

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 27th of September 2022.

Present

Councillor Carter
 Councillor Davis
 Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 Councillor Jeffrey
 Councillor Morley
 Councillor Newbold
 Councillor Otten
 Councillor Wright
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer
 Tony Rusling
 Susan Blakeman

22/73 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor O’Sullivan and his reason for absence approved.

22/74 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

(a) There were no disclosures made by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and any other relevant interests under the Members’ Code of Conduct

(b) There were no requests for dispensations to councillors to take part in discussions and votes where they had declared disclosable pecuniary interests

22/75 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

22/76 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th July 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

22/77 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

(a) The Clerk and Financial Officer reported:

- The External Audit had been satisfactorily completed with no issues raised and the requisite documents displayed on the notice board and on-line.
- He had submitted the insurance claim concerning the broken teqball table and picnic bench at the recreation ground. Zurich had replied with an unacceptable offer of compensation and he had responded accordingly.
- He had submitted a financial report to the end of the fiscal year to members in advance of the meeting and invited comments.

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Monies received since last meeting

1. Barclays Bank – Interest	13.84
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Payments made since last meeting

1. Robert Needham – Maintenance Works at Recreation Ground	115.00
2. AD Electrical Services Ltd – CCTV System	600.00
3. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rents	27.00
4. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance at Rec. Ground	996.00
5. Richard Taylor Locksmith – Repairs/New Gate Lock	411.00
6. Richard Taylor Locksmith – Key Cutting	35.00
7. HMRC – August Tax/NI	286.93
8. WEL Medical Limited – External Defibrillator Cabinet	478.80
9. WEL Medical Limited – Defibrillator	954.00
10. J R Walker – August Salary & Expenses	1029.49
11. Susan Wright – August Cleaning & Security	250.00
12. Lucy K Morley – Nesting Boxes & Insect Houses	141.50
13. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	14.00
14. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance at Rec. Ground	996.00
15. PKF Littlejohn – Audit Fee	360.00
16. Blaze Fireworks – Fireworks Display	4140.00
17. HMRC – September Tax/NI	286.93
18. Norman Wright – Wreath & Cleaning Materials	60.10
19. Robert Needham – Maintenance at Pavilion	42.50
20. Susan Wright – September Cleaning and Security	250.00
21. Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Repair to Multiplay Unit	1354.51
22. J R Walker – September Salary & Expenses	1019.57

Payments to be made

1. Susan Wright – USB Flash Drive	14.99
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Un-presented cheques

1. Todwick Village Hall –	14.00
2. PKF Littlejohn – Audit Fee	360.00
3. Blaze Fireworks – Fireworks Display	4140.00
4. Robert Needham – Maintenance at Pavilion	42.50
5. Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Repair to Multiplay Unit	1354.51

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account (Cheque Feeder)	Community Account (Cheque)
£42,160.12	-£1,018.57

Total balance after all payments to date £35,215.55

(b) The Clerk and Financial Officer reported on the requirement to have an appointed external auditor. Council needed to decide whether to opt out of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime.

Resolved:

Not to opt out of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime.

22/78 COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATION REPORTS

(a) Councillor Morley reported on the latest play areas inspection reports.

- The defects at the climbing frame at the Mary Gregory Play Area had been repaired.

- She had received quotations for the removal of the concrete rings levelling of the surface in the area and refurbishment of the play sand at the recreation ground. The works would be very expensive and it would not be possible for the Council to undertake them for some time. She was prepared to study the possibility of obtaining a grant.

Resolved:

- (i) That Councillor Morley investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant for the removal of the concrete rings levelling of the surface in the area and refurbishment of the play sand at the recreation ground.
 - (ii) That Councillors Carter, Davis, Dixon and Morley speak with their local contacts with a view to re-siting the concrete rings, making the area safe and reinstating the grass.
- (b) Councillor Morley reported that the works to install the new playground equipment at the Mary Gregory Play Area were anticipated to commence in October. There were some activities yet to be carried out to comply with the grant approval. These included the preparation of artwork and the erection of bird and insect boxes. The Art Club at Todwick School had kindly agreed to prepare the artwork and she hoped to enlist the group in the siting of the boxes. She would also liaise with RMBC and others concerning other natural environment requirements.
- (c) Councillor Dixon reported that the CCTV system was working correctly and so far, appeared to be having the desired effect on visitor behaviour. A USB Flash Drive had been purchased to enable relevant recordings to be passed to the police.
- (d) Councillors Dixon and Wright reported on the existing relationship between the Parish Council and the Todwick Parish Recreation Ground Charity and explained changes proposed by the Charity to increase participation by the user clubs. They would report further at the October Council Meeting.
- (e) Councillor Jeffrey reported on the significant imbalance between receipts and payments at the allotments and recommended increasing the rents.

Resolved:

- To increase allotment rents for 2023 to £30 for a full plot and £15 for half a plot.

The meeting was suspended at 8.25 pm.

OPEN SESSION

1. Tony Rusling referred to the developments that had taken place at the Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground since he moved into the village some 50 years ago. He was pleased to see that the Recreation Ground Charity was to increase participation by the user clubs as had happened in the past.
2. Susan Blakeman asked what facilities were included in the proposed play equipment improvements at the Mary Gregory Play Area.
Councillor Morley gave details of the discussions she had had with residents concerning this and had involved them in considering suitable equipment. There would be several pieces of suitable equipment available.
3. Susan Blakeman gave details of the problems she experienced with overhanging vegetation when walking on public footways between their home and the allotment site.
The Clerk would report to RMBC. As the Highway Authority it had powers under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure offending vegetation was removed.
Councillor Newbold reported problems with a tree branch overhanging the footway on Kiveton Lane just south of the parish boundary.
The Clerk would include this problem in his report to RMBC.

4. Tony Rusling was appalled at the standard of the recent works by RMBC to footways throughout the village. Weeds had not been properly treated in advance of the works and their rate of growth accelerated. The new surface was irregular and completely unsatisfactory.
Councillors Davis and Dixon and the Clerk explained that the Parish Council had made several complaints about this to RMBC and had also enlisted the help of Alexander Stafford MP and Borough Councillor Bacon.
5. Tony Rusling reminded everyone that it was Remembrance Sunday in five weeks' time and the public footpath map fronting the village hall had not yet been reinstated as promised. Councillor Dixon explained that this was planned to be done at the coming weekend.
6. Tony Rusling reported that the linear drain in the highway at the entrance to the allotments was blocked and this would cause water to flood onto the carriageway if not attended to. The ditches on Goosecarr Lane between the allotments and the recreation ground were also blocked by vegetation and grass cuttings left when RMBC cut the verges. The Clerk had reported these to RMBC previously but would do so again.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.55pm.

22/79 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- (a) Councillor Dixon reported on his further assessment of the exiting Standing Orders and the Model Orders provided by the YLCA and would circulate suggested amendments to Members in advance of the October meeting.
- (b) No report on Procurement Policy was received.
- (c) No report on Data Protection Policy was received.

22/80 PLANNING MATTERS

7. RB2022/1151

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension at 3 Church View.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

8. RB2022/1190

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling at 14 Kiveton Lane.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

9. RB2022/1199

Two storey and single storey rear extension at 25 The Pastures

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

10. RB2022/1331

Demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension & construction of raised decking area at 17 Rectory Gardens.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

11. RB2022/1369

Extension to existing outbuilding at 166 Kiveton Lane

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

12. RB2022/1203

Installation and operation of a solar energy park and associated infrastructure at Common Farm, Bookers Lane, Dinnington.

This application had been objected to:-

Although not in Todwick Parish, the proposals would have considerable impact within the parish boundary, including on parishioners and those wishing to travel to/through the village. Despite this, the Parish Council had not been consulted or its opinions sought.

It was unclear as to the number of solar panels proposed to be sited but use of the word “park” undoubtedly meant a considerable number, reducing the area of productive agricultural land and developing a highly significant area in the green belt. The Parish Council continued to object to development within the green belt.

If approved, there would undoubtedly be a considerable increase in HGV’s and other vehicles on the A57 between the M1 and B6463, the B6463 and other local roads, particularly during the construction phase. These roads already suffered from excessively high traffic volumes particularly during peak times, which they were presently unable to satisfactorily accept. The Parish Council had met with Alexander Stafford MP, RMBC Councillor Bacon and residents of the Todwick Grange Estate concerning existing road safety issues on the A57 between the M1 and B6463 and communicated those to RMBC. The additional traffic would exacerbate an already unacceptable situation.

The application showed scant regard for the biodiversity or the effect on wildlife e.g., wild deer were known to regularly cross over the area.

Although disregarded to date and should the application be approved, Todwick must receive its share of the proposed “Community Benefits Fund.” RMBC should insist that the applicant paid for additional road safety measures including speed cameras on the A57, visibility splays and other improvements particularly at road junctions to be used by the traffic to be generated.

13. RB2022/1403

First floor rear extension with Juliette balcony to rear at 39 Kiveton Lane

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

14. RB2022/1433

Application for Lawful Development Certificate re proposed single storey rear extension at 46 The Meadows.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

22/81 EVENTS

- Councillor Dixon reported that he had obtained the Temporary Event Notice application for the bonfire and fireworks display. He had liaised with St John’s Ambulance and arranged for medical cover. He would order the temporary protective barriers arrange for some children’s rides. Councillor Morley would purchase glow-sticks and Councillor Davis obtain assistance for Rotherham Round Table and Air Cadets. Councillor Carter would arrange for her father to obtain and stack pallets and all Members agreed to contact potential pallet suppliers and give the details to Councillor Carter.
- Councillor Carter reported that a meeting to form the new team independent from the Council to manage events would be held shortly.

22/82 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Councillor Davis had painted the seat fronting the allotments and was obtaining angle iron to repair the sign at the allotment entrance.

22/83 HIGHWAY MATTERS

No report was received.

22/84 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Councillor Dixon reported that Neighbourhood Watch had provided him with an article for publication with the next edition of The Informer.

22/85 WEB SITE

No report was received.

22/86 PARISH PLAN

No report was received.

22/87 EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Dixon had updated the Plan following the recent spate of fires in the locality.

22/88 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

22/89 PARISH MATTERS

(a) Councillor Dixon reported that no interest had been expressed by the community in helping to reinstate a village shop. In the circumstances the project would be shelved for the time being at least.

(b) Councillor Dixon reported that the defibrillator had now been installed at the Church Hall. He was presently arranging for it to be commissioned for use.

(c) Councillor Otten was in the process of preparing proposals on the Government's Youth Engagement Fund and consideration of an early-stage youth inclusion/engagement strategy and decide upon any action required. This would include recommendations for extensive consultations including with local schools and the local police. He intended presenting the full proposals at the October meeting.

(d) Councillor Dixon reported on attempts to have a flagpole erected immediately following the Queen's death. There appeared to be conflicting views on whether and where this should be done. Councillor Carter would post an item on social media to try to ascertain parishioners' views for consideration at the October meeting.

22/90 ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

To include an item to consider nominating someone to attend the 2023 Royal Garden Party.

22/91 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next council meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date