

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 Councillor Molyneux
 Councillor Morley
 Councillor O’Sullivan – To 9.10 p.m.
 Daniel Thorpe
 Tony Rusling
 Matthew Baldry
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

23/60 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Davis and Jeffrey and their reason for absence approved.

23/61 COUNCIL VACANCY

This was agenda item 13 on the agenda but Members agreed to consider at this time.

(a) Councillor Carter had resigned from the Council since the July meeting.

The Clerk had displayed the Notice of Casual Vacancy on the notice board and it had also been placed on the website. The notice period had expired without an election being requested and there were now four vacancies that could be filled by co-option.

Paul O’Sullivan had applied to join the Council and was in attendance.

Resolved:

To co-opt Paul O’Sullivan onto the Council with immediate effect.

Mr. O’Sullivan signed his declaration of acceptance of office. This was then signed by the Clerk and Mr. O’Sullivan took his seat.

(b) **Resolved:**

To defer considering methods to attract new applications to join the council until the October meeting.

23/62 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

23/63 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

23/64 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th July 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

23/65 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that he was now able to access the bank accounts but difficulties with Barclays Bank persisted. Since the July meeting he and Councillor Dixon had held numerous telephone conversations and submitted various information to the Bank.

Discussion took place on the difficulties experienced with Barclays Bank. Councillor Dixon and the Clerk and Financial Officer considered it important that new bankers were appointed. Councillor Dixon was aware that several nearby parish councils were now banking with the Unity Bank and suggested this might be considered together with any other appropriate alternatives. He was also aware that Woodsetts Parish Council had recently changed its banking arrangements and suggested the Clerk and Financial Officer obtain information via the Clerk to Woodsetts Parish Council

Resolved:

1. That Members make enquiries of other banks prior to considering appointing new bankers at the October council meeting.
2. That the Clerk contact Woodsetts Parish Council and obtain information on its new banking arrangements.

Monies received

	£
1. RMBC – Second Half Year Precept	27,632.00
2. Barclays Bank – Compensation Payment	50.00
3. Barclays Bank – Interest	55.43

Payments made since last meeting.

1. Green Pastures Pest Control – Pest Control	123.75
2. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance (Rec. Grd.)	996.00
3. Mr Daniel Thorpe – Cleaning and Security	270.10
4. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00
5. HMRC – August Tax/NI	308.47
6. Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Swing Seat and Fixings	214.26
7. J R Walker – August Salary & Expenses	1097.59
8. Rotherham MBC – Play Area Inspections 23/24	860.76
9. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance (Rec. Grd.)	996.00
10. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance (Allotments)	278.00
11. Mr Steven Oliver – New Sand at Recreation Ground Play Area	4500.00
12. HMRC – September Tax/NI	308.47
13. PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit Fee	504.00

Payments to be made.

1. J R Walker – September Salary and Expenses	1091.64
2. Mr Daniel Thorpe – Cleaning and Security at Recreation Ground	500.00
3. Tracy Molyneux – Repaid Cost of Gate Keys	29.00
4. Empire Fire and Safety – Fire Extinguisher Servicing	102.00

Un-presented cheques

1. HMRC – September Tax/NI	308.47
2. PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit Fee	504.00

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account (Cheque Feeder)	£36,748.52	Community Account (Cheque)	£1.00
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Total balance after all payments and receipts to date £34,214.41

23/66 COMMITTEES ORGANISATION REPORTS AND DONATIONS

(a) Councillor Morley reported:

- Receipt of an inaccurate play area inspection report for the recreation ground from RMBC. The error had been rectified by RMBC confirming the recent completion of contract works which had removed a significant risk.
- That her husband had replaced the defective swing at the Mary Gregory Play Area using the parts obtained from Wicksteed Leisure. Further works remained and these would be completed shortly.
- The plaque at the Mary Gregory Play Area acknowledging that the recent improvements to the play equipment had been because of the grant obtained from Veolia had been removed by someone unknown. Displaying this was a condition of the grant. She had ordered a new plaque from Veolia at no cost to the Parish Council and would have this appropriately sited.

(b) Councillor Morley reported on the completion of the grant funded work carried out at the recreation ground play area which included repositioning large stones and renewal of the sandpit.

(c)

(i) Councillor Dixon reported that he had obtained quotations for trimming the boundary hedge on the Goosecarr Lane frontage at the recreation ground and he had instructed Hayward Horticulture to carry out the work at a cost of £310. The costs for removing overhanging branches in the basketball area and footpath near to the swings were included in the annual contract with Hayward Horticulture.

