



2022 Annual Town Meeting – Thursday 21st April 2022 at 6:15pm

Chairman's Report

Covid-19 and other challenges

This has been a further year of disruptions, as the new variants of covid impacted on everyone's lives. Covid hasn't left us - but we are learning to live safely with it. Our community's resilience, and ability to react have enabled many aspects of our lives to be adapted and we now begin to see a relative return to normal. However, events in Ukraine, the energy price shock and the return of high inflation suggest that we should never take anything for granted. One thing that can be relied upon is the willingness of residents to respond to challenges, while supporting others in the process.

Town Council changes

For most of the year, the town council has been five short of a full complement of Councillors, which has restricted some progress. Cllr Naylor left during the year, but we have also welcomed some new Councillors, Carl Longmore, Sally Outram, Simon Richardson, Keith Rutherford, and Craig Waugh. We look forward to them bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to The Council.

Support to other organisations

We encourage local clubs and organisations to request donations.

A Donations Policy governs the process. details of which are available on the town council website.

Precept

Considering the rate of inflation, the Council resolved to raise its precept for 2022-23 by the equivalent of 2.8% on a Band D property.

Capital projects and Funding

I attended several meetings with BDC to talk about funding which was available from the Welcome Back fund. The fund was set up to help Towns get back on their feet following COVID.

It was good to know that Tuxford was included along with Harworth, Worksop, and Retford. We applied for funding of £10,000 to employ a specialist to write a new Town Plan for Tuxford and this grant was awarded. Several Consultations were set up in the Town to ask the residents their views of the Town and what they would like to see in the future. A survey was also put online and over 260 residents took the time to reply and give their opinions. A copy of the final plan will be available shortly.

The 'Welcome Back' fund also provided funding for Christmas Decorations, the 16ft Christmas Tree and the artificial donkey located in the Christmas Nativity Scene at the Old Lock Up. We'd like to thank the fund for their kind generosity.

In addition, the fund also provided the funding to enable a much-needed disabled parking Bay to be commissioned near to the shops on Newcastle St. which is now in constant use.

The town council were also able to secure funding from North Notts Bid for the replacement of 30 x 4ft Wall Mounted Christmas Trees

Bassetlaw District Council's Best Kept Village Competition

Unfortunately, BKV, run by CPRE, was cancelled again this year because of the covid-19 emergency.

Undeterred Tuxford went ahead with its summer plantings, and I am sure you will all agree Tuxford was a wonderful, colourful place to visit.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is still in the action planning stage to update it, but the Council's input has inevitably been affected by the pandemic. We are awaiting the completion of the Town Plan to push forward with it.

Planning applications

Each month, the Town Council as a statutory consultee considers planning applications of all kinds from small extensions to redeveloping sites. Bassetlaw District Council as the planning authority makes the decisions.

Allotments

The Council manages these which are situated on Lodge Lane, corner of Ashvale Road. Tenants pay a small rent each year and are subject to terms and conditions. There is a small turnover of tenants each year with a waiting list of people who wish to apply.

Anyone interested in joining the waiting list should write to the Clerk.

Remembrance Day

Acts of Remembrance and wreath laying were possible again this year.

Conclusion

This section is regularly used to note many of the various tasks the Council undertakes on behalf of its residents.

Responding to the many consultations and changes in legislation. maintaining memorial and other benches. weekly monitoring & safety inspections of the Clark Lane play park, reporting fly-tipping, faulty lights and parking concerns, maintenance of the town – including litter picking, grass cutting, cleaning & maintenance of information boards, and the defibrillator. Managing the allotments on Lodge Lane, upkeeping the cemetery, and dealing with concerns raised by residents.

Most of the above is carried out by our 2 Handymen who have worked so hard and diligently. I am sure you will all agree that the Town has looked outstanding and this view was echoed by the residents in the on-line survey.

The Council is grateful for the time given by Councillors who give their time freely with very little recognition. We would also like to thank the elected County & District Councillors who regularly attend Town Council meetings & take an active interest in town issues. The internal auditor, Phil Parkin, especially given the challenges posed by the pandemic. We continue to be fortunate to have numerous individuals and organisations in our town who willingly help in many ways.

Lastly, I am sure I speak on behalf of all the Councillors in thanking our Clerk Clare for all the dedication she brings to the Council and residents of Tuxford. This has not been any easy year for her due to family illness, but as usual she has exhibited grit and determination to keep us all under control and legal. Thank you, from us all.

Finally, in discharging its statutory responsibilities, the Town Council will always try to make or support improvements in the lives of residents and those who work here.

Financial Summary Year Ending 2021-2

Description	Year Ending 31/03/2021	Year Ending 31/03/2022
Balances brought forward	£61,574	£67,656
Annual Precept	£131,034	£137,395
Total Other Receipts	£38,945	£43,879
Staff Costs	£98,600	£95,348
Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	£9,258	£9,258
Total Other Payments	£56,040	£67,417
Balances Carried Forward	£67,656	£76,907
Total Cash and Short-Term Investment	£67,656	£76,907
Total Fixed Assets and Long-Term Investments	£310,562	£331,350
Total Borrowings	£168,762	£166,924