

Minutes of the Meeting of the Harworth and Bircotes Town Council's **Finance Committee** held on Monday 8th December at 2.00pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Jones, Cllr James and Cllr Flynn

Others: Mrs Davies (Officer)

17919 To receive and consider any apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Flynn proposed to accept the apologies and reason for absence from Cllr Smith; this was seconded by Cllr James and resolved by the Committee.

17920 To receive Declaration of Interest on any item on the agenda

No declaration of interests received.

17921 To suspend the meeting to hold a public session for items on the agenda

No members of the public present.

17922 To consider the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6th October 2025

Cllr Jones proposed to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 6th October 2025 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

17923 To discuss the draft budget for 2026-27

The Officer went through the indivisible Income budget items as of 31st October 2025 and explained the current incomes and what is expected. The Officer explained the budget spreadsheet and other income which is received under the general reserves and earmarked reserves.

The Officer explained that the budget income received as of 31st October 2025 which is 98.1% of our anticipated income.

The Chair reported that due to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), the District Council's grants and service level agreements may not be received and there is a possibility of extra responsibilities through the LGR.

There may also be consequences of loss of funds from the Nottinghamshire County Council – i.e. Sure Start and the Police. Therefore, it is assumed at this point in time that no District or Nottinghamshire Council's grants will be received in 2027 and this has to be taken into account for this year.

This Officer then went through the expenditure budget items and as of 31st October 2025 and the expended used from general and earmarked reserves. It was noted that 71.2% of the expenditure of budget items and in line with the budget. The Officer explained that legal fees budget will have additional expenditure professional fees due to items relating to the renewal of the police lease; this will come out of general reserves

Following the discussions, Cllr James proposed to accept the draft budget for 2026-27 and make recommendations to the full council meeting; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Committee.

17924 To review the earmarked reserves and consider suggestions for additional or increasing earmarked reserves for 2026-27

The Officer listed the Town Council's earmarked reserves as of 31.Oct 25 and went through each one with the Committee to put any adjustments in place before the end of the financial year.

- **EMR 320** -£21,129.51 -Funds left from cemetery House Sale (can only be used for building or land) part of this money was held to carry out additional surveys/repairs for work on the Town Hall relevant to the work carried out in 2018/19. It was suggested that if there are any remaining funds, to think about the community centre project.
- **EMR 321** – £3,520 - Pond –on going to fund maintenance/tree work and commercial equipment
- **EMR 322** - £6,000 – ongoing fund building for future replacement of Van at £2k per year
- **EMR 324** - £41,261 – Ongoing projects for phase two of the Styrrup Road Cemetery - ten runners to be installed after the New Year, new road access into the second phase and work to be carried out on the gates
- **EMR326** - £3,221 - Ongoing maintenance re planters, trees and plants
- **EMR 327** - £4,693 – Funds towards the rolling five-year memorial inspections
- **EMR 328** - £21,322 – Funding towards replacement/refurbish the Tickhill Cemetery gates, railings – road surface
- **EMR 341** - £4,500 – Ongoing works towards the Town Hall upgrades
- During this discussion, the Officer requested that a building review is required following the work carried out in 2018/19 due to movement – it was approved to appoint the surveyor to carry out a review on the building.
- **EMR 343** - £500 – Funding towards the Biodiversity work
- **EMR 344** - £50,000 – Building funds to take on a Community Hub to be gifted to the Town Council
- **EMR 345** - £3,438 - Neighbourhood Plan fund for the ongoing review
- **EMR 346** - £10,000 – Funding project to cover contractors to take on our annual tree surveys and work required
- **EMR 347** – £10,000 – Funds for additional annual maintenance of the Christmas Tree/lighting/ small trees/wrapping/replacing light bulbs
- **EMR 348** - £19,010 – Funds for an electric supply to the Styrrup Road Cemetery

Items to consider from the staff

- A suggestion was put forward to refurbish the floor in the hall – after discussion it was noted that it is not a current priority
- A suggestion for staff parking places which was not discussed further

After consideration, Cllr James propose to approve the above earmarked reserves and to appoint the surveyor to carry out a review on the on the building, this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and approved by the Committee.