

Meeting of Beckingham-Cum-Saundby Parish Council

Minutes of the **Meeting of Beckingham-Cum-Saundby Parish Council** held on the 11th Jan 2023 at the Recreation Room, Beckingham, the meeting commenced at 7pm.

Council Members Present & Officer Present:

Cllr Debbie Morris	Chairman
Cllr Tony Hailstone	Vice-Chair
Cllr Rosie Levick	Cllr Emma Day
Cllr Karl Phillips	Cllr Esther Coleman (from 61/22)
Ed Knox	Clerk/RFO
1 Members of the Public	
Tracey Taylor	County Cllr

Also, Present

01/23 To Approve Apologies for Absence
None.

02/23 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed
None.

03/23 To Approve the previous meetings Minutes
After discussion, Cllr Day **Proposed**, Cllr Levick **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. Cllr Morris signed the minutes of the previous meetings as a true and accurate record.

04/23 To Receive a written application for the office of Parish councillor and to potentially Co-opt a candidate to fill an existing vacancy
After discussion, the chairman called for a vote, all in favour, **resolved** to co-opt Esther Coleman. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and will complete the 'registration of interests' online form on Bassetlaw District Council's website. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.

05/23 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

Dist Cllr Sangar: Did not attend due to another meeting and provided a report for the Council which included:
The District Council met on 8 December and agreed to:

- Create a 20-year vision for the District to tie in with the STEP project. It will aim to attract inward investment, attract people to come and work for the Council and to live in Bassetlaw, and promote the District's wider offering. Members and Officers will learn from the two District Councils closest to the Hinckley Point nuclear power to learn from them. The local Government Association (or equivalent organisation) will be asked to carry out a review of the Council's core functions to make sure it is set up for success
- Set up a Decarbonisation Advisory Group to work with the Council's climate change Officers to prioritise the green agenda
- Support the County Council's pilot project to install cable channels for households that wish to run an electric vehicle but do not have off-street parking
- Rule out any fracking on Council-owned assets, properties and/or land
- Address the anticipated shortfall in general and housing accounts by reviewing its office space to see if more can be rented out, its wider assets to see if they can generate further income and assets that could be sold
- Senior Officers and Members carry out 'field trips' to areas of the District
- Approach the Bassetlaw Twinning Association to work together to identify a suitable town in the Ukraine to be twinned with
- Mark White Ribbon Day (anti-violence to women and girls) and raise awareness of it.

Flooding Information:

- Living in an area that can be prone to flooding from surface water means there's a need to be prepared (Old Trent Road and Ravencroft Lane) Bassetlaw District Council has produced a leaflet outlining eight ways to be prepared, what to do during and after a flood and who does what during a flood. The leaflet is accompanied by a personal flood plan. These are available from the website (www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/flooding/flooding-in-bassetlaw)
- Heavy rain in November meant the sewage system could not cope and effluent arose in resident's gardens down Old Trent Road. This is a long-standing problem that Severn Trent is well aware of. The advice from BDC is always to report such incidents and send photos if possible. It is only by everyone reporting incidents that the problem rises up the authority's 'to do' list.

Keep Warm, Keep Well:

- The Met Office and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) issued a warning that all regions of England would experience Severe cold weather in early December. This warning is likely to be repeated over the winter. With low

temperatures and overnight frosts, the UKHSA encourages people to stay warm and look out for those most at risk from the effects of cold weather. For people struggling to afford heating bills gov.uk provides advice on national grants that are available to help keep you warm this winter. Advice includes:

- 1) If people cannot heat all the rooms in the house just heat the living room during the day and the bedroom just before going to sleep.
- 2) Wear several layers of thinner clothing rather than one thicker layer
- 3) Have plenty of hot food and drinks.

Sign Up for the Green Waste Service

- Subscriptions for the 2023 season of BDC's garden waste collections are now live, enabling Bassetlaw residents to sign up to receive fortnightly collections of their garden waste from 27 February 2023.
- A subscription to the service costs £34, that is £1.70 per collection and includes a 240-litre brown wheelie bin and fortnightly collections until 1 December 2023. This bin can be used for grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, leaves, small branches and twigs, dead plants, weeds and cut flowers. These materials are then recycled by being turned into compost, benefitting the environment.

In 2022 13 740 garden waste collection subscriptions were issued helping the Council to recycle 3 681 tonnes of garden waste.

Sign up or renew subscriptions before 31 January 2023. The quickest and easiest way to sign up or resubscribe is online if you have a computer at www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/garden-waste. Alternatively call 01909 534 524 to speak to the Council's Environment Services Team.

