongoing. This still leaves the problem of finding future funds to build accommodation for the older/disabled people - currently, that is a 3.5 million funding gap, though Bassetlaw District Council has submitted a bid to Homes England. I am grateful for the support for this project from my Cabinet member colleague, District Cllrs Schuller.

However,... I am still buying euro lottery tickets in the hope of a big win!

I have to thank Karen Tarburton and for her hard work in helping to make Harworth & Bircotes a successful Council, and for her work with the Growth and Development Team led by Natalie Cockrell, in promoting community developments, such as the school, which are intended to benefit local residents.

The Bassetlaw Local Plan will shortly be adopted. The implications for Harworth & Bircotes are that no new allocations for mayor housing development will be considered unit 2038.

- Regarding those developments now in progress, I am pleased to report that future developments on Simpson Park will probably include Housing Association properties.

- However, I do feel that we, as councillors, need to pay special attention to landscaping issues - something that needs to be emphasised in the new Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan.

I am also pleased to report that the careful planning and management of Council income and expenditure by the Town Clerk, has resulted in yet another successful year for our budget, with no comment from the external auditor. Many thanks to go to Wendy for a stringent approach to our finances.

Last but not least, my thanks go to you, our Town Councillors, for your input, opinions, and guidance. What I notice most is a common-sense approach to all issues.

Thanks to the work from all mentioned, I believe Council can look forward to a productive 2024/25.

June Evans.

APM24/4 Open session

- A resident asked a question about the North Board School

The Chair then closed the meeting.