



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 February 2023 at Walkeringham Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors: Roberts (Chair), Hooton, Heath, Vessey, Derbyshire, Steel, Wilsey, Beard, Dilly, Cty. Cllr. Taylor, Dist. Cllr. Sanger and A Hayward (Clerk)

Members of Public: 0

Public Session: No comments made

015/23 **Elect a Chair**

Cllr. Roberts was nominated, proposed and seconded for the position of Chair. There were no other nominees. The vote was unanimous and Cllr. Roberts accepted the position.

016/23 **Chair's Declaration**

Cllr. Roberts signed the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.

017/23 **Chairman's Remarks**

Cllr. Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr. Roberts informed the meeting that Roger Capp had recently died. Mr Capp had served on the Parish Council for many years and would be remembered for his years of dedicated service.

018/23 **Elect a Vice-Chair**

Cllr. Vessey was nominated, proposed and seconded for the position of Vice-Chair. There were no other nominees. The vote was unanimous and Cllr. Vessey accepted the position.

019/23 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received as follows:
Cllr. Oxley (other commitment)

Resolved: to accept the apologies and the reasons given.

020/23 **To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, and to consider any applications for dispensations in relation to disclosable pecuniary interest**

None received.

021/23 **Approval & Signing of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 were discussed, proposed, seconded, voted and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. With reference to the Councillors' roles and responsibilities discussed at the January meeting, Cllr. Hooton informed members that the Police Priority meetings would no longer take place. The roles and responsibilities table would be updated to reflect this.

022/23 **Matters for Consideration**

1. Speed Watch Scheme

Cllr. Steel reported that it might be possible to obtain funding for speed watch equipment from the rural crime police grant if this is something the Parish Council wanted to pursue.

There was a discussion about the merits and limitations of the speed watch scheme. The main issue with the scheme was that there were limited locations in Walkeringham where the speed gun could be

deployed. The speed gun would not being able to be used on the A161 due to the lack of required visibility. It was decided not to sign up for the speed watch scheme as it stands at the moment but look for alternative ways in which the on-going speeding could be tackled. It was agreed that the first step would be to request that Highways carry out a speed survey on the A161. Cllr. Taylor offered to facilitate this, but would need to know exactly where it would be placed.

2. Walkeringham Gateway Signs

Cllr. Steel gave an update into his research on gateway signs and was waiting for NCC to respond with information about what support and funding they currently offer. Cllr Taylor suggested contacting Misson and Barnby Moor Parish Councils as they had recently installed new signs in their village and may be able to provide useful information in terms of the path they had taken, prices etc.

3. CIL Monies – 100% Exceptional Circumstances Relief

The Clerk reported that a number of questions had been put to Bassetlaw District Council about the granting of CIL 100% Exception Circumstances Relief against PA 19/00945/RES, as follows:

1. When was the application for exemption from CIL made and why is the application not logged on the portal like the application to modify the S106?
2. Are the S106 and CIL obligations treated differently, if so, why?
3. Why isn't the viability assessment available with the other papers? Can this be made available to the Parish Council?
4. How did BDC test and assess the developer's claims?
5. Who at BDC made the decision re. CIL exemption, where is that recorded for the purposes of transparency?
6. Are changes to the CIL obligations reported in the BDC's annual report? If not, why not?
7. Why was the Parish Council not informed of the claim and outcome?

The Parish Council also has a couple of general questions:

1. There are currently two further sizeable planning applications which have been granted planning permission. These are 17/00353/OUT (21/00007/RES), High Street, Walkeringham and PA 17/01520/RSB (21/01588/RES), land off Beckingham Road, Walkeringham. Could you please confirm the status of CIL payments on these two developments and whether or not you have received and/or granted CIL exceptional circumstances on these?
2. As a percentage of planning applications liable to CIL payments in Bassetlaw, how many CIL relief applications have you received since the introduction of CIL and how many, again as a percentage of CIL relief applications received, are granted?

The Parish Council awaits a reply. Cllr. Sanger would follow up.

023/23

Councillors' Reports

County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Taylor reported as follows:

- Full Council agreed the budget for 2023/24. There will be no cuts to front line services. The total increase is 4.84%. 2% would be for adult social care and 2.84% for the remaining. The County Councillors' discretionary grant funding, however, is to be reduced from £5,000 to £3,000 per annum per Councillor. This will create a saving of £120,000/year.
- STEP - a new company has now been formed (further details below). Cllr. Taylor to forward some general briefing notes about the STEP project which might be useful to councillors.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Sanger reported as follows:

NEXT STEP FOR LOW-CARBON ENERGY

The future of abundant low-carbon energy without the need for fossil fuels has taken a STEP forward. The Science Minister George Freeman visited West Burton Power Station (Monday 6 February) to announce the creation of a new delivery body for the UK's fusion programme, named UK Industrial Fusion Solutions, in addition to the creation of a new STEP Skills Centre that will be based at West Burton.

Fusion energy has the potential to transform our world, by delivering near-limitless, safe, and low-carbon energy for generations to come. It also represents a burgeoning industry in which the UK is already a world-leader. Cllr James Naish, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council, welcomed the announcement: “The construction of a prototype fusion energy plant will require significant investment over the next two decades, and we are delighted that the initial steps - including the appointment of the first three local jobs - are happening quickly and efficiently.

