**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE NEW HALL ON TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.00PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: D. Kirkham, S. Young, D. Cartwright, A. Claypole, G Scott, G Budgen, J Linsley; P Holland, C Lukey.

Mrs. A Harrison - Clerk

In Attendance:2 members of the public

Public Discussion Period

Johnny Reay from Superfast South Yorkshire attended to advise members of current plans regarding superfast broadband availability in Bawtry. 98% of South Yorkshire would be covered by the end of 2018. Bawtry to be covered fully by the end of 2017. Residents would still have to sign up to a service provider as with current broadband services. More information was available at superfastsouthyorkshire.co.uk

The Chair apologised for the extent of the exclusion of the public at the last meeting, although this had been necessary to undertake relevant business. Additional time was therefore allowed.

An update was provided to the public regarding the timeframes for the new website.

Issues with overgrown hedges and verges were noted and would continue to be reported by BTC.

**16/17/145** Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence

A West (away). R. Dickenson (personal commitment), A Cropley (other commitment), S Womack (away)

**16/17/146** Receive Declarations of Interest (other than standing interests**).**

None

**16/17/147** Agree Confidential Items

None

**16/17/148** Approve Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of the 13th September

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a true & accurate record.

**16/17/149** Members agreed that Item 10 - Policing would be brought forward

**16/17/150** Community Policing

Historically the Police had attended some Council meetings and provided monthly crime statistics. As attendances had lapsed the Council wished for improved liaison with the provision of regular information on crime levels. Recent concerns had been raised in the press regarding the level of serious incidents in Bawtry.

Inspector Payling advised that a new local policing model was implemented 18 months ago which included community engagement meetings but not attendance at parish council meetings, although this had not been particularly successful.

It was noted that there were 157 crimes for Bawtry recorded from April -October 2016. Main incidents of concern were burglary and burglary other (non-domestic home) and vehicle thefts.

Financial cuts and lack of resources meant that there were no longer dedicated officers for specific areas and officers were allocated based on demand. Requested attendance at the January meeting 2017.

**16/17/151** Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Noted that BDC would be contacted regarding consultation over the Harworth development plans.

**16/17/152** Ward Member /DMBC Officers Report

Apologies had been provided by Cllr Blake but any matters raised should be reported to her. The litter pick event on the 16th October was highlighted.

**16/17/153** Financial Matters

1. Approve Monthly Accounts

**RESOLVED** that the monthly accounts be approved (schedule attached)

1. Approve Bank Reconciliation

**Resolved**: That the bank reconciliation to 31st August be approved.

1. Budget monitoring to August

The budget monitoring schedule was received. Items of over expenditure were noted (in particular the maintenance and repairs at Market Hill and the sports field) with the need for new specifications to be drafted for contractual maintenance.

1. Conclusion of Audit

Members noted the conclusion of audit & report from the external auditor.

1. Staff pensions

Discussed auto-enrolment pension options – LGPS, “Nest” or other qualifying schemes were available. Employer contributions under “Nest” or other schemes (excluding LGPS) would be the same having been set by government. Set up fees (around £1200 individually) were discussed together with the possibility of shared fees through the use of a common broker, ProAktive. Details of costs and the proposed pension provider would be given to members at the November meeting with a view to a provider being agreed.

**16/17/154** Market Hill

1. Taxi Rank update – Noted there was still no reply from DMBC but this would be followed up.
2. Consider trial for a change/reduction to car park operating hours.

Considered the costs to the Council if a trial went ahead.

It was noted that the purpose of the trial was to inform BTC of the costs and had come about in light of public demand.

Average three monthly gross income was £48,500 with around £24,250 being received by BTC. Based on a 38% reduction in charging hours – the loss would be in the region of £18,000. This would fall into Excel’s “Band 4” during the trial. Yearly this could cost £67-85k if such a banding continued to apply.

**Resolved:** Total takings for evening trade, Sundays & Bank Holidays would be sought from Excel before a decision could be made. The previous agreement by Excel to absorb their costs during the trial would be raised as this was not reflected in recent correspondence.

1. Footpath liability

The Clerk advised this had been referred to The Byrne Practice for

advice but this was still awaited

1. Boxing Day hunt - Members agreed to allow the hunt at Market Hill subject to suitable insurance cover being provided forthwith.

**16/17/155** Recreational Issues

a) MSF – approve annual BARS grant for 2017

**Resolved:** That the BARS grant be approved for 2017 in the sum of £8500 but the payment date to be discussed with BARS.

As a stakeholder BTC to seek project plans, estimated commencement date, car parking and health & safety plans together with copies of project management reports during construction. Traffic cones would be provided for the junior football clubs use.

b) MSF- consider extension of existing fencing- Members agreed that further fencing would not be supported at this time as it was unlikely that it would provide adequate additional security.

c) Allotments – consider funding fencing. Members had no recollection of this being raised previously and asked that the Clerk ascertain the purpose of the fencing.

**16/17/156** Highways

Dog fouling problems were noted with any areas of concern to be passed to Rachael Blake for enforcement to monitor. Wharf Street play park and Galley Hills footpath (at the rear of the Kingswood estate) were noted to be a particular problem.

**16/17/157** Christmas Arrangements

**Resolved:** That the Christmas event would proceed on the 20th November.

Members additionally agreed to accept the offer by BRA to supply and light a tree at Market Hill.

It was noted that Christmas Plus lit the real tree each year but details of the contractor would be provided to the Crown Hotel

**16/17/158** Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Holland provided members with an update which included a summary of the recent public meeting. A further meeting would be held on the 19th October at the Crown Hotel. A tentative draft plan would be drawn up by January.

**16/17/159** Parking Provision Working Group- Update

It had been ascertained that 150 parking places were needed in Bawtry – 110 spaces were currently available at Market Hill but if this was to be reduced, then further alternative parking would be required with limited options being available.

On making initial investigations with the Heritage Fund this did not seem suitable for the type of project envisaged. An alternative funding source would be looked at by the group however. The availability of a Public Works Board loan was also noted.

Resolved: Printing of a leaflet for inclusion with Bawtry Today would be funded.

**16/17/160** BTC Initiative to Improve Image of Bawtry

There was a budget allocated for improved grass cutting and verges but this was now likely to be deferred.

However budgets had also been earmarked for additional litter provision

and flower beds/hanging baskets.

Volunteers were sought from the Council to pursue these initiatives. Cllr Cartright to look into current bin locations and Cllr Claypole to review potential flower beds.

The Clerk to ascertain any bins currently been emptied by staff.

**16/17/161** War Memorial Working Group

The working group had now considered the relocation of the war memorial and possible grant funding. The memorial was listed and would need the permission of the adjacent landowner if it was to be relocated onto his property. Possible locations had been considered with costs still to be ascertained.

**16/17/162** Community Forum Report

It was reported that existing groups wanted to remain distinct. However improved liaison between the groups was sought. Further information to be brought to the next meeting.

**16/17/163** Boundary Signs- Update re: sponsorship

Three expressions of interest received to date. Further details would be provided to those who had applied, Clarification would be sought regarding the content of the recent leaflet.

**16/17/164** Website- Update

It was noted that the draft website could now be viewed by members. The clerk advised of problems with the domain name with no response being received from the domain hosting provider to date. An alternative domain name would have to be considered as a last resort.

**16/17/165** Council Representatives- Public Rights of Way Representative (PROW)

This would be reviewed at the next annual meeting.

**16/17/166** Financial Regulations on Contracts

Members considered NALC’s draft financial regulation on contracts.

It was agreed the Clerk would have authority to incur expenditure up to £1000. Three quotes would be required for items up to £7000 with a tendering process to be followed above this limit. Compliance with the 2015 Regulations for contract tenders over £25,000 was also noted.

**16/17/167** Planning

1. Applications- None received

1. Planning determinations – noted including the DMBC planning meeting to decide the Station Road development. It was noted that access changes had been made but some elements remained three storey. The Council’s position remained the same with concerns over access including proximity to the school, inadequate parking provision and the height of the building being out of keeping.

**16/17/168** Report on Meetings

DSA Airport- Matters raised at the recent meeting included a reduction in the amount of training flights, although this seemed unlikely to happen. The committee was concerned that complaints statistics were being inflated by multiple complaints by one individual. A “vexatious complaints procedure” was therefore being considered.

Members agreed to forward correspondence in reply to these plans.

**16/17/169** To Receive any Additional Correspondence

NALC consultation regarding referendum principles.

Members supported referendum principles for larger authorities with the Clerk to draft a reply for members to consider.

**16/17/170** Items for Future Agenda and Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on the 9th November at 7pm

The meeting ended at 10.10pm

**Chair: ……………………………………………. Dated…………………………………………**

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| YLCA | Training fees | 1034 | 45.00 |
| Staff (Various) | Sept Salaries (inc holiday cover) | 1035/6/8/9 | 2356.02 |
| A Harrison | Quarterly allowance | 1037 | 150.00 |
| Npower | Electricity -Mkt hill | DD | 58.00 |
| HMRC | Tax & NI - Sept | 1040 | 603.19 |
| Today Publications | Newsletter | DD | 114.00 |
| BDO | External Audit Fee | 1041 | 480.00 |
| Christmas Plus | Annual light repairs | 1042 | 180.00 |
| Need a Hand Ltd | Repairs damage pavilion MSF | 1043 | 175.00 |
| North Notts Landscapes Ltd | Grass cutting contract | 1044 | 1143.00 |
| DMBC | Toilets- rates ladies | 1045 | 472.99 |
| DMBC | Toilets – rates gents | 1046 | 175.35 |
| Gillies Landscapes | Maintenance- grass and hedges | 1047 | 250.00 |
| Bawry Cricket club | Grass cutting MSF | 1048 | 1050.00 |
| Bawtry retail association | Reimburse carousel deposit | 1049 | 280.00 |
| Bawtry News | Annual advertising | 1050 | 30.00 |
| Leonard Tomlinson | Garage hire | 1051 | 315.00 |
| The New Hall | Room hire (after credit due) | 1052 | 45.00 |
| Marshalls Garage | Handyman Diesel | 1053 | 6.00 |