

Meeting of Beckingham-Cum-Saundby Parish Council

Minutes of the **Meeting of Beckingham-Cum-Saundby Parish Council** held on the 10th Jan 2024 Recreation Room, The Green, Beckingham, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Council Members Present & Officer Present:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Debbie Morris | Chairman |
| Cllr Tony Hailstone | Vice-chair |
| Cllr Julie James | (from 05/24) |
| Cllr Karl Phillips | |
| Cllr Esther Coleman | |

Also, Present

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Ed Knox | Clerk/RFO |
| 3 | Members of the Public |
| Tracey Taylor | County Cllr |

01/24 To Note an update from the Christmas Event and Cemetery Regulations Update

The Clerk advised that in response to the updated regulations and covering letters sent to 150 burial rights owners/next-of-kin, a couple of people responded to update the contact details following the death or move of a burial rights owner, 1 member of the public who's relative had lots of items in the 6ft in front of the headstone was upset verbally abusive towards a Cllr when they received the notification. However, all the others contacted were either accepting of it or gave no opinion. Two people wrote back to thank the parish council for the changes and the condition of the cemetery. Another member of the public has requested that the Parish Council adjusts the timeframe to leave Christmas Wreath tributes to the 31st Jan. After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the Council resolved to change the date to 31st Jan.

Cllr Morris, advised an update on the success of the Christmas Event, 600+ people attended and the total net cost of the event was well below budget at approximately £1,900. The remaining selection boxes from Santa's Grotto were donated to local children in care.

02/24 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllr Dalton.

03/24 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

04/24 To Approve the previous meetings Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. Cllr Morris signed the minutes of the previous meetings as a true and accurate record.

05/24 To Receive an 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 Julie James. 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.

06/24 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:

- **KEEP THE VILLAGE TIDY: NO FLY-POSTING!**

Fly-posting is unlawful. Any sign, placard, notice, leaflet, banner, or anything similar that can be seen from the highway or any public place may (with certain exceptions) be classed as fly-posting. Bassetlaw District Council is updating its fly-posting procedure and items may be removed by Council officers or the Highways Authority. A fixed penalty notice may be issued or the fly-poster may be liable to prosecution.

The District Council is also looking at devolving some responsibilities for removing fly-posting to parish and town councils.

The District Council's fly-posting procedure is based on legislation and has been developed to support its commitment to creating decent and clean neighbourhoods and to take enforcement action against anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. Fly-posting is illegal: it is not only unsightly, but also gives an impression of neglect and can attract other forms of vandalism and anti-social behaviour leading to the decline of an area. Fly-posting creates litter, which spoils the environment; it is a form of illegal advertising that puts those who advertise legally at an unfair disadvantage. Finally, it can obscure important traffic signs or create an obstruction to pedestrians and/or motorists. A business or organisation may advertise on its own premises providing there is nothing to distract drivers.

- **PEER REVIEW**

Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) has recently been visited by members of the Local Government Association as part of a peer review. This was requested by the Leader of the Council, Cllr James Naish, to evaluate the Council's preparedness for expected major developments, including STEP, part of an East Midlands investment zone, and successful Levelling Up bids.

A new Head of Growth & Economic Prosperity has recently been appointed and has a key strategic role to play. One of the key early findings of the Peer Review is that the Council is lacking the capacity (people) and the capability (strategic skills) to deliver on the programme ahead. On capacity, there is a short-term option to dial back the actions for 2023-27 in response to these challenges but the Council needs to put a number of foundational things in place to deliver for the medium to long term (eg STEP, the Investment Zone, and supply chains). For rural communities especially, the Council needs to keep going and not pull back or the housing, transport, education, healthcare, environmental, and spatial impacts will be overlooked by the Council's partners.

The other short-term option to deal with capacity issues is to dial back the operational work. Again, the Council is committed: the Levelling Up money comes with delivery dates of 2025 (UKSPF, Rural England Prosperity Fund, Levelling Up Fund Round 2, and Levelling Up Partnerships). This means the Council needs to deliver around £40m of spend in the next 15-18 months. There is a small but genuine risk of losing unspent monies or a new Government re-prioritising spend where projects aren't 'moving'.

The Peer Review report will be produced shortly.

- **EXPERT ENERGY ADVICE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

Businesses in Bassetlaw can get an expert energy audit and guidance on how to reduce their carbon footprint, become more sustainable, and reduce their long-term costs through a new Council run project.

Bassetlaw District Council is working with Mitie Plan Zero to carry out energy audits, which will provide businesses with a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for their places of work, along with the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £5000 to support any future costs of implementing energy-efficiency and carbon-reduction measures.

