

Meeting of Treswell with Cottam Parish Council

Minutes of **Treswell with Cottam Parish Council Meeting** held on the 17th Jan 2024 at Treswell Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Council Members & Officer Present: Cllr Nicola Salter
 Cllr Helen Cope
 Cllr Rob Hardie
 Cllr Fred Tomlinson
 Ed Knox

Also, Present No one else present.

Chairman
 Vice-Chair

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer



➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

None.

01/24 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Cope **Proposed**, Cllr Tomlinson **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllrs Bendall, Howard & J Hardie.

02/24 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

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

05/24 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.


06/24 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

County Cllr Ogle: Did not attend.
Dist Cllr Coultate: Did not attend.

07/24 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 Wood - Treswell Wood Icy Road	7 car pile-up on black ice near Treswell Wood	Speed Limit lowered; road added to gritting route & ice awareness signs	<p>27.03.2023 Reply from Highways Manager – <i>“The Ice warning signs shouldn’t be a problem. I’ve contacted the winter maintenance team and requested that this location be assessed for gritting. There has been zero reported accidents since 2019 along this road. (It can take up to 6 months for new additions such as the pile up to come through to us). Therefore, we wouldn’t look to reduce the speed limit at this location.”</i></p> <p>03.04.2023 Reply from Highways Manager – <i>‘I’ve spoken to the relevant manager regarding adding to the gritting route and unfortunately, he has stated it does not meet the criteria to be included in the gritting routes.</i></p> <p><i>‘I have added the Ice Warning signs to my list of schemes for the 24/25 period and will ensure they are done in Q1 (Apr-Jun) to be ready for the winter next year.’</i>16/05/2023 Chase sent to the Highways Manager regards the sign installation. 21/06/2023 update received <i>“the ice warning signs; I have put these in the programme and they will be installed in the 2024/25 financial year all being well.”</i></p>

<p>Ref CSC516892273 & CSC516908295 - blocked gullies and the state of Rectory Road in Treswell</p>		<p>28.07.2023 – Cllr Cope to County Cllr Ogle – “there is grass growing along the length of the road, from start to finish and there are too many potholes to photograph. The water is collecting in the same place that was flooded in May when I reported so it’s only a matter of time before it floods and becomes inaccessible and/or dangerous to road users. Incidentally it is a 60mph road.”</p>  <p>28.07.23 Cllr Ogle update – “I am told that there are blocked gullies on Rectory Road Treswell. Here we have the pictures of rectory road. The road is so bad Aidan, that I am going to include this as a “Councillor Request” (priority) for the coming year, but as always, the drainage would be best sorted and be working efficiently as a first step.”</p> <p>17.01.24 Cllr Hardie advised that potholes have been marked along the road. The Clerk agreed to chase the Highways Manager for an update on when these will be actioned, the central vegetation removed and blocked gullies actioned.</p>
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New Items to escalate:

- Cllr Cope advised that Bassetlaw Council will not remove the asbestos roofing sheets from the dyke in Cottam, Cllr Salter advised the dyke is within the Drainage Board’s area of jurisdiction and they should action its removal. Cllr Cope agreed to email the Drainage Board to ask for timescales on its removal.

08/24 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>
Amazon Eu Sarl	Defib Prep Kits x 3	£50.40
Total Payments		£50.40

2. Receipts:

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

Bank Balance

The Current Account Balance **£13,236.61**

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

3. To Approve 2024/25 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. 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 and 2023 of around 6-7%.

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	£12	£0.09	£0.06
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£292	£2.28	£1.52
Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant	£1850	£14.41	£9.61
Total	£2,154	£16.78	£11.19

The national average last year, for a parish council precept for a band D home is £85. 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 at around 6% to 7%, 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.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Cope **Proposed**, Cllr Salter **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 £10,598 = to Band D at £82.58 per year (£6.88 per month), which is still below the National Average. **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

The 2023/24 Band D amount was £67.91 per year (£5.66 per month), therefore the rise on the Council Tax in monetary terms it is only a rise at Band D of £1.08 a month and 72p per month at Band A

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 the following parish council's which have a similar electorate of between 200 and 300 had the following Band D precepts, Torworth £167.44, West Stockwith £139.09, Laneham £128.54 and Nether Langwith £105.94.

Lastly, it is worth noting that a fairly large rise was expected over the two-year period 2023/24 & 2024/25, as last 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, was to balance via the precept.

09/24 To discuss any new planning applications received and to note any responses via 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:

- **22/00259/ENF -Development Land at Cockling Lane Planning application submitted 14.07.2022 still awaiting determination – removal of hedge.** The Parish Council has been advised that the Planning Enforcement Team are carrying out an investigation, a new enforcement officer has been assigned. Case is to be determined by outcome of planning application 22/00995/HDG and instruction from the Planning Development Manger on which way he wants to proceed. However, there are no other publicly known details until the investigation is concluded.
- **23/00016/ENF Land at Cottam including 12.91 and 5.5 acres at horse pasture lane – Planning application refused.** BDC Planning enforcement team are in contact with the owner. Contacted owner and await their response. However, there are no other publicly known details until the investigation is concluded.
- **23/00256/ENF Willow Farm, Town Street - Change of Use to Farm Shop – Awaiting site Visit by planning enforcement team.** However, 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 6:50pm.