



MINUTES of MONTHLY MEETING OF RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 21st March 2023** in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

In Attendance: Cllrs R Ashton, S Carter, Miss L Cox, R Emmas-Williams, S Freeborn, T Harper, T Holmes, M Jones, P Lobley, P Moss, M Murray, T Spencer, N Weaving (Chair), D Williams and M Wilson.

Also: 8 members of public.

Plus: Jayne Simpson - Town Clerk and Hannah Curzon – Deputy Clerk.

AGENDA

210323/1. To Receive Apologies for Absence – Cllr Allwood and Cllr Fisher – Received and noted.

210323/2. Variation of Order of Business.

None

210323/3. Declaration of Members Interests.

Councillor Ashton declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 9b and 12 as a member of Derbyshire County Council and will remain in the meeting.

Councillor Moss declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 9b and 12 as a member of Derbyshire County Council and will remain in the meeting.

210323/4. Public Speaking.

A member of the public spoke about the lack of protection of felled trees in Ripley, particularly on Crossley Park, Shirley Road, Fletcher Street and Church Street.

A member of the public also spoke about trees being taken down for no apparent reason and hoping The Friends of Ripley Greenway and Ripley Town Council can work together to care more about this issue.

Cllr D Williams thanked the members of public for their attendance. He stated that a change in law is needed so all trees are given a Tree Preservation Order. He would like to call upon the local MP to take action.

Cllr Freeborn thanked the member of the public for raising this issue. He said Amber Valley Borough Council appear to be reactive rather than proactive. He assured the members of public that this matter will be taken to the next Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting for discussion.

A member of the public raised the issue of 5G and 4G towers and the electro magnetic fields they produce and asked if Ripley Town Council had any information on any more towers in Amber Valley.

Cllr Freeborn responded saying that regrettably, Ripley Town Council wasn't the correct council to answer that question and that the member of the public should approach Amber Valley Borough Council for the information.

A member of the public raised the issue about dust coming from the farm track at the back of Willow Avenue, Ripley, preventing residents from opening their windows and children playing in their gardens.

Amber Valley Borough Councillor, Cllr Ashton responded saying that last year, he had taken diaries to residents on Willow Avenue and asked them to complete them when dust was an issue. Not one was returned to him, and he can't do anything about it with Environmental Health until they are returned.

Cllr Freeborn responded to the member of the public saying that this isn't the responsibility of Ripley Town Council and that they must pursue it with Amber Valley Borough Council.

210323/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Monthly Meeting on February 21st 2023 (previously circulated electronically).

RESOLVED to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.

210323/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee Meeting on February 17th 2023 and accept the recommendations and resolutions therein (previously circulated electronically).

RESOLVED to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record and accept the recommendations therein.

210323/7. To determine which items if any part of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

NONE

210323/8. Mayor Announcements.

The Mayor and his Consort attended the following engagements:

9th March 2023 – Cheque presentation at The Holly Bush in Marehay towards a defibrillator.

The Deputy Mayor and his Consort attended the following engagements:

12th March 2023 – Belper Town Council Civic Service and the Matlock Town Council Civic Service.

210323/9. Town Clerk announcements:

a) Lynn Joyes resignation as a Councillor.

The Clerk reported that due to ill health, Lynn Joyes has stood down as a Councillor. Cllr Ashton thanked Lynn Joyes for all her efforts during her time at Ripley Town Council.

NOTED

b) Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan consultation.

The Clerk reported that the consultation period ends in May 2023. She has written to Derbyshire County Council to ask if this deadline can be extended due to the forthcoming elections. This request has not been approved; however, Councillors can still send in their comments.

c) Update on Warm Wednesday sessions.

The Clerk reported that there are two sessions left. She thanked the following volunteers who have helped out at the sessions since November 2022:

Daniel Beadell, Tim Benson, Pamela Bower, Cllr Roland Emmas-Williams, Leslie Freeborn, Heather Freeman, Bradley Ives, and Cllr Trevor Spencer.

The Clerk mentioned that a representative from Derbyshire County Council attended Warm Wednesday last week and contacted us afterwards to say that 'the Volunteers that run that group were very professional, kind and caring people'.

Ripley Town Council has received further funding from Foundation Derbyshire for £1,500 to continue Warm Wednesday in winter 2023.

NOTED

d) Update on the upgrade of Porterhouse Road play area.

The Clerk reported that new multi-play equipment has been ordered. We have received a grant of £10,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund towards the new equipment and a bench for the play area. We hope to have it installed by the time local schools break up for the summer holidays.

NOTED

e) Civic Dinner reminder – Friday 21st April 2023, 7pm at The Excavator, Sawmills.

The Clerk reminded Council about this function and asked for menu choices and payment to be returned to the Town Council office as soon as possible.

NOTED

The Clerk also reported that Councillor Paul Lobley BEM had received an invitation to attend the King's Coronation in London on 6th May 2023.

210323/10. Discuss the location of the Ripley Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Cllr Freeborn reported that the Ripley SNT now have a desk space in the Ripley Town Council office on Grosvenor Road. He explained that it is not a 'base', but purely a drop-in for refreshments and to meet members of the public.

NOTED

210323/11. Discuss the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Cllr Freeborn reported that people are still struggling, and that Ripley Town Council will do what we can as a Council and will re-introduce Warm Wednesdays later in the year.

Cllr Holmes stated that he is proud that Ripley Town Council has recognised the struggles people face by not increasing the Town Council's portion of council tax for the year 2023 / 2024.

NOTED

210323/12. Discuss traffic, road and footway issues in the Township.

Cllr Freeborn reported that Councillors and members of the public need to let Derbyshire County Council know where there are problems, as it is everywhere that you look. He suggested that Ripley Town Council engage with local traders and volunteer organisations to develop a strategy to join up thinking with Amber Valley Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council. Cllr Freeborn suggested that we need resources and public spending to be increased.

Cllr Holmes stated that Oxford Street in Ripley is supposed to be pedestrianised and no cars on it between 10am and 4pm on weekdays and Saturdays. A new traffic order needs to be in place which doesn't allow cars to park on Oxford Street during the pedestrianised hours. He went on to say that often, the barriers aren't put up at the top of Oxford Street on Saturdays. These needs reviewing and sorting out as accidents are waiting to happen.

Cllr Williams reported that he has reported potholes in local roads to Derbyshire County Council to be told by them that they aren't serious enough to repair just yet.

NOTED

210323/13. Planning Applications - None

210323/14. Exclusion of the Press and Public - None

210323/15. Meeting Closed at 7.46pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Date for the Next Full Council Annual Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.00pm.

**RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL
BHIB AWARD WINNER FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2020
BHIB AWARD WINNER FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2018
BHIB HIGHLY COMMENDED WINNER FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2019 & 2022.**