The project expects to support more than 50 micro, and small and medium businesses across the District, and is being delivered as part of the Council's £3.3m allocation from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. To learn more or apply for Mitie Plan Zero to carry out an energy audit of your business, visit www.bassetlaw.gov.uk and search for UKSPF.

- **COUNCIL LAUNCHES SEVERE WEATHER SCHEME**

Bassetlaw District Council has launched its Severe Weather Emergency Provision, making accommodation available so that no-one has to sleep rough on the streets during the winter months. Working in partnership with HOPE Community Services, the cold-weather accommodation runs until 31 March 2024. People, who homeless or sleeping rough, can contact the Council's Housing Needs Team so that a referral can be made and an assessment of their needs and circumstances carried out.

The Council aims to provide a full package of support from a range of agencies so the winter provision is not a quick fix, drop-in system, but a plan to support people in changing their lifestyle and move away from rough sleeping permanently.

If concerned that somebody is homeless or rough sleeping, then get in touch via one of the following ways:

Housing Needs Team – 01909 533533 (out of hours service – 0800 590 542)

use Streetlink – www.streetlink.org.uk

contact the Notts Street Outreach Team – 0800 066 5356.

- **COUNCIL'S 2ND ROUND OF POLLING DISTRICTS REVIEW**

Bassetlaw District Council is carrying out consultation on proposals on the location of polling stations as the second part of a compulsory review of all polling districts and polling places within the Council's administrative boundaries. Following an initial 6-week consultation that ran from 29 September to 10 November, the (Acting) Returning Officer has now published their proposals and electors can comment on these between 24 November and 22 December.

A full list of comments made by participants in the consultation has also been published. There were no adverse comments about the polling stations in Misterton and West Stockwith.

Consultation can be accessed online (www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/polling-review) with paper copies available in the Council Offices in Worksop and Retford or by contacting the Electoral Service Team by e-mail (elections@bassetlaw.gov.uk) or on 01909 533 252.

- **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR RETFORD AND WORKSOP MARKETS**

Proposals to invest more than £400,000 in Retford's market are being put forward by Bassetlaw District Council as it seeks to modernise its approach, broaden its appeal, and protect the future of the town's historic market.

Traditionally held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the markets have been part of Retford's heritage since King Henry III granted its first charter in 1246. The Council is now taking action in order to safeguard this legacy and ensure that the market retains this tradition, and is financially viable for many years to come.

The Council is now asking the public, market traders, local businesses, and local stakeholders for their views on two proposals that could create a semi-permanent market, and provide additional trading opportunities in the historic Buttermarket, located in Retford Town Hall. Consultation ends on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

The Council's proposals are:

- Proposal 1 - To install bespoke, semi-permanent, multi-purpose market stalls on the Market Square in Retford Town Centre
- Proposal 2 - Repurpose the Buttermarket to provide an additional indoor trading space.

To have a say on the proposals, complete the online consultation (www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/retford-market-consultation).

For Worksop market, the District Council proposes to create a new dedicated indoor market area at the Priory Centre as part of a £20m town centre investment. To have a say on the proposals, complete the consultation by visiting: www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/worksop-market-consultation. Consultation ends on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

- **COUNCILLORS SUPPORT WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN**

Members of Bassetlaw District Council pledged their support for the White Ribbon campaign at the Council meeting last week (Thursday 7 December) – a promise to never use, excuse, or remain silent about men's violence against women. Pictured are leaders of the Council's three political groups: Cllrs Lewis Stanniland, Hazel Brand, and James Naish.

Each year, White Ribbon Day takes place on 25 November ahead of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. The Campaign encourages people, especially men and boys, to take action to end violence against women and girls. The charity also seeks to achieve gender equality by challenging harmful attitudes behaviours and systems – the root cause of this type of gender-based violence.

You can find out more about the White Ribbon Campaign by visiting www.whiteribbon.org.uk."

County Cllr Taylor: Gave an update to the PC which included:

- The D2N2 mayoral election are in May.
- Writing to Parliament regards evidence from the recent flooding and the idea for another road crossing the Trent nr Gainsborough.
- County Council budget setting taking place in February.
- Thanks for the Parish Council for their donation of the selection boxes to children in care.
- £300 available from 2023/24 County Cllrs grant budget, the Council agreed it would like to take the opportunity of these funds towards a summer event on The Green.
- Discussion was held regards promotion of the Flood & Snow Warden County Council schemes.

➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

- The Flood & Snow Warden schemes were mentioned which can be both Parish Cllrs and/or members of the public, the Council agreed to look into the following information and promote it locally, starting with approaching the families who were flooded recently.