Bassetlaw Museum Wins an Award:

- Bassetlaw Museum and the volunteers who were part of the Wampanoag Perspective Project have been recognised by the British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust. The 2021 'Volunteers for Museum Learning' awards celebrate the work and achievements of museum volunteers across the UK and Bassetlaw Museum was winner in the East Midlands category for their unique cultural exchange that shared the Wampanoag Nation and Native American history and traditions and their links to the Mayflower Pilgrims.

County Cllr Taylor: Provided an update at the meeting:

- Advised who the point of contact is at Bassetlaw Council regards bottle bank emptying queries. The Primary School application window is about to close and recommended a final promotion of the awareness of this before the deadline. The County Council budget is about to be set and the County precept announced in February. Cllr Taylor asked for confirmation that all the yellow grit bins which had been reported in Dec 2020 for replacement have now been actioned by the County Council. Cllrs agreed to go double check. The Ravenscroft longstanding flooding issues have been investigated further by the County Council Drainage Team. The root cause has been identified as a utility service pipe which was installed at some point that causes a bottle neck/blockage on the drainage flow. The drainage team are currently investigating which utility companies' asset it is, so that this can be moved to alleviate the problems.

➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

No Comment.

06/23 Finance:

Monthly Bank Reconciliation/Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the Financial Information circulated by email before the meeting, Cllr XXX **Proposed**, Cllr XXX **Seconded** and the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record. Cllrs Morris signed the bank statement and bank reconciliation.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rec Room Caretaker	Home Bargains Cleaning Materials	£3.78
Rec Room Caretaker	Card Warehouse 2023 Diary	£1.49
GritBins.net Ltd	Sand & Grit Bins for Rear of Rec Room	£383.98
DJ Simmo	S.137 Christmas Fayre Sound System	£160.00
QGS Ltd	White Winter De-Icing Salt	£180.00
2Commune Ltd	Gov.UK Hosting to 26.3.2025, Domain Host, Support, Email, Licence	£702.00
WaterPlus Ltd	Rec Room Wastewater & Rainwater Drainage 2022/23	£125.00
Bassetlaw District Council	Rec Room Small Lotteries Licence Renewal 2022	£20.00
Village Lengthsman	Expenses Tradepoint Fence Paint & Gloves	£21.70
Post Office Ltd	Postage QEII Condolence Book to Archives	£6.95
J Troop	Grass Cutting Green – for Christmas Fayre	£100.00

Total Payments **£1,704.90**

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MCC Business Services Ltd	Monthly Shop Rent Nov, Dec, Jan	£600.00
Member of Public	Rec Room Hire	£27.00

Total Receipts **£627.00**

Bank Balance **£20,765.54#**

Direct Debits, and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, all **approved** unanimously. #£500
Bond Deposit is held until the end of the tenancy for the shop contents.

3. Approve 2022/23 Budget & Set a Precept:

After discussion of the budget and options Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the draft budget, statement, precept requirement for 2022/23 and the facts surrounding the precept to allow each member time to prepare for making a decision.

Bassetlaw District Council Concurrent Grant has reduced year on year to just £58. Explaining the reduction of the Concurrent Grant, Bassetlaw District Council wrote to each Parish Council to state that: *“we continue to reduce the concurrent grant; therefore, you need to factor in these reductions, you will see that Harworth & Bircotes Parish Council decided some years ago to substantially increase their precept and invest in their infrastructure for their local people.”*

NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) advise that Parish Councils should not set any arbitrary, random figure for their precepts, the law requires parish councils to set a precept that is a ‘balancing figure’ known in legislation as the ‘council tax requirement’. The precept should be set to be the amount of money required to ‘balance’ the accounts after deducting all ‘other expected regular annual income’ in our case this is all rental income from Parish Land and Property:

Other Income	Income Amount	Precept Saving per home @ Band D	Precept Saving per home @ Band A
Bassetlaw Concurrent Grant	£58.00	£0.11	£0.07
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£1,059	£1.98	£1.32
Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant	£1,850	£3.46	£2.31
Land Rent	£800	£1.50	£1.00
Wayleaves	£35	£0.07	£0.04
Bassetlaw District Council Cemetery Grant	£132	£0.25	£0.16
Cemetery Income	£2,500	£4.68	£3.12
Rec Room Income	£1,100	£2.06	£1.11
Shop Rent	£2,400	£4.49	£2.99
Total	£9,934	£18.60	£12.12

The Clerk emailed guidance from NALC this year’s precept and budget settings, which included the following advice: *“In recent national and regional County Officer meetings there has been discussion about setting precepts; several County Officers have been alarmed to hear comments from Members such as ‘we can’t increase the precept because of the ‘cost of living crisis’. If your council has an “average” council tax rate then a 10% inflationary increase in your council’s precept would only cost a Band D household 50p a month more. This is regardless of the size of your parish, i.e., such an increase doesn’t impact smaller parishes more, contrary to popular opinion. The same applies if your council chooses NOT to apply an inflationary increase to your precept, i.e., reducing your council’s spending power to “save parishioners money” will not have a meaningful effect on the costs facing households but will limit your abilities as a local council.*

It is worth remembering that the average total Band D bill only accounts for just under 4% of that overall bill, compared to the County Council for example, which accounts for 74% of the same bill. we hope these few words will help councils to justify any increases and to remove any guilt councillors may feel about those increases.”