(ii) Councillor Morley asked what action was to be taken about the vandalised teqball table at the recreation ground.

Resolved:

That Councillor Morley ask whether other local parish councils might be interested in acquiring the teqball table and report back to Members.

(iii) Councillor Dixon reported that there would be no firework display or bonfire in November. The quotation for providing a twenty-minute display was £7,500 an amount that could not be justified in view of the financial situation. The Todwick Together group was also unable to provide this now or in the future.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council provide a fireworks display in future years should the requisite funding be available.

Councillor Morley would add an appropriate post on the Council "Facebook" Page.

(iv) Councillor Dixon noted the underuse of the recreation ground and was hoping to encourage additional use particularly by young people. He also suggested that the Council look favourably on any proposal by the Village Hall Committee to utilise the ground for any of its events.

(v) Councillor Molyneux reported on difficulties arranging suitable opening and closing times for the vehicular access at the recreation ground.

Resolved:

That opening times for the vehicular access gate at the recreation ground would be Spring/Summer 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Autumn/Winter 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.. The pedestrian access gate would always remain open.

(vi) Councillor Dixon explained the difficulties he was experiencing in amending contact details for the Recreation Ground Charity with the Charity Commission but would continue to liaise until the appropriate changes were made.

(vii) Councillor Molyneux reported a defective plastic panel and step at the sports pavilion.

Resolved:

That quotations be sought for removing the plastic panel and tiling the area of the sports pavilion floor not already tiled.

The meeting was suspended at 8.25 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

1. Tony Rusling reported tree branches obstructing two road signs on Goosecarr Lane at the

southbound approach to the village.

The Clerk had previously reported to RMBC and would do so again.

2. Tony Rusling asked whether poppies would be displayed on lighting columns as in previous years.

Councillor Dixon confirmed that they would.

3. Matt Baldry reported that the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee would be held on the 23rd of October and the Christmas Fayre on the 25th November.

4. Matt Baldry reported that the front door of the village hall was rotten at the bottom and required replacing and asked whether the Parish Council would pay for this.

Members agreed in principle subject to further consideration when quotations for the work had been obtained.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.40 p.m.

23/67 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

1. The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that the External Audit had been completed. The “Notice of Conclusion of Audit” for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 had been posted on the Council Notice Board and on the Council Website, together with certified Sections 1,2 and 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The External Auditor had referred to the requirement for the Council to ensure that it had met its responsibilities as a trustee (Internal Audit Control O) and the Parish Council was required to ensure that confirmation of this had been sought and obtained from elsewhere.

Resolved:

To confirm that the Council had obtained confirmation that it had met its responsibilities as a trustee.

2. Councillor Morley presently intended to resign as a Member of the Council in December and therefore a replacement authorised to approve and sign cheques was required.

The Clerk reported that Standing Orders specified that orders for the payment of money must be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by two members and the Financial Officer.

Councillor Dixon reported that it was only necessary for two of the three authorised people to sign the cheques for them to be paid by the Bank.

Members discussed the options given existing Standing Orders and the intention to change banking arrangements.

The Clerk and Financial Officer expressed deep concern about any arrangement excluding the need for him to sign cheques or authorise payments.

Resolved:

To amend Standing Order 34 to read “Orders for the payment of money shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by any two authorised signatories.

23/68 PLANNING MATTERS

1. RB2023/0992

Application to vary condition 03 (finishing materials) imposed by RB2023/0241 at 39 Kiveton Lane.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

2. RB2023/1290

Increase in roof height to create rooms in roof space, pitched roof to existing flat roof garage and single storey rear extension at Osborne Road.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

23/69 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Councillor Morley reported the unacceptable condition of the wayside seat in the verge on Kiveton

Lane fronting the bungalows and near the footpath to the Church.
The Clerk would request remedial action or replacement by RMBC.

23/70 HIGHWAY MATTERS

No reports were received and no matters discussed.

23/71 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					4	3						8
Criminal Damage and Arson						1							1
Other Theft		1				1							2
Other Crime													
Vehicle Crime	2	1	1	4	1		2						11
Public Order						1							1
Violence and Sexual	3			6	2	1	4						16
Robbery													
Drugs													
Bicycle Theft													
Anti-social Behaviour		2	2			2	1						7
Total	6	4	3	10	3	10	10						46

23/72 PARISH MATTERS

No reports were received and no matters discussed.

23/73 NEWSLETTER

Councillor Dixon presented documentation to evidence his proposals for a new format for the Council newsletter.

23/74 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

23/75 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

23/76 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the parish council be held on on Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date