

Meeting of Hodsock Parish Council

Minutes of **Hodsock Parish Council Meeting** held on the 13th Jan 2025 at Langold Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 5:00pm.

Council Members & Officer Present:	Cllr Sandy Walker Cllr Graham Coe Cllr Gill Freeman Cllr Jacki Wilkinson Cllr Flo Batey Cllr Nick Smith (from 04/25) Ed Knox Gill Freeman Kath Walker	Chairman Vice-Chair Cllr David Hamilton Cllr Jack Bowker Cllr Sam Perkins Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer District Cllr Chairman of LVHMC for item 1
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Also, Present

01/25 To Receive Langold Village Hall Management Committee (LVHMC) Report

A member of the Committee Advised that the upgrade of the committee room IT facilities will bring a new income stream to the hall committee. The expected expenditure of the hall in 2025/26 is £53,150. The hall will be closed for 5 days whilst the floor refurbishment takes place. The Hall committee requested that the parish council spends £320 of CIL money on the felt pads for the tables and chairs so they don't damage the floor. The hall committee will be recruiting a replacement Cleaner Caretaker role in due course.

The Parish Council will now take over the responsibility of the Langold Christmas Lights with Christmas Plus Ltd for 2025 onward, the cost will be in the region of £2,500 and includes erection/dismantling and storage. Carlton-In-Lindrick Parish Council will be responsible for paying Christmas Plus for the lights in Carlton and Costhorpe.

02/25 To discuss Langold Cemetery Matters

The Parish Council agreed to review and update the cemetery regulations/rules, with a view to adopt these changes the March Meeting.

Cllr Coe explained a summary of the historic issues with Sections A & I and how plots are not aligned, overlapped and kerb sets causing access issues. The PC agreed to potentially ban kerb sets going forward, this will be discussed and a decision taken alongside the updating of the regulations the March meeting.

Cllrs Coe, Walker and Bowker will be undertaking site visits and audits of the cemetery plots and locations over the coming year, the Clerk is working on creating a digital excel based burial records register for the entire cemetery. An accurate map is required, the Clerk and Cllr Walker have both seen an advert from Pear Technologies Ltd which the ICCM recommend, the Clerk and Cllr Walker will look into their services in coming months.

After discussion, Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Coe **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to allow Cllr Bowker to spend up to £300 to stake out the plots, and help clarify plot numbers and after a thorough discussion of the Cemetery Fees, comparing them with other parishes and the district/borough councils in the area, the PC adopted the new charging scheme as follows from 1st Apr 2025:

Fees	Langold Cemetery Residents	Langold Cemetery Non-Residents
Interment Fees for 18 and under	Free	Free
New Grave Rights Purchase Full Burial	£1,000	£2,000
New Grave Rights Purchase Cremated Remains	£600	£1,200
Interment Fee Full Burial Existing or New Grave	£800	£1,600
Change of Burial Rights	£40	£80
Ashes new grave	£500	£1,000
Ashes Interment into Existing Grave	£300	£600
New Memorial	£250	£500
Wooden Cross	£100	£200
Vase	£100	£200
Amend Inscriptions or Replacement Memorial	£100	£200
Additional Fee for Kerb Set	£200	£400

Every January, for implantation in Apr, a small rise of £5 or £10 per item will be discussed for approval, so it is not a big rise every time, and there is therefore an expected minimal annual rise.

03/25 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

Dist Cllr Freeman: Provided an update on the latest news from Bassetlaw Council.

County Cllr Place: Did not attend, Cllr Walker will meet with Cllr Place shortly to discuss various County Council related matters.

➤ Adjournment – (15-Minute Maximum) Public Forum

None.

04/25 To Receive written application for the office of Parish councillor and to potentially Co-opt a candidate to fill an existing vacancy

After discussion, the chairman called for a vote, **resolved** to co-opt Nick Smith. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms, and will complete the 'registration of interests' online form on Bassetlaw District Council's website. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.

06/25 To Approve Apologies for Absence

None.