Inflation CPI for the previous 12 months approximately 11%. In addition to the usual running costs, after taking into consideration the self-generated income, a small precept rise is required to cover the balance of regular recurring expenditure, including inflation. However, the Council is pleased to say that a small rise of just 1.4%, which is 9.6% below inflation is all which is required.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Morris **Proposed** a vote, five members in favour for Option A, 1 in favour for Option B 6% rise, **resolved to 1)** approve the budget option A, 1.5% rise **2)** to set precept of £43,960 = to Band D at £82.24 per year (£6.85 per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

However, it is worth noting that for 2 consecutive years, the actual monetary amount of the precept charged per home, is going down. The 2021/22 Band D amount was £85.75 per year (£7.14 per month) the 2022/23 Band D

amount was £84.62 per year (£7.05 per month). The increased tax base figure due to additional homes in the parish has meant that the 1.4% rise has shown as a reduction at Band D by £2.38, with the 2023/24 Band D at £82.24 per year (£6.85 per month).

It is also worth noting that the parishes have approximately 700+ properties, 411 are in bands A to C, which will pay less than the Band D figure. Homes with only 1 adult occupant, are entitled to receive a further 25% reduction on the above figures, with additional reductions for residents in receipt of certain benefits. Details are found by contacting Bassetlaw Council regards Council Tax reduction.

In comparison with other parishes in Bassetlaw, this is still a modest precept, for example, at Band D, last year in 2020/21 West Stockwith electorate 265, precept was £131.89 a year, Torworth electorate 208, was £151.92, they are smaller than Beckingham & Saundby with an electorate of 1110. Misterton which has an electorate of 1770 was £128.50.

07/23 To Discuss the Double Decker Pub Bus at the Green

Following the success of the Christmas Fayre, the bus owner has offered the possibility to the Parish Council that the pub bus comes once a month to the Green. After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Levick **Seconded** and the council **resolved** that the pub bus comes to the Green once a month from April (on an initial 3-month trial to see if it is a success) so that local people can enjoy the festivities of the mobile pub. The Clerk will also look into the possibility of a premises licence for the Rec Room.

08/23 To Discuss the Coronation

To build on the success of the Christmas Fayre, the Council has included £2000 in this year's budget for a Coronation event. Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Coleman **Seconded** and the council **resolved** that a working group of at least 3 Cllrs will form to get together and plan the finer arrangements for the festivities, to take place on Sunday 7th May.

09/23 To Discuss the idea of holding potential film nights in the Rec Room and installing WiFi

After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Levick **Seconded** and the council **resolved** that 1) the Clerk arranges for WiFi to be installed at the Rec Room. 2) The Council members will arrange and promote a film night at the Rec Room as soon as the Council has been able to obtain a premises licence which will include the permission to show films, play music and serve/consume alcohol on the premises by the users.

10/23 To Discuss CIL Expenditure

Bassetlaw Council have finally advised the Parish Council that the 1st payment of £12,248.17 is claimable by the parish council. This has to be used on onetime purchases of assets/items or local community facilities/buildings (excluding church property/land). £3,000 has already been promised to the Bowls Club for their new building project and will be paid to them as soon as the PC receives the payment from Bassetlaw. The Council discussed ideas for the remaining £9,248.17. After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Phillips **Seconded** and the council **resolved** that the following initial budgets be set 1) £1,598 (1st instalment part payment) is spent on the replacement sculpture to replace the former owl on the Green. 2) £250 - HM QEII's portrait is exchanged in the Rec Room for one of HM KCIII's portrait once the official one is available later this year. 3) £3000 is used to install Festoon Lighting around the Green. 4) £2,400 Replace the wooden noticeboard at the cemetery with a larger more robust Malcolm Lane ES Ltd style double noticeboard. 4) £2000 - Plantation Shutters for Rec Room.

The PC is expecting further tranches of CIL money in 2024/25 which additional items can be purchased such as the possibility of Village Gateways on the main routes into and out of Beckingham & Saundby.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:20pm.