**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE NEW HALL ON 8th JANUARY 2024 FROM 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Claypole, J. Linsley, G. Scott, D. Gale, J. Gale, S. Young, D. Cartwright,

P Holland, I. Greer, D. Kirkham, K Killeen, A. Cropley.

Mrs. A Harrison – Town Clerk

**In Attendance:** 8 members of the public.

Cllr Claypole advised of the recent passing of former councillor George Spencer recognising his work on the Council and expressing condolences to his family.

**23/24/166** Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence

D. Kirby (reason provided to members)

**Resolved:** That the reason for absence be approved.

**23/24/167** Receive Declarations of Interest (other than standing interests)

Cllr S Young – Item 11 BARS. Non – pecuniary as chairman of the charity

**23/24/168** Agree Confidential Items

Item 11 – BARS Report, Councillor Young to provide his report in open session with only any sensitive matters deferred until the end of the meeting.

**23/24/****169** Approval of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting –11th December 2023

 **Resolved:** That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

**23/24/170** Matters arising from the Minutes

23/24/155 New Hall – Clerk still to investigate a hearing loop.

**23/24/171** 15 Minute Public Discussion Period.

* MSG – Licensing raised and letter of grievance including proposals for the future running of the charity and a request for the Councils views on the future running of the charity.
* Resident raised an issue about recent hedge works allegedly requested by Bawtry Council. (The Clerk reported that the town council had not requested the works).
* Cemetery signage noted to be contradictory.(Clerk to look into)

**23/24/172** Financial Matters

1. Approve Monthly Accounts.

**Resolved:** That the monthly accounts be approved to January 2024.

b) Bank Reconciliations –30th November 2023

**Resolved:** That the bank reconciliations be received.

c) Budget Monitoring –30th November 2023

 Resolved: That the budget monitoring schedule be received.

**23/24/173** Ward Member /CDC Officer Report

Rachael Blake had provided her apologies and noted that the other local ward councillors also had alternative commitments and could not attend.

**23/24/174** Market Hill.

No matters other than those dealt with under Item 14 Town Centre Strategy Working Group.

**23/24/175** Recreation lssues

 (a) War Memorial Land Transfer Update

 The Clerk provided an update and advised that CDC had indicated that they were now in a position to proceed and the Clerk had therefore re-instructed Irwin Mitchell to complete the transfer and register the change in ownership in due course.

**23/24/176** BARS/MSF Report

Noted a report was being given but any hard copy would be marked confidential and was not provided for public disclosure at this point in time.

 A brief history of the operation of the facility was provided. Noted the recent change in responsibility for the Wharf Street play park with the Town Council now dealing with this following advice taken from the Charity Commission.

 The Charity had applied for incorporation and the trustees were to meet with the Charity Commission at the end of January to discuss this.

 The current trustees now wanted to step back from the running of the charity/MSG.

 The Charity had potential trustees express an interest in coming onto the charity. The current trustees were hoping to set up an interim board, possibly with town councillors who could review potential trustees to decide who had a range of suitable skills to take the Charity forward. (The Clerk asked for the trustees to seek advice from the Charity Commission regarding how to achieve the above taking into account the current possible quorate issues and it was agreed this would be discussed to ensure any decisions were lawful).

 The Clerk sought up to date financial information to enable the Council to assess any potential shortfall in funding in the next financial year before the Council budget meeting in January.

 Noted current leak in the bar area that needed repairing. The pitches were also waterlogged due to recent weather.

 (Meeting suspended for 5 minutes for members to invite comments from the sports club representatives in attendance).

**23/24/177** Highways

Noted reply from Severn Trent re: flooding at Peakes Croft with pluvial water being the alleged issue and therefore referred back to CDC.

**23/24/****178** New Hall

Reportregarding recent late night event with such events to be considered at the next meeting.

**23/24/179** Town Centre Strategy Working Group

* It was reported that members of thegroup had met with the architect and discussed the issues raised by residents and CDC (particularly the reduction in parking), The private sector had advised that they would look to take on the task of looking for/providing additional parking. A further revised plan to be received in due course.
* An initial costs estimate had been received with a breakdown now being sought. The work would have to be phased in 2-3 stages. It was not likely that work could commence on site for at least 6-9 months (to allow for procurement). However, any structural surface works could be undertaken in the interim if required.
* A meeting with MER, the successful EVCI company, had been arranged. The contractual arrangements were to be finalised, the connection location with NPG to be confirmed and the precise car park location for the chargers were now suggested to be at the Scot Lane end. Lead time to install the units 6-8 months therefore these should be installed in the autumn.

**23/24/180** Events Working Group

No matters raised.

**23/24/181** Consider Grant Application- Taekwondo Group.

 Clerk to seek further clarity regarding the status of the organisation.

**23/24/182** Planning Issues.

a) Planning Applications

None received.

b) Planning Determinations

None

**23/24/183** Report on Meetings & Representatives

No reports received.

**23/24/184** To receive any Additional Correspondence - None

 **23/24/185** Items for Future Agenda & Next Meeting

 22nd January 2024 (finance). Julie Gale & Doug Cartwright gave apologies.

New Hall - Evening events.

 War Memorial land transfer update

 BARS

**23/24/186**  Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960

 That in light of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public be excluded.

 **23/24/187** BARS –Report

* Some additional matters were reported regarding the history of the management model and current reserve levels were discussed and sources of income.
* Current small number of regular users noted (excluding sports clubs).
* Members stressed the importance of the future use of the bar and food availability going forward and sought clarity about ground maintenance arrangements for the current season.
* It was agreed by S Young, as chair of BARS, that Cllrs D Gale and A Claypole would be invited to attend the forthcoming BARS meeting with the Charity Commission to discuss any quorate issues and the governance document to be provided to the Clerk so any relevant procedures could be reviewed.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.15pm

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