

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 Councillor Jeffrey
 Councillor Molyneux
 Councillor Morley
 Councillor O’Sullivan
 Borough Councillor Bacon – To 8.50 p.m.
 Sixteen Parishioners – To 8.50 p.m.
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

23/77 APOLOGIES

Councillor Davis had resigned from the Parish Council on the 23rd October.
 There were no apologies for absence.

23/78 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

23/79 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

23/80 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

23/81 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that he had:

- contacted Woodsetts Parish Council as instructed and sent a reminder but had received no response.
- forwarded to Members a note of the meeting between The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Barclays Know Your Customer Team and other Senior Barclays Representatives on the 22 September. At the meeting, Barclays provided several contact details that should help local (parish and town) councils who were Barclays Customers and had been miscategorised by Barclays or who had been having difficulties with mandates, signatories, online banking in general, or money laundering rules as experienced by Todwick Parish Council. He had subsequently sought contact details from YLCA and contacted Barclays.
- submitted a further up-to-dated financial forecast to Members in advance of the meeting
- registered as the Administrator of the Recreation Ground Charity with the Charity Commission as arranged by Councillor Dixon.
- posted the Casual Vacancy Notice following the resignation of Councillor Davis

<u>Monies received since last meeting.</u>	£
1. Banks Community Fund – Grant re Sandpit Renewal etc.	4500.00
2. MUGA Users – Hire of the MUGA	70.00

Payments made since last meeting.

1. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance/Strimming (Rec. Grd.)	1131.00
2. Business Stream – Water Bill at Allotments	150.72
3. Haywards Horticulture – Hedge Trimming (Rec. Grd.)	310.00
4. Green Pastures Pest Control – Pest Control at Allotments and Recreation Ground	123.75
5. WEL Medical Limited – Defibrillator Pads	50.34
6. HMRC – October Tax/NI	308.47
7. J R Walker – October Salary and Expenses	1107.57
8. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance	996.00

Payments to be made.

1. Mr Daniel Thorpe – Cleaning and Security at Recreation Ground	250.00
2. James Dixon – Repaid re New Doors Fitted at Bowling Pavilion etc	800.34
3. Tracy Molyneux – Repaid re Cleansing Materials etc	50.40

Un-presented cheques

1. Green Pastures Pest Control – Pest Control	123.75
2. WEL Medical Limited – Defibrillator Pads	50.34
3. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00
4. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance	996.00

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account	Community Account
(Cheque Feeder)	(Cheque)
£35,705.65	£1.00

Total balance after all payments and receipts to date £33,484.82

23/82 COMMITTEES ORGANISATION REPORTS AND DONATIONS

(a) Councillor Morley reported on the receipt of the annual play area inspection reports. Her husband had replaced a seat at the Mary Gregory Play Area and he would be completing other works shortly. She had advertised the disposal of the Teqball table via the Yorkshire Local Council Association and would also be doing this by contacting other parish councils in the Rotherham area.

(b) Councillor Morley reported on the completion of the grant funded work carried out at the recreation ground play area. She had also returned the questionnaire required by Veolia concerning the continued use and availability of the new equipment provided at the Mary Gregory Play Area.

(c)

(i) Councillor Molyneux reported that some income had been received for the hire of the multi-use play area (MUGA) at the recreation ground. This had been handed to the Clerk for depositing at the bank.

(ii) Councillor Dixon gave details of the installation of new external doors at the bowls pavilion, work required to the roof of that building and his meeting with the insurance assessor concerning the water damage to the shower area at the sports pavilion. He explained the reasons why the precept for 2023/24 had been increased and the inadequacy of the monies available for the Council to undertake all that Members would wish to.

The Clerk referred to the financial forecast, the limited financial resources available and urged caution about extensive expenditure with five months of the financial year remaining.

All Councillors considered income presently being received from rents at the recreation ground to be very low and consequently the need for these to contribute more to enable continued use of the facilities.

Councillor Dixon recognised the need for the Bowling Club to take some responsibility for ensuring it's future and would arrange a meeting with representatives.

Sheila Pantry asked whether the Council had considered attracting private sponsorship, which she would be pleased to help with.

Councillor Dixon confirmed that this was under consideration.

(iii) Councillor Jeffrey reported that there was presently one vacant allotment but he had a meeting arranged on the coming Saturday with a prospective plot holder. There was one other person on the waiting list.

23/83 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

There were no new matters to discuss.

The clerk had amended Standing Order 34 as instructed.

23/84 PLANNING MATTERS

1. RB2023/1434

First floor rear and single storey rear extensions and conversion of garage to front to habitable space at 5 Manor Way.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application.

23/85 PARISH PLAN

Councillor O'Sullivan gave details of the information collated from the questionnaire posted online. Seventy-five people had responded which represented just over ten percent of households. He was comparing responses with the village demographic. Not all the actions proposed by the previous parish plan had been carried out and any new plan needed to set achievable targets that the Council could affect because many aspirations were beyond its control. Once reviewed, the final plan needed to be kept under regular review and included in any financial plan or budget.

In answer to Tony Rusling, he accepted that not everyone could access the internet and he was hoping to be able to run a course in the village hall to help with computer use and concerns about computer-related crime.

The meeting was suspended at 7.55 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

1. Richard Edley, Susan Newton, David Smith, Sheila Pantry, Peter Hall, Brian and Carol White and others expressed their concern about three plots of agricultural land presently being sold within the village with the possibility of a change to housing or light industrial use. The plot adjacent Millfields, Sandwith Road and Storth Lane was of particular concern.

Borough Councillor Bacon was a member of the RMBC Planning Board and explained that all three plots were designated green belt. Two were also defined as local wildlife sites. Only eight separate objections were required for any planning application to be referred for determination to the Planning Board rather than delegated to the Planning Officