

Meeting of Treswell with Cottam Parish Council

Minutes of **Treswell with Cottam Parish Council Meeting** held on the 18th Jan 2023 at Treswell Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Council Members & Officer Present:

Cllr Nicola Salter
Cllr Alan Mockridge
Cllr Helen Cope
Ed Knox

Chairman
Cllr Dean Bowden

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Also, Present

District Councillor
One
Two

Ant Coultate
Member of the Public
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Members

➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

Members of the public expressed frustration at vehicles constantly parked on the pavement outside The Bungalow, Cottam Rd, and the Old Red Lion Care Home on Town St. In both cases the pavement is blocked to an extent that all pedestrians cannot pass without going onto the road. The Council will arrange to write to each properties to ask they don't block the pavement anymore and request that vehicles are parked elsewhere.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group advised that the outcome of the Bassetlaw Local Plan with the Inspectorate will determine whether or not further amendments are required to the Neighbourhood Plan. The outcome is due on the Local Plan in February so the matter of the Neighbourhood Plan can be discussed at the March parish council meeting.

01/22 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Salter **Proposed**, Cllr Bowden **Seconded** and the Council unanimously **resolved** to **accept** the apologies of Cllrs Bendall, Tomlinson, Fox & L Mockridge.

02/23 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Salter **Proposed**, Cllr Mockridge **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

03/23 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

04/23 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

County Cllr Ogle: Did not attend.

Dist Cllr Coultate: provided an update to the Council, which included:

- Bassetlaw Police Setting Meeting – none held at Retford Town Hall for over 9 months, it is expected the meeting will start again next week. Cllr Coultate encouraged a parish council representative to attend the meetings once the date/agenda is known.
- EDF Cottam Community Forum – the purpose of the forum is for members of the community, together with representatives from parish councils in Bassetlaw and West Lindsey develop a plan by 2025 of what the local population would like to see how the site is developed. The next meeting is on 20th Feb at 6:30pm. Cllr Coultate encouraged a parish council representative to attend the meetings.

05/23 To receive an update on Highways Matters Raised with Notts County Council/Bassetlaw District Council and to escalate a list of outstanding items with Notts County Council via the County Cllr where necessary

In the 1st instance, cllrs and members of the public should report all new highways matters (street lights, overgrown hedges/trees, pavement/road problems/drainage etc) on the on-line Notts County Council website or MyNotts App, themselves, then, should no action have been taken NCC, bring it to the Parish Council meeting for escalation. The following outstanding Notts County Council items have been chased by the Clerk in between meetings, and Cllr Ogle copied in to escalate issues where necessary:

County Council Item	Issue/Detail	Potential Solution	Progress Made
Treswell Cocking Lane What3Words spouting.dunes.houseboat Ref CSC437477503	2 Give-Way Signs – The signs have been damaged in early 2022. A 2-vehicle collision happened at this location in October, car upturned on its roof still no	County Council to repair/replace or reinstate the signs as necessary	Clerk reported these to the County Council on 18.07.2022 and are currently awaiting repair. Clerk Chased Highways Manager 1/11/2022 No response, Clerk to chase again. 23/12/2022, Clerk Chased Highways Manager No response, Clerk to chase again.

	action to repair by County Council.		12/01/2023 – Highways Manager advised ‘. I can confirm the repairs/replacement signage at both locations will be completed next week.’ 18/01/2023 signs reinstated but the one on the left as you leave Treswell is still leaning and the chevron on the bend is still hanging wonky, Clerk to inform Highways Manager.
Between Treswell & Cottam Junction Rampton Road/Cottam Rd/Green Lane Ref CSC462413086	Damaged Collapsed Warning Signs - 2 vehicles in recent months have come off the road where the signs are not in place.	County Council to repair/replace or reinstate the signs as necessary	These were reported in April 2022 and the system still shows as ‘awaiting repair’. Clerk reported it again on the 1/11/2022 and chased the Highways Manager for an update. No Response. 23/12/2022, Clerk Chased Highways Manager No response, Clerk to chase again. 12/01/2023 – Highways Manager advised ‘. I can confirm the repairs/replacement signage at both locations will be completed next week.’ 18/01/2023 Work completed, but the chevron is still missing and the signs are at appoint towards the road. Clerk to inform Highways Manager.

New Items to escalate:

None.

06/23 To Discuss Newsletter Distribution

Cllr Cope discussed the newsletter distribution with the Council, if it is to continue, help is required regards distribution. After discussion, Cllr Cope **Proposed**, Cllr Salter **Seconded** and the council **resolved** that Cllr Cope will email the Clerk a map of the two villages, marked into delivery sections so this can be sent to all PC members, asking members to pick a section to divide the parishes up. It is estimated that if all members each have a section, this will reduce the delivery time to less than 30 mins per person.

07/23 To Discuss the Operation/Maintenance of the Interactive Speed Sign

Cllr Cope advised she has received the interactive speed-sign. It is battery operated and comes with 2 batteries, once affixed to a lamppost, a Cllr needs to volunteer to swap over the battery every 2 to 3 weeks and recharge and continue this process. After discussion, Cllr Tomlinson has indicated by email he would be interested in operating it. Cllr Salter **Proposed**, Cllr Cope **Seconded** and the council **resolved** that Cllr Tomlinson be the Cllr designated to look after the speed-sign.

08/23 Finance:

Monthly Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the Financial Information circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record. Cllr Salter 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>
TWM Traffic Control Systems	Interactive Speed Sign	£2,846.98
Treswell Village Hall	Room Hire N-Plan Meetings 3 rd Feb, 31 st Mar and 8 th Sep	£48.00
Treswell Village Hall	Room Hire Parish Council Meetings 2022-23	£193.75
Village Lengthsman	Lengthsman Services Nov	£168.00
Village Lengthsman	Lengthsman Services Dec	£192.00
X2Connect Ltd	Phone Box Parts & Paints	£397.19
Total Payments		<u>£3,845.92</u>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None.		£0
Total Receipts		<u>£0</u>

Bank Balance

The Current Account Balance **£12,714**

Direct Debits, and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE, already **approved** unanimously.

3. To Approve 2023/24 Budget & Set a Precept

The Council discussed the draft budget and in making the decision tonight, the Council members have studied the national average Band D precept amounts for Parish Councils, guidance from NALC, the individual Bassetlaw local parish council amounts and the data regards the precept at the Treswell & Cottam for the past 20 years (which has stagnated around the £18 to £20 for the best part of 10 years). The annual Concurrent grant from Bassetlaw Council in the same period has reduced from £294 to £11. The Council saw how inflation has eroded the spending power of the precept, year on year by 2 or 3%, however 2022 has seen an 11% erosion by inflation.

In the past 20 years Bassetlaw have reduced the Concurrent Grant. Explaining the reduction of the Concurrent Grant, Bassetlaw District Council advised each Parish Council 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:

Other Income	Income Amount	Precept Saving per home @ Band D	Precept Saving per home @ Band A
Bassetlaw Concurrent Grant	£11	£0.08	£0.06
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£274	£2.08	£1.39
Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant	£1850	£14.07	£9.38
Total	£2,135	£16.23	£10.83

Before 2022 the Council didn't receive either the Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant or Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant, our new Clerk has been successful in obtaining these annual grants for the Council, therefore already saving a Band D home £16.23 a year and a Band A £10.83.

Unfortunately, the basic running costs of the Council has meant running at a loss of £1,667 from reserves in 2022. However, the Clerk has registered the Council with the HMRC to reclaim VAT over the past 4 years and received a grant for the new Interactive Speed Sign. Had there been no VAT recovered or grant success for the speed sign, the operating loss from reserves would have been £6115. The Council must set a precept which balance the books and doesn't run at a loss indefinitely.

The national average for a parish council precept for a band D home is £74. A large proportion of parishes across all of Bassetlaw have a precept of over £10,000 with many in the £10 to £25k range.

With Inflation for the previous 12 months was almost 11%, in addition to the usual running costs, after taking into consideration the self-generated income, a precept rise is required to cover the balance of regular recurring expenditure, including inflation, a rise is necessary. The Council has taken the opportunity to join the Notts County Council Lengthsman Scheme which allows for the Lengthsman to undertake various tasks around the parishes, improving the appearance of the five villages for the benefit of our community he is in the process of refurbishing the red phone box for a community book exchange. The Council has committed to a producing and distributing a quarterly newsletter and will operate a mobile speed-sign to encourage speeding reduction.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Salter **Proposed**, Cllr Cope **Seconded** and Cllr Salter called for a vote, all members in favour, **resolved to 1)** approve the budget as discussed, including confidential staffing element. **2)** to set precept of £8930 = to Band D at £67.91 per year (£5.66 per month), which is still below the National Average.

Action, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

Last year the Band D amount was £38.18 per year (£3.18 per month), therefore the 78% rise on the Council Tax Statements is deceptive because in monetary terms it is only a rise at Band D of £29.73 a year £2.48 a month. It is also worth noting that 79 homes in bands A to C, 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 less than parishes with a similar population locally, for example, at Band D, last year in 2021/22 the following parish council's which have a similar electorate of between 200 and 300 had the following Band D precepts, Torworth £163.77, West Stockwith £133.10, Laneham £107.19, Norton Cuckney £92.29 and Hayton £73.56.

Lastly, it is worth noting that a fairly large rise was expected over a two-year period, as last year the Council was running at a deficit to reduce reserves and the only way to stop the deficit now that reserves are at their correct level, is to balance via the precept.

09/23 To discuss any new planning applications received and to pass a resolution to approve 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:

- **2/00259/ENF -Development Land at Cockling Lane Planning application submitted 14.07.2022 still awaiting determination** - 05.1.2023 the Planning Enforcement Team have been advised of the following *"someone appeared to be pulling up some of the remaining hedge today. Later the same day it was found that the existing length of the hedgerow had been completely cut down to virtual ground level with just the stumps of the hedge showing above the ground. All of the foliage had been cut off and thrown back against the fence. It would appear that the owner of the field is improving the access and exit visibility for the proposed usage of vehicles to the field."* 18.01.2023 The Enforcement Team have advised that nothing further can be publicly disclosed until their investigation and ruling has concluded.
- **23/00011/ENF -Land North East of Forewood Lane Treswell – Potential Alleged Breach – Traveller or caravan Site, Hardcore/Hard Standings and Associated Equipment.** The Parish Council has been advised that the Planning Enforcement Team are carrying out an investigation, there are no other publicly known details until the investigation is concluded.
- **23/00012/ENF - Land West of Bushstocks Lane Treswell - Potential Alleged Breach – Traveller or caravan Site, Hardcore/Hard Standings and Associated Equipment.** The Parish Council has been advised that the Planning Enforcement Team are carrying out an investigation, there are no other publicly known details until the investigation is concluded.
- **23/00016/ENF - What3Words Location – ///recur.pipes.grapes Land Including 12.91 And 5.5 Acres At Horse Pasture Lane Cottam –** A field shelter (not on skids) and containers have been installed on a field. The Parish Council will advise the Planning Enforcement Team to carry out an investigation, there are no other publicly known details until the investigation is concluded.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7:50pm.