

Birstall Parish Council  
Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Monday, 13 January 2025.

Present: R Vincent (Chair), P Barnsby, N Chavda, T Fowler, L Halliwell, K Haywood, J Locke, D McNeil, J Palmer, R Payne, C Talbot, R Thornton, C Vincent and C Winnick.

In attendance: Mrs S Coulson (Clerk), Mrs W Cotter-Jacobs (Deputy Clerk) and three members of the public.

**PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Members of the public may ask questions, make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda:**

The Chair summarised County Cllr D Grimley's report which had been circulated to all Councillors.

A resident spoke relating to agenda item 20.

A resident referred to flooding issues at Watermead Country Park and requested that County Cllr D Grimley looked into this.

11934 **1 - APOLOGIES:**

a) To receive, consider, and accept Councillors' apologies for absence:

Cllr J Cassidy (personal reasons)  
Cllr A Khayer (work commitment)  
Cllr A Scott (personal reasons)  
Cllr M Scott (personal reasons)

**RESOLVED:** That the apologies be received and accepted.

11935 **2 - DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS:** For information, disclosable pecuniary interests and registrable interests relate to entries that are included, or should be included, on a Councillors' register of interest. Non-registrable interests relate to any other matters.

Dispensations had been tabled that required signing by some Councillors to enable them to participate and vote on agenda item 7(b).

The Chair informed Councillors that he had a personal interest in agenda item 8 and would ask the Vice Chair to take his place for that item.

a) To receive a request for Councillors to review their Register of Members Interests Forms:

The Chair reminded Councillors that there was a requirement to keep their Register of Members Interests Forms up to date and urged them to check their forms on Charnwood Borough Council's website.

11936 **3 - MINUTES:**

a) To confirm as an accurate record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2024:

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2024 be signed as an accurate record.

11937 **4 - COMMUNITY POLICING:**

a) To receive the Local Beat Newsletter:

No newsletter was received, and no officer attended the meeting.

11938 **5 – COUNCILLOR AGENDA ITEM REQUEST – CO-OPTION:**

a) To receive a request from a Councillor to be co-opted onto the Management & Policy Committee:

The Chair informed Councillors that the application couldn't be discussed. He reminded Councillors that elected Chairs and Vice Chairs constituted the membership of this Committee in line with their terms of reference, he also referred to the Co-option Policy and that any vacancy should be open to all Councillors.

11939 **6 - FINANCE & ACCOUNTS:**

a) To receive, approve and authorise invoiced expenditure of £81,262.17 net for November 2024:

**RESOLVED:** To approve and authorise the invoiced expenditure for November 2024.

11940 **7 – PRECEPT:**

a) To receive a revised report based on new Council Tax Base (CTB) figures received:

b) To receive a revised spreadsheet with CTB figures and percentage suggestions for the Precept 2025/2026:

The Clerk had produced the revised spreadsheet which had been included in Councillors agenda packs prior to the meeting.

The Chair explained that Charnwood Borough Council had notified the Clerk of a small increase to the Council Tax Base (CTB) figure of 22.2 households in band D which enabled the Parish Council to demand a higher precept figure without passing on any increase to the residents.

The Chair reminded Councillors that at the meeting in December 2024 they had agreed in principle to a 5% increase and that the Councils reserve policy requires the retention of 6 months operational costs of the Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) equating to £201,275.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council confirms its budgets for the 2025/2026 financial year showing estimated expenditure payments of £634,794, and estimated own generated income of £105,017, resulting in a net cost to Birstall Parish Council of £529,777. and for a precept demand be submitted to Charnwood Borough Council for £529,777. An increase of 5% from the previous financial year for band D households equating to approximately £114.58, an increase of £5.46 per annum, 10p per week. The precept to be paid to the Parish Council in two equal instalments of £264,888.50 by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The Chair asked for the vote to be recorded in the minutes of 12 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

11941 The Vice Chair was invited to progress agenda item 8

11942 **8 – GRANT AID APPLICATIONS:**

a) St James the Great Birstall – contribution towards heating costs of the Welcome Space Project - £1,500:

**RESOLVED:** To approve the application and authorise the expenditure of £1,500.

11943 The Chair was reinstated and progressed the agenda.

11944 **9 – GOVERNANCE REVIEW:**

a) To receive further information regarding the proposal from Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd:

The Chair informed Councillors that this item should be dealt with by the Management & Policy Committee for them to discuss and decide and refer it back to Council.