07/25 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

08/25 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Wilkinson **Proposed**, Cllr Bowker **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

09/25 Finance:

Payments & Receipts

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 and the Chairman signed the bank reconciliations and statements.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rent A Cut Ltd	Cemetery Maintenance November	£500
Rent A Cut Ltd	Cemetery Interments Interment A124 Spencer	£117.50
Post Office Ltd	Postage Minutes to Binders & Cemetery Interment Certificates	£30.30
Post Office Ltd	Postage Burial Interment Forms and Rights Transfer Form C5	£3.30
D Louth Plumb & Heating Ltd	CIL – Village Hall Boiler Replacement Works	£13,440
K.Pashley	CIL – Village Hall Emergency Roof Repairs	£1,921.78
Whitakers Signs Ltd	Cemetery Private Land Sign installed March 2023	£600
BT	Village Hall – New Wifi & Phone Line – <i>Final Direct Debit-2nd Nov</i>	£455.75
Jackson Quinn Solicitors	Payment towards Registration of the Cemetery at HM Land Reg	£250
ASL Ltd	Photocopier Prints to 30.07.2025	£64.72
NALC	Annual Subs	£640.67
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Maintenance & Grave Levelling I48, I49, G58, G70 & G140	£1,160
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Interment Ashes – Plot H125	£117.50
Total Payments		£19,298.22

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BT	Closure of Old Wifi Account Parish Office	£26.25
Member of Public	Transfer of Burial Rights – Plot D223	£1.00
Member of Public	Transfer of Burial Rights – Plot H125	£1.00
Memories In Stone	3 x Memorial Stones – Plots I48, E104 & I45	£544
Dolby's Funeral Ltd	Interment – Ashes Plot H125	£240

Member of Public	Interment – Ashes Plot C5	£240
Petty Cash	Small Change Banked	£2.97
BT Openreach	1 st Annual Wayleave Payment Pole at Memorial Gardens	£10.50
Bassetlaw District Council	Refund of Business Rates 1 st Apr 2018 to present at the Cemetery	£2,448.33
HSBC	Closing Interest Savings Accounts	£0.83
Whitakers	Memorial Stone Inscription	£84
Dolby's Funeral Ltd	Interment – Ashes Johnson	£240
Whitakers	New Memorial Stone – I49	£168
Total Receipts		<u>£3,383.32</u>
Unity Trust Bank		
Current Account		£126,581.21
Deposit Account		£0
Grand Total All Bank Accounts		<u>£126,581.21</u>

Direct Debits (Cemetery Lilli Waste, Water Plus, Bank Charge) and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, previously **approved** unanimously. Ringfenced items:

- Christmas Lights £8,809.17
- Cemetery £20,000
- CIL Money £24,910.26 (a further £36,686.81 is now claimable for April 2025)
- General Reserves £72,861.78
- **Total** **£126,581.21**

3. To Approve 2024/25 Budget & Set a Precept:

The Clerk circulated the draft budget, statement, precept requirement for 2024/25 and the facts surrounding the precept to allow each member time to prepare for making a decision.

Bassetlaw District Council Concurrent Grant has reduced year on year to just £65. Explaining the reduction of the Concurrent Grant, Bassetlaw District Council wrote to each Parish Council to state 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 all rental income from Parish Land and Property:

Other Income	Income Amount	Precept Saving per home @ Band D	Precept Saving per home @ Band A
Bassetlaw Concurrent Grant	£65	£0.09	£0.06
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£1,634	£2.36	£1.56
Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant	£1,150	£1.65	£1.10
Bassetlaw District Council Cemetery Grant	£1,600	£2.30	£1.53
Cemetery Income	£6,000	£8.61	£5.54
Total	£10,449	£15.01	£9.79