- **SNOW WARDENS**

From: Newark Reception <newark.reception@viaem.co.uk>

I am reaching out to see if there is anyone in your district that would be willing to volunteer as a snow warden during adverse weather conditions. The season runs from October through to April. The responsibilities are as follows:

Contact the Customer Service Centre (0300 5008080), advise that you are a snow warden and inform them of the Parish that you cover. Then provide the following information:

Are the roads 'white over'? YES / NO

State the depth of settled snow (in mm)?

Is it still snowing? YES / NO (Heavy or light?)

Is traffic moving? YES / NO

Are vehicles leaving black wheel tracks? YES / NO

Snow wardens will update the information as conditions change (Minimum frequency 2 hours).

If there is anyone that is interested in volunteering, if you could please provide me with their contact details (name, contact number, contact address - preferably email, but home address is ok, the parish and district) and I shall contact them directly about what is expected.

I look forward to hearing from you. newark.reception@viaem.co.uk

Hannah Barrowcliff

Business Support

Business Services and Transformation

- **FLOOD WARDENS –**

I am sending the e-mail below on behalf of Mark Clements, Emergency Planning Officer, Bassetlaw District Council.

Contact details:

E – mark.clements@bassetlaw.gov.uk

M – 07977 688508

Nottinghamshire County Council have forwarded this information which may be of interest to your Parish Council.

As part of our Flood Resilience work, we are once again starting a programme of regular training for Flood Wardens across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The Flood Warden schemes are community led, usually falling under Parish council insurance, and provide a good opportunity for those at risk of flooding from rivers and main watercourses to get involved in their local area. The Environment Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council provide initial training, PPE and advice on setting up the scheme, as well as ongoing refresher training and networking opportunities with Flood Wardens across the County.

Volunteer Flood Wardens will help raise awareness of flood risk in their local communities and provide a valuable link between local residents and those responding to a flooding incident in their area. Local communities know their area best, and the information volunteers provide can be invaluable to emergency services and responders during a flood event.

Flood Wardens can help in a variety of ways, including:

- Ensuring members of the community have received flood warnings, understand what they mean and where to obtain further information
- Keeping Environment Agency Flood Warning Duty Officers informed during an incident
- Working as a community to prepare for a flood event and identify vulnerable people within the community who may need extra help
- Reporting blocked drains, ditches, etc to the relevant authority (NCC etc via Mynotts App/website)
- Potentially Developing a Community Flood Plan

The Environment Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council are running flood warden training events, and are looking for new volunteers who wish to establish schemes in their area, or join an existing scheme.

If you are interested in registering, or would like further information, please email:

floodresilience.eastmidlands@environment-agency.gov.uk or Emergency.planning@nottscc.gov.uk

The information has been shared with existing wardens, but we would appreciate your help in getting the message out further. Please can you share the above information with any community links you have. Kind regards, Kayleigh Mosley (Nottinghamshire County Council) and Chris Jones (Environment Agency).

A member of the public gave an update on the speedwatch group, 10 sessions held since Oct, 561 vehicles checked, 25 were over 35mph and the Police informed. Another member of the public asked in the Millenium feature could have some of the concrete removed from it and be used as a flower planter. Another member of the public asked if the Lengthsman can move the bin in Saundby to the other side of the road and fit a closing spring on the gate on the spinney.

07/24 To Receive Village Hall & Institute Reports

Cllr Dalton is a trustee at both community buildings and provided an update to the Parish Council by email which included: "Village Hall meeting is also on Wednesday 10th which I won't be able to attend and institute meeting has just been moved from 9th to 16th so nothing to report from either".

08/24 To Note a Planning Response by the Scheme of Delegation

Since the previous meeting the parish council responded via the scheme of delegation as follows and also discussed the following at today's meeting:

- **23/01324/HSE Church Croft 6 Church Street Replacement of Lean-to Sunroom with Lean-to Extension** – The Parish Council responded as follows - "The proposals are an improvement to the existing structure therefore the Council **supports** this application."
- **23/01479/LBA & 23/01478/HSE Listed Building Consent for Part Re-Roof, New Glazed Canopy, Relocation and Removal of some Internal Partition, New Internal Door Opening, Remodel of Utility/WC/Kitchen, Removal of Cupboard on Landing and Formation of Bathroom in Former Bedroom Station House Station Road Beckingham, General Refurbishment of Dwelling and Proposed Detached Garage** – "The Parish Council responded as follows – "This is a lovely period property that is falling to rack and ruin. The Council is delighted that it is being renovated to modern day standards and sympathetically to its former glory, it will enhance the surrounding area and street scene. Therefore, the Council **supports** this application."