“In addition to billions of pounds being spent on the project itself, we envisage millions being pumped into towns and villages across Bassetlaw, through both direct and indirect investment. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Retford, Tuxford and other nearby settlements to see improved infrastructure, better connectivity, and thousands of new skilled jobs - all of which will raise living standards and transform our area.

“The announcement about a new training hub on the West Burton site is also warmly welcomed. The creation of high-quality apprenticeships for people of all ages is a corporate priority for the Council, and we are looking forward to working with the UKAEA and its partners to create successful training programmes for current and future Bassetlaw residents.”

The Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) plant will be constructed by 2040 to demonstrate the ability to use fusion energy to generate electricity for the UK grid.

PROGRESS ON THE LOCAL PLAN

Bassetlaw’s Local Plan has moved forward with the end of face-to-face hearings.

Two inspectors have been appointed to carry out a detailed, independent review of the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan: Publication Version 2020-2038, the supporting evidence, and comments previously submitted by the public and interested parties. As part of this process, the inspectors chaired a programme of hearings.

The hearings have now taken place and the inspectors, working with Bassetlaw District Council and interested parties, will identify if any modifications need to be made to the Local Plan, with any further consultation with members of the public and other organisations to take place in summer 2023. A report from the Planning Inspectorate is expected to be issued in autumn 2023, ahead of a proposed adoption in winter 2023.

COUNCIL HOUSING RENTS SET FOR BELOW INFLATION RISE IN APRIL

Rents for the majority of homes owned and operated by Bassetlaw District Council will see a below inflation rise from April this year. At a meeting of Cabinet in January, councillors approved a recommendation for a below inflation rent increase of 7% for 6368 Council homes from April 2023.

The rent increase comes against a backdrop of a 10% rise in the cost of maintenance, labour, and materials experienced by the Council over the last 12 months and predicted rises of up to 15% for the next year. With benefits also set to rise in line with inflation (10.1%) including Housing Benefit, the rent increase should only affect around 30% of Council tenants, who do not receive additional support.

In real terms, the lowest change in rent will be an increase of £3.56 a week for a small property and the highest an increase of £8.02 a week for a large property. The changes will take effect from Monday 3 April 2023 and have been set in accordance with the Government’s National Social Rent Policy.

WORKSOP TOWN CENTRE SET FOR £20M LEVELLING UP INVESTMENT

Worksop is set to benefit from £20m investment, after the Government awarded Bassetlaw District Council a £18m Levelling Up grant to transform the town centre. The Council and partners will contribute an additional £2m in funding to support the Levelling Up project.

The funding will initially focus on the redevelopment of the Priory Centre, including the creation of a new family-focused leisure facility with activities such as ten pin bowling, indoor soft play, a trampoline park, and a café. The scheme will look to retain existing occupiers and bring in new tenants for empty units. The works will also create a new towpath link along the Chesterfield Canal, improve a green corridor through the town centre, and bring two sites forward for the development of new apartments and town houses.

RCAN, Village Halls Week – Cllr. Dilly recently attended a networking event which he felt was useful in terms of making new contacts and gathering information. He has put forward Walkeringham village hall as a possible venue for future networking events.

025/23

Cemetery Matters

Income Received (Jan): £0

New Secretary Handover

The new secretary is now up and running with the new IT equipment and all files have been transferred over. It is anticipated that the handover will be completed by 1st March.

New Burial Board Member

A member of public has now volunteered to join the Burial Board and help with the overseeing of the cemetery. Cllr. Roberts is to liaise with the Burial Board Secretary in relation to this.

026/23

Financial Matters

Financial Report as at 15/02/2023:

Income for the financial year to date: £37,534.07

Expenditure for the financial year to date: £34,593.99

Balance £26,492.72

The following payments were proposed, seconded, voted and agreed.

Cheque	Amount	Payee	Matter
2253-2256	1,000.48	Staff	Salaries and expenses
2257	10.00	Walkeringham Village Hall	Hall hire
2258	497.51	J M Fox	Final fees and expenses
2259	150.00	E Gill & Sons	Refund of overpaid fees

027/23

Faults and Repairs

- A conifer at a property on Moorland Avenue is encroaching onto the pavement. Clerk to contact occupiers.
- The crack in the pavement on the bend of North Moor Road is getting worse. Clerk to contact Via East Midlands
- It was agreed to purchase the plastic decking to repair the bench on the Pinfold. The cost of the 4 slats required is £90.00.

028/23

Planning Matters**New Planning Applications****Proposed Replacement of Pool Cover/Frame to Erect New Pool House with Pitched Roof**

Plumtree Cottage South Moor Road Walkeringham South Yorkshire DN10 4LB

Ref. No: 23/00133/HSE

Resolved: no objection and no further comments to make

Planning Decisions

None

029/23

Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda)

None

030/23

Councillors' reports and items for inclusion on the next agenda

Agenda Item: to consider requesting a new litter bin to be located on or near to Sidsaph Hill.

031/23

Date of the next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was agreed and confirmed as Wednesday 15 March 2023 to take place in Walkeringham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.41 pm

Signed

Date