11945 **10 – LRALC RECOMMENDATION:**

a) To consider and respond to the Government's consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - [Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England](#) Closing date 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**RESOLVED:** for individual responses to be provided rather than a collective response from the Council.

11946 **11 – MUGA PROJECT:** To receive updates:

The Clerk reported that planning permission had been granted and that a pre-start site meeting had been arranged for 14 January 2025, she added that a drawdown of the funding will commence in stages from the UKSPF fund held by Charnwood Borough Council and the project is to be completed by 31 March 2025.

11947 **12 – YOUTH PROVISION:** To receive updates:

Cllr R Thornton informed the Council that he had emailed several stakeholders which did not include the educational establishments. He enquired if the Clerk had received any responses.

The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any responses.

The Chair informed the Council of an event to be held in March 2025 by St James the Great Church and that he would email the Clerk with the date.

Cllr C Winnick agreed to draft a press release in collaboration with Cllr R Thornton.

11948 **13 – AGE UK – BATHING SERVICE REPORT:** To receive an updated report:

The report had been circulated to all Councillors.

11949 7:55pm – Cllr L Halliwell offered her excuses and left the meeting.

11950 **14 – RESOLUTION ACTION LIST:** To receive a revised publicly accessible report:

A review of the action list was held.

11951 **15 – COMPLAINTS REGISTER:** To receive the Council's Complaint Register:

i) 115 – Complaint about dogwalkers in the Cemetery:

A redacted copy of the complaint was distributed to all Councillors.

**RESOLVED:** for signage to be installed in the Cemetery requesting dog walkers to be respectful to the area and keep their dogs on short leads and not allow their dogs to roam over the grave spaces.

11952 **16 – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

012/24 – Resident questioning what has happened to the village shops:

013/24 – Form PT635 – Notice of Application for definitive Map Modification Order Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Definitive Map and Statement for the County of Leicestershire – footpaths in the area of Worcester Avenue, Meadow Lane and Watermead Country Park, Birstall:

014/24 – Resident's communication of thanks to the Clerk for her professional and personable assistance.

015/24 – Police & Crime Commissioner – Resignation of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

**RESOLVED:** for the Chair to draft a response to 012/24 and forward it to the Clerk to be put on letterheaded paper and signed.

11953 **17 – WARD COMMUNICATIONS:** To receive Parish Councillors reports relative to Parish Council business.

Cllr C Winnick reported an email he had received relating to speeding traffic on Birstall Road.

**RESOLVED:** for Cllr C Winnick to put forward an agenda item to discuss speeding on Birstall Road and for the Clerk to provide Cllr C Winnick with the Police and Crime Commissioners email address.

11954 **18 - CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Chair read a thank you card from a recipient of the Christmas Hamper.

11955 **19 – EXEMPT INFORMATION:** *To consider excluding the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2) and the Local Government Act 1972 s.100(2) **by resolution** for the following agenda items due to the confidential/sensitive nature of the business to be transacted – **Legal Matters.***

**RESOLVED:** To move the meeting into closed session.

11956 **20 – LEGAL MATTERS:**

a) to receive information from LCC Solicitor and Planning Inspectorate:

**RESOLVED:** To uphold the decision to withdraw the objection.

11957 **21 – RETURN TO AGENDA:**

a) To return to the business on the agenda by resolution:

**RESOLVED:** To return to the business on the agenda.

11958 **22 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 10 February 2025 at 7:00pm

11959 The meeting closed at 9:05pm.

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Chairman

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Date