- 23/01436/FUL | Mixed-Use Development of 15 No. Dwellings (C3 Use Class), 3Retail Units Food Retail (Unit 3 Class E (a), Units 2 and 3 (Class E (a) (b)(c) (e) (f)) and a Primary Care Centre** – The Parish Council responded as follows
*“The Council resolved to object to the planning application for the following reasons:
The original application was for 16 dwellings for the entire land area under 18/01491/RSB Granted 09.08.2019 were for 9 developer-built homes and further plots for self builds meaning 16 new properties. There was then a subsequent application 22/01019/RES Granted 07.02.2023 reducing the 16 properties to 15 developer-built properties. Now the application is to develop the plot in a dramatically different way; the latest application for this site is opposed by the Parish Council.*

In the Guide to Sustainable Housing Layout and Design, Supplementary Planning Document it clearly states 3.11.13 The relationship between buildings in terms of their proximity should also be designed to avoid buildings that would be unduly imposing or appear overbearing to neighbouring occupiers. And goes on to state: “Avoid relationships between buildings that result in excessive dominance or overshadowing of habitable spaces” As this is proposed development is presented, the residents of The Croft, Willow Lane and the houses opposite on Low Street will feel completely dominated by the size and nature of this development.

The Parish Council maintains that this development is more reflective of an urban development because of the density of the overall plot and is out of keeping with the street scene within the village of Beckingham. The proposal of 3 food retail units which may be occupied by takeaway food and drink outlets, such retailers often have high neon lit signs to advertise their presence and products. The ‘footfall’ for these types of businesses will be largely generated by passing trade from the dual carriageway.

The dual carriageway was built in the 1970’s specifically to bypass the village and remove the volume of HGV traffic and other road users from driving through the village. Statistically the number of car owners, plus the number of houses in the village since that time have arguably generated as much traffic as it was originally designed to eliminate.

There is a genuine fear that the development of retail units and a primary care centre on the edge of a busy dual carriageway whilst encouraging a massive increase in traffic will also raise the risk of crime through theft, vandalism and motoring offences. There are little or no visible police presence in Beckingham and a significant number of residents feel extremely vulnerable. There is also an alternative consideration, that if the units are built but left unoccupied, not only will they be subject to vandalism but they will also quickly become unkempt and an eyesore. Either way, the area will attract vermin from general detritus.

There is a great concern regarding the capacity of the Severn Trent drainage capabilities to handle the sewage. There have already been complaints and concerns raised by residents of nearby new development, Deerlands Way. Several dwellings have been subject to flooding, water ingress and malodorous smells of raw sewage. There is no evidence to show that the existing issues have been resolved, and would presumably only worsen with further excessive development in the surrounding area. The site will add to the sewerage system: we have deep concerns regarding the sewerage system in this village.

There will be an alarming increase in additional traffic movement. In the first instance by the construction traffic and ultimately by the number of new residents living at the proposed development. This does not include the fact that the users of the food retail outlets will be driving in and out of the village to use the facilities. There already growing fears of the number of vehicles driving through the village, often at speed; overdevelopment of this site can only severely aggravate the existing situation. There is a very busy ‘T’ Junction a short distance away onto Station Road. This services the Extensive Deerlands Estate as well as leading to a single-track road that goes to a light industrial estate which has a high volume of HGV vehicles and workers vehicles generating substantial traffic on a daily basis. The access for residents of Willow Lane and The Croft will become increasingly dangerous both as drivers and pedestrians The new access to the site may be dangerous and could be daunting for some pedestrians.

The majority of pedestrians would be pensioners and mothers with children - either walking to the Post Office, or to the school.

The demand for C3 class use dwellings is already provided by the Deerlands development and some of the dwellings on the new Lapwing development

There is already a strain on the amenities available in the village and surrounding areas. The schools are up to or approaching capacity. There is limited provision of public transport. There are no public houses. The GP practices are under tremendous pressure; it already takes up to 3 weeks to get a non-urgent Drs appointment. This is aggravated by a national shortage of doctors and medical professionals – The Parish Council are sceptical that buy simply building a Primary Care Centre that it will be adequately manned but will simply dilute the nearby provision if medics in Neighbouring Gringley and Misterton. The situation with NHS dental practices also mirrors this

The Parish Council and a great number of residents have great concerns regarding this proposal and believe it has a number of health and safety issues, particularly regarding traffic movements

There is a view that this is an application of stealth, by establishing this proposed development, it will enable the developer to continue to build more and more dwellings in a rural village that is in danger of becoming a sprawling urban mass will not be served by local amenities/facilities

The Parish Council object to the application on the grounds detailed above, and would like the development to stick to the previously agreed plans granted under 22/01019/RES.”

