

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 25th of July 2023.

Present

Councillor Davis
 Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 \Councillor Jeffrey
 Councillor Molyneux
 Councillor Morley
 Daniel Thorpe
 Janet Bice
 Tony Rusling
 Paul O’Sullivan
 Matthew Baldry
 Norman Anderson
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

23/44 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Carter.
 Councillor Otten had resigned since the June meeting. The Clerk had displayed the Notice of Casual Vacancy on the notice board and it had also been placed the website.

23/45 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

23/46 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

23/47 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

23/48 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that he was unable to access the bank accounts due to yet more problems with Barclays Bank, despite his visits and discussions with the Branch Manager and Business Management Team. He had registered a formal complaint. He had obtained and completed a further form, which the Chairman also needed to complete and sign. The statements below were based on the best information presently available.

Monies received

£
 Nil

Payments made since last meeting.

1. Business Stream – Allotments Water Bill	212.41
2. Mr. Daniel Thorpe – Cleaning and Security at Recreation Ground	178.55
3. HMRC – July Tax/NI	308.47
4. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00

Payments to be made.

1. J R Walker – July Salary and Expenses	1127.50
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Un-presented cheques

1. Business Stream – Allotments Water Bill	212.41
2. HMRC – July Tax/NI	308.47
3. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account (Cheque Feeder)	Community Account (Cheque)
£20,296.40	£1.00

Total balance after all payments to date £18,628.02

23/49 COMMITTEES ORGANISATION REPORTS AND DONATIONS

(a)

(i) Councillor Morley reported that her application to the Community Fund to replace the sandpit at the recreation ground play area had been approved. The site works were arranged to commence on the 9th September. Her husband would also be carrying out works free of charge. The ground would need to be closed whilst site works were underway in the interests of public safety. She would liaise with Matt Hayward the Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

(ii) Councillor Morley reported having contacted Wicksteed Leisure because of the need to acquire replaced broken swing seats at the Mary Gregory Play Area.

(iii) Councillor Morley reported that although the timber climbing frame at the recreation ground play area was deteriorating it had passed the resistive testing and therefore was safe to use for the time being. Repairs or replacement would be required in the longer term.

(b)

(i) Councillor Dixon reported on his further discussions with the Charity Commission, concerning the status, funding and management of the recreation ground and future submissions to the Commission.

(ii) Councillor Molyneux reported having just returned from the recreation ground having had to speak with a family having a barbeque on the ground. She had explained that barbeques were not permitted and she had stayed until it had been removed.

23/50 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Discussions took place on the difficulties experienced with Barclays Bank. Councillor Dixon was aware that several nearby parish councils were now banking with the Unity Bank and suggested this might be considered.

Resolved:

To consider future banking arrangements at the September council meeting.

23/51 PLANNING MATTERS

No new planning applications had been received.

Application number RB 2023/0750 for use of land to site 2 No. Containers (use class E) on land at The Pastures had been withdrawn by the Applicant.

23/52 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Councillor Davis reported that RMBC was carrying out footway repairs on the eastern side of the village. These would be followed by the application of micro surfacing as carried out on the western side in 2022.

23/53 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Councillor Dixon referred to the list of carriageway resurfacing works notified to be undertaken by RMBC. These were De Houton Close, Roche End, St Paul's Close, Furnival Road and Furnival Close. He was at a loss to see how the priority system was operating because roads in worse condition than those listed were only to receive minor patching or no works at all.

23/54 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Clerk reported the crime statistics prepared by Norman Anderson.

Monthly Categories

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Burglary	1												1
Criminal Damage and Arson													
Other Theft		1											1
Other Crime													
Vehicle Crime	2	1	1	4	1								9
Public Order													
Violence and Sexual	3			6	2								11
Robbery													
Drugs													
Bicycle Theft													
Anti-social Behaviour		2	2										4
Total	6	4	3	10	3								26

The figure for May was very low but the numbers were "audited" before being disclosed which may have had some influence.

It was not known whether all crimes were being reported. If not, the Police were unaware and they would not be recorded, stressing why it was important that all crimes were reported.

The total figures for the whole of Rotherham Borough clearly showed post-Christmas crimes at a relatively high level, followed by a drop in February and then climbing after that.

i.e.

<i>January</i>	842
<i>February</i>	718
<i>March</i>	795
<i>April</i>	776
<i>May</i>	884

Todwick had recently been troubled by a white Ford Ecosport on cloned number plates. This had been picked up by several CCTV cameras in the village. The vehicle had been seen to arrive at four o'clock in the morning outside various properties, a passenger get out and walk up the driveway. He/she then appeared to be trying property door handles and checking any parked vehicles.

Instances on Mill Fields, De Houton Close and Furnival Close had been reported to the Police including timed and dated photographs taken from the CCTV cameras.

Councillor Dixon reported that incidences of vandalism at the recreation ground had been greatly reduced since the introduction of CCTV. He had spoken with Matt Baldry with a view to a joint initiative with the Village Hall Committee to see what could be provided for the young people in the village. Something needed to be provided to give the young people something constructive to do. There was a possibility of obtaining a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

23/55 PARISH MATTERS

Councillor Dixon reported that the RMBC report into the swimming pool at the school had been received. It was estimated that some £119,000 was required to rectify the defects. Maintenance costs were £19,000/years and income £9,000/year. The pool did not meet curriculum standards and pupils had to go to other pools for their swimming lessons. It was difficult to see how the situation was sustainable and closure of the pool avoided.

The meeting was suspended at 8.00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

1. Paul O’Sullivan was an ex-Council Member but continued to manage the Council Website. He had created three mail groups, namely Facebook, Website and Events, could set up more as required and welcomed other suggestions for improving IT arrangements.

The Clerk and Members thanked Paul for his work on behalf of the Council.

2. Paul O’Sullivan had the data available related to the preparation of a new Parish Plan, although he suggested a new format summarising issues rather than repeating the very detailed and expensive preparation of the previous Plan. He would pass on the information to Councillors Molineux and Morley.

3. Tony Rusling had witnessed a near road accident at the junction of Staniforth Crescent and The Pastures due to parked cars on The Pastures obstructing visibility for drivers of vehicles entering from Staniforth Crescent.

The Clerk had repeatedly requested the provision of waiting restrictions by RMBC and would do so again.

4. Tony Rusling had spoken with someone exercising their dog on the recreation ground. There was some signage explaining that dogs were not allowed but some new signs were required and vegetation obstructing the notice board cut back.

5. Tony Rusling had arranged a concert in the village hall to be given by the South Yorkshire Police Band and asked whether the parking area at the recreation ground could be used as the over-spill car park.

This was acceptable and Councillor Dixon would loan his access gate keys for the duration of the event.

6. Tony Rusling reported that the problem with surface water at the entrance to the allotments and the condition of the footway between the allotments and The Pastures remained in poor condition. The Clerk had repeatedly asked RMBC to attend to this and would do so again.

7. Paul O’Sullivan reported that the road sign at the same footway near the allotments entrance reducing the width of footway available had still not been attended to by RMBC.

The Clerk had repeatedly asked RMBC to attend to this and would do so again.

8. Norman Anderson referred to an exchange of emails with Councillor Dixon and asked why an “Informer” newsletter had not been published since May 2022. This was unhelpful because as the Village Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator he had been unable to include an article informing residents on crime and crime prevention.

Councillor Dixon explained that the “Informer” was a Parish Council newsletter prepared by him when considered appropriate. Given available space he was happy to include Neighbourhood watch

information but it was for Neighbourhood Watch to make its own information arrangements. He was presently designing a new format for the Newsletter which would likely be in booklet form. He offered to speak with Norman if this would help.

The Clerk confirmed that information sent to him by Mr. Anderson was always included in the next Council Minutes and withing reason this could be extended if required.

7. Janet Bice had recently come to live in the village and was interested to see how the Council worked and the issues it was considering.

8. Matt Baldry reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had arranged for the first community cinema event to be held on the coming Saturday and it was hoped to repeat these at regular intervals. A children’s film would be shown on the 11th August. There would be an Autumn Fayre with a Treasure Trove on the 3rd September and a Christmas Fayre. He offered the possibility of the Parish Council having a stall at one of the Fayres.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.40 p.m.

23/56 COUNCIL VACANCY

No enquiries had been received from anyone considering applying to join the Council.

23/57 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

23/58 ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

No items were requested to be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council

23/59 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the parish council be held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date