The Clerk emailed guidance from NALC this year’s precept and budget settings, which included the following advice: *“In recent national and regional County Officer meetings there has been discussion about setting precepts; several County Officers have been alarmed to hear comments from Parish Council Members such as ‘we can’t increase the precept because of the ‘cost of living crisis’. If your council has an “average” council tax rate then a 10% inflationary increase in your council’s precept would only cost a Band D household 50p a month more. This is regardless of the size of your parish, i.e., such an increase doesn’t impact smaller parishes more, contrary to popular opinion. The same applies if your council chooses NOT to apply an inflationary increase to your precept, i.e., reducing your council’s spending power to “save parishioners money” will not have a meaningful effect on the costs facing households but will limit your abilities as a local council.*

It is worth remembering that the average total Band D bill only accounts for just under 4% of that overall bill, compared to the County Council for example, which accounts for 74% of the same bill. we hope these few

words will help councils to justify any increases and to remove any guilt councillors may feel about those increases.”

Inflation CPI for the previous 12 months approximately 3.5%. In addition to the usual running costs, after taking into consideration the self-generated income, a small precept rise is required to cover the balance of regular recurring expenditure, including inflation. However, now that the LCC is over with, a rise is necessary to the precept. The main reason for the rise is to be able to have a parish Lengthsman handyperson for 24 hours a week.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Walker **Proposed** a vote, all members in favour for Option C, **resolved** to 1) approve the budget option C, 2) to set precept of £75,463 = to Band D at £108.25 per year (£9.02 per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

Last year the precept was:

- 2024/25 Band D amount was £52,163 per year (£6.23 per month). This year's Band D will be £2.79 per month more than last year.

It is also worth noting that 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, for example, at Band D, **last year** in Tuxford which is the same size as Langold electorate wise, was £181.19, Misterton Electorate 1709 £147.18, Harworth electorate 6670 £118.94.

4. To Approve Village Hall works, including the Roof Restoration by CIL Money

Hall Roofing - The three quotes obtained were discussed, 10 contractors had been approached, 6 came out to quote and 3 provided quotes. The quotes being £36,750, £64,600 and £31,000 net. Cllr Bowker **Proposed**, Cllr Cope **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to go with M. West Roofing & Building Services, £36,750 and cover the total cost of the hall roof restoration via CIL money.

Work already completed as 'Emergency' repair in Dec 2024:

“Tiles removed and replaced rotten tile lats Removed all rotten wood tile lats and replaced as was needed tiles were removed to do this process and new lats was installed and tiles put on I do have photos to show this was done”

Hall Flooring – Three quotes were discussed. Cllr Bowker **Proposed**, Cllr Cope **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to go with G. Daykin Floor Renovation Ltd £3,397 net. The works to be undertaken over one week, from 27th January.

Hall Committee Room IT Services – After further discussion, the quotes for the refurbishment of the Committee Room IT facilities were discussed. Cllr Bowker **Proposed**, Cllr Cope **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to go with N. Glasby Electrical Contractors Ltd of £2,890 net, however with an overall budget of £5,000, Cllr Walker to check that all the required IT and electrical works are included in the quote.

10/25 To Authorise LVHMC to rent out the Former Parish Council Office

After discussion, Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Wilkinson **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to allow the Village Hall Committee to take over the old parish office and rent this out to generate an income to offset against the running costs of the hall.

11/25 To Discuss Time of Meetings

After discussion, Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Coe **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to leave the meetings at 5pm.

12/25 To discuss Lengthsman Scheme

After discussion, Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Coe **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to join the Lengthsman Scheme, obtain the annual grant from the County Council and the Annual St Cleaning grant towards litter picking from the District Council, with a view to appoint someone on a 24hrs a week basis, advertise the role and appoint someone to start in March 2025. All Cllrs to form a working group and meet in February to finalise the content of the Lengthsman terms of work.

13/25 To Note any Planning 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:

- **None.**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item the council voted to close the following item to members of the public due so that the Council can discuss the lease Information which is relating to a contract and the personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

14/25 To Discuss Staffing Matters

After discussion Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Coe **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to approve the Clerk's overtime up to 31st Jan 2025. The Cemetery Handyperson role will TUPE across to Rent-a-Cut Ltd with effect from 1st Apr 2025. The PC approved the appointment of a temporary Gatekeeper whilst the main post holder is off work.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7:30pm.