

Annual Meeting of Beckingham-Cum-Saundby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Beckingham-Cum-Saundby Parish Council held on the 15th May 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 Karl Phillips	Cllr Mick Dalton
Cllr Esther Coleman	
Ed Knox	Clerk/RFO
1	Members of the Public
Tracey Taylor	County Cllr

Also, Present

➤ 10 Minute Public Forum

A member of the public asked what the quorum number of the Council is and was advised it was 4.

22/24 To Elect a Chairman of the Council

Cllr Hailstone **Proposed**, Cllr Coleman **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** that Cllr Morris be elected Chairman of the Council. Cllr Morris together with the Proper Officer, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman form.

23/24 To Elect a Vice-Chair of the Council

Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Coleman **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** that Cllr Hailstone be elected Vice-Chair of the Council.

24/24 To Approve Apologies for Absence

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

25/24 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, 4 in favour, resolved to co-opt Mick Turner. The candidate will the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and will complete the 'registration of interests' online form on Bassetlaw District Council's website in due course. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.

26/24 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

27/24 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.

28/24 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:

- **RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIRST-EVER MAYOR:**

- *The first-ever election for a mayor for the East Midlands will take place on Thursday 2 May, and a campaign has been launched today to encourage people in Bassetlaw to vote. Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire, and Nottingham have opened the door to a massive investment in transport, skills, housing, and the environment after securing a deal for a new combined authority – the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). EMCCA has been formed by Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, and Nottingham City Council, and will be led by a mayor, similar to areas like the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, and South Yorkshire. The mayor will have new powers and resources to begin a long-term process of growing the region's economy by investing in skills that lead to better jobs, transport that works better across the region, housing where it's needed, and an economy equipped to deal with net zero. Its small team will have specific responsibilities – housing, skills, transport, and the environment – and the transfer of powers means it will be doing work previously carried out by Government. It will collaborate with councils and will not duplicate what they do or provide services that are best delivered locally. For more information about the campaign, visit www.voteeastmidlandsmayor.co.uk*

- **£3MILLION UPGRADE TO BASSETLAW TOWN CENTRES:**

- *Retford, Tuxford, and Worksop town centres are getting an equal share of £3m to smarten up their high streets and strengthen communities. The funding will help upgrade shop facades, accessibility, and start-up costs for new businesses as well as helping to reduce crime or improve community spaces. The streetscape funding is part of £20m allocated to Bassetlaw as part of the Governments Levelling Up Partnership, which aims to improve where people live, create employment opportunities, and boost community facilities. Independent businesses in each town can apply for a share of £500k to be spent on works, including replacing shop windows, doors, guttering, or signage, or improving internal and external accessibility to premises. The remaining £500k for each town will be spent on civic spaces, signage, reducing crime, and improving security.*
- **ELECTORAL REVIEW: UPDATE** As
 - *The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is reviewing the size of the Council and the size of wards. It has agreed that the Council remain at 48 councillors so a cross-party working group (of which I am a member) is developing warding proposals based on 48 Members and the electorate forecast at 2030 (97,023). The number of councillors put forward must add up to 48 and best comply with the three statutory criteria that govern electoral reviews, all of which carry equal weight. These are:

 - *to deliver electoral equality for voters, which means ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of electors*
 - *to provide boundaries that reflect natural communities, which means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable*
 - *the need to secure effective and convenient local government, which means ensuring that the new wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.*
 These are known as the statutory criteria. As the LGBCE takes decisions on the most appropriate electoral arrangements, it will seek to achieve a balance between these criteria. There is also subsidiary criteria:

 - *to use whole parishes as building blocks, wherever possible.*
 Final recommendations by LGBCE will be published in February 2025. Any changes will come into effect for the local government elections expected in May 2027.*
- **WARM HOMES UPGRADE GRANTS** As
 - *Bassetlaw District Council is urging residents to apply for free upgrades to help make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat through £2.1m of Government-funded Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2) for the coming year. Homeowners, who are not on mains gas and are on low incomes, may be eligible for energy efficiency improvements, which could include wall and loft insulation, solar PV panels, and air source heat pumps. Work on up to 20 projects in the district are due to get underway in the coming months with the HUG2 scheme, aiming to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions from residents' homes. The scheme is running until the end of March 2025 with funding available on a first-come-first-served basis.*
 - *Bassetlaw District Council is working with Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) to administer the scheme. For more information or to apply, please contact Nottingham Energy Partnership on 0115 947 2207 or visit <https://www.nottenergy.com/projects/homeupgradegrant>.*
- **COUNCIL UPGRADES ITS INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRES**
 - *Bassetlaw District Council is modernising its Independent Living Centres. Swallow Court in Misterton and Conway Gardens in Retford will be upgraded over the next two years. The District Council is celebrating national recognition for its modernisation work, improving the overall experience for residents. The Council was winner of the 'Neighbourhood Transformation' category at the AICO Community Awards, held recently in Birmingham. The Council, in partnership with main contractors Fortems and Make Consultants, transformed Larwood House in Worksop, with improvement works at Westmorland House in Harworth and Bircotes, near completion. The Independent Living Centres are a collection of self-contained apartments and flats that specifically cater for older residents, who wish to live in a community setting. Bright, modern, and welcoming apartments have been created at Larwood House in Worksop, with updated communal areas, and energy efficient measures such as solar panels and air-source heat pumps.*
- **ELECTORAL REVIEW: UPDATE**
 - *The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is reviewing the size of the Council and the size of wards. It has agreed that the Council remain at 48 councillors so a cross-party working group has been developing warding proposals based on 48 members and the electorate forecast at 2030 (97,023). The number of councillors put forward must add up to 48 and best comply with the three statutory criteria that govern electoral reviews, all of which carry equal weight.*

Proposals were debated at an Extraordinary Council meeting (Thursday 25 April) and the Council's recommendations sent to the LGBCE. The only proposed change to the Misterton Ward is that the outlying area of Walkeringham (Newell's Terrace, Bramley Way, and Pippin Close) will be part of the Misterton Ward for the purposes of District Council elections. These houses will not 'leave' Walkeringham Parish— Beckingham Ward (Beckingham and Walkeringham) as it stands is above the LGBCE's recommended ratio of electors to councillors because of the amount of house-building in recent years. It remains to be seen if the LGBCE accepts this proposal.

The next phase of the LGBCE's consultation will be on its draft ward proposals between 30 July and 7 October. Final recommendations by LGBCE will be published in February 2025. Any changes will come into effect for the local government elections expected in May 2027.

County Cllr Taylor:

- County Council Budget has been set
- 1st regional Mayor has been elected
- Highways Programme for 2024/25 has been agreed
- Cllr Taylor has liaised with the various departments at County over the overgrown grass at the roundabout which has now been cut this week.
- Cllr Taylor will arrange for the County Council to edge up the pavement along the village by-pass from Walkeringham Roundabout towards where the fruit & veg stall is located.
- Ravenscroft flooding – utility pipes have been raised and the County Council are liaising next with Severn Trent.
- Cllr Morris agreed to talk to local residents, particularly those around the Ravenscroft area to see if any are willing to become Flood & Snow Wardens, if they are, it may be possible for them to be allocated potential signage and coordinate redirection of busses when the High St floods.

29/24 To Receive Village Hall & Institute Reports

Cllr Dalton is a trustee at both community buildings. Cllr Dalton advised that a new Chairman was appointed at the Institute AGM and the ownership is going through the process of being changed via solicitors. The village hall AGM is taking place later this month.

30/24 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:

- No new applications since the previous meeting. However, Cllr Morris, together with another local resident and the District Cllr, all spoke at the District Council planning meeting in objection to the new traveller site at Strawberry Fields, however, Bassetlaw Planning dept ignored them and the 150+ objections, and approved the plans.

31/24 To Approve Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 Annual Return) for Year Ending 2023/24

The Clerk reported the findings of the internal auditor, the Council members had already reviewed the documentation by email, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Dalton **Seconded** and the Council **approved** the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk and the Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement.

32/24 To Approve Accounting Statements (Section 2 Annual Return) for Year Ending 2023/24

The Clerk circulated by email prior to the meeting the Annual Return Section 2 Accounting Statements. Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the Council **approved** the Accounts and the Clerk and the Chairman signed the Accounting Statements. **Action**, the Clerk will submit the Annual Return to the External Auditor along with any required supporting documents and upload copies to the webpage.

33/24 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>
NALC	Annual Membership	£307.66
Five Villages 1 st Responders	Annual Defib Maintenance	£250
J.Turtle Window Cleaning	Rec Room Window Cleaning Jan to Mar	£36
T.W Miller	Rec Room Door Joinery Work	£240
Sunrise Plants Ltd	CIL - Tree for The Green	£60

Cllr Morris	CIL – Planters & Compost for The Green-Cherry Ln & Chanson Flowers	£57.50
Cllr Morris	CIL – National Trust Barrell x 3 for Green	£38.97
Cllr Hailstone	CIL – Cemetery Fencing Replacement – Lofthouse Everton Ltd	£500
Cllr Coleman	CIL - Cherry Lane & B&Q – Plants for Sculpture Tubs on Green	£67.48
MKM	CIL – Moonstone Gravel for the Millenium Sculpture	£153.64
David Brabham Electrical Ltd	Millenium Sculpture Lighting Repairs	£180
Cllr Morris	Millenium Sculpture Gravel B&Q	£6.97
MCC Business Services Ltd	Electric Used on The Green by Parish Council 2023/24	£63.63
Institute of Cemetery Mgt	Annual Subscription	£100
Rec Room Cleaner	Tesco Cleaning Materials	£12.43
NALC	Cllr Hailstone Training Course	£45
Cuput Plant Hire Ltd	Cemetery Spoil Heap Clearance	£240
Clear Councils	Insurance Renewal	£912.65
Continental Landscapes Ltd	Cemetery Grass Cutting Mar & Apr	£396
M.Cree	Internal Audit	£100
Trent Valley Drainage Board	Drainage Rates Parish Council Land	£7.90
Member of Public	Orchard Nurseries – Plants on the Green	£24
Total Payments		£3,083.83

2. To Note Income:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MCC Business Services Ltd	Monthly Shop Rent Apr, May	£489.70
Member of Public	Quarterly Rent Paddocks Old Trent Rd	£200
Unity Bank	Interest	£280.89
Bassetlaw District Council	1 st ½ Precept	£23,584
Bassetlaw District Council	1 st ½ Concurrent Grant	£31
Bassetlaw District Council	1 st ½ Street Cleaning Grant	£565
Bassetlaw District Council	1 st ½ Cemetery Grant	£70.50
Bassetlaw District Council	Rec Room Hire – Polling Day	£400
Member of Public	Rec Room Hire – Party	£27
Member of Public	Rec Room Hire – Party	£40.50
History Group	Rec Room Hire	£28
Gardening Club	Rec Room Hire	£42
Creative Writing	Rec Room Hire	£98
Whist Club	Rec Room Hire	£98
The Owl & The Curry Club	Rec Room Hire	£120
Total Receipts		£25,894.59
<u>Bank Balance</u>		<u>£49,299.01#</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.

CIL Money Balance - £24,500 less £2,500 ring fenced for Cemetery Gates & Fencing, £22,000 less £338.62 for Planter on The Green = £21,661.38. After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Hailstone **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to move £21,000 of the CIL money into the deposit account so that it accrues interest whilst the PC decides how to use it.

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 the lease Information which is relating a contract and the personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

34/24 To Discuss a new lease term for the shop

The Council previously agreed to offer a lease on the same terms but for a longer period of 5 years, with a break clause in year 3. The Clerk has emailed the tenants several times but hasn't received a clear response to their intentions. After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Phillips **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to post a hard copy of the lease for signing to the tenants stating that they must sign and return it to the Clerk by 15th July, if no response is received, the Council will assume the silence means they wish to give 6 months' notice.

35/24 To Discuss a temporary cleaner for the Rec Room

After discussion, Cllr Morris **Proposed**, Cllr Phillips **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to appoint the village Lengthsman to the position of temporary cleaner for 10hrs per month to cover the 6th July to 6th September.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:10pm. The next PC meeting will be put back to Weds 24th July due to unavailability of several Council members.

Signed _____

Date _____