09/24 **Finance:**

Monthly Bank Reconciliation/Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the Financial Information circulated by email before the meeting, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record. The Chairman 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> |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Post Office Ltd | 2 nd Class Stamps for Cemetery Letters | £45.00 |
| Cllr Morris | Christmas Event Table Coverings - Boyes Ltd | £54.00 |
| Cllr Phillips | Christmas Event Santa Costume – ILFD Group Ltd | £59.99 |
| Cllr Hailstone | Christmas Event Morrisons Food & Tablecloths | £84.90 |
| DJ Simmo | Christmas Event – DJ Entertainment | £200 |
| Mudfords Ltd | Christmas Event – Marquee, Tables, Chairs etc Hire | £1,692 |
| The Owl Pub | Christmas Event – Singer | £120 |
| Cllr Morris | Christmas Event – Santa Sacks & Cleaning materials | £27.73 |
| RBLI | Poppy Wreath | £20.00 |
| Amazon EU Sarl | Rec Room Defib Prep Kit | £16.80 |
| J.Troop | Grass Cuts Green/Spinney Jun to Dec | £1,430 |
| Turtle Window Cleaning | Rec Room Window Cleaning Sep to Dec | £21.00 |
| Cresco Ltd | Replacement Lengthsman Salt Spreader Gears | £29.35 |
| Tradepoint | Replacement Rec Room Downpipe | £29.91 |
| Toparia Env Ltd | Annual Cemetery Hedge Cutting | £714 |
| Total Payments | | <u>£4,544.68</u> |

2. **Receipts:**

| <u>From</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| MCC Business Services Ltd | Monthly Shop Rent Dec, Jan | £400 |
| Creative Writing | Rec Room Hire | £98 |
| History Group | Rec Room Hire | £18 |
| Total Receipts | | <u>£516</u> |
| Bank Balance | | <u>£12,699.88#</u> |

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. **To Approve 2024/25 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 2024/25 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 | £1.95 | £1.30 |
| Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant | £1,850 | £3.40 | £2.27 |
| Land Rent | £800 | £1.47 | £0.98 |

| | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Wayleaves | £35 | £0.06 | £0.04 |
| Bassetlaw District Council Cemetery Grant | £132 | £0.24 | £0.16 |
| Cemetery Income | £2,500 | £4.60 | £3.07 |
| Rec Room Income | £1,938 | £3.57 | £2.38 |
| Shop Rent | £2,938 | £5.41 | £3.60 |
| Total | £10,372 | £19.09 | £12.72 |

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 7%. 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 7.3% on a par with inflation.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Morris **Proposed** a vote, all members in favour for Option A, **resolved to 1)** approve the budget option A, **2)** to set precept of **£47,168** = to Band D at **£86.80** per year (**£7.23** per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

It is worth noting that for 3 consecutive years, the actual monetary amount of the precept charged per home, has decreased:

- 2021/22 Band D amount was £85.75 per year (£7.14 per month)
- 2022/23 Band D amount was £84.62 per year (£7.05 per month)
- 2023/24 Band D amount was £82.24 per year (£6.85 per month).

The increased tax base figure due to additional homes in the parish has meant that the 7.3% rise has shown at Band D £88.25, for 2024/25 Band D (£7.35 per month), **therefore only 9p per month rise above what it was 4 years previous.**

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 West Stockwith electorate 265, precept was £131.55 a year, Torworth electorate 208, was £168.75, they are smaller than Beckingham & Saundby with an electorate of 1110. Misterton which has an electorate of 1770 was £134.89.

4. To Note Rec Room, Hire for The Owl Pub & Book Club:

The Owl Pub has now been established and the Book Club has regular attendees. After discussion, Cllr Morris Proposed, Cllr Hailstone Seconded and the Council resolved that both groups now pay for hire of the hall, £7ph from 1st of April 2024.

10/24 To discuss Cemetery Gates

At the previous meeting the Cllrs talked informally regarding the condition of the gates. After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Phillips **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** to accept the £24,496.33 CIL money now available from Bassetlaw DC and allocate up to £500 of this for Cllr Hailstone to arrange the replacement with metal gates.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item the council voted to close the following item to members of the public due so that the Council can discuss Staffing Information which is relating to an individual for example Contracts of employment, salaries, financial or personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

11/24 To Discuss a Confidential Staffing Matter

After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the proposals in the confidential appendix.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Signed_____

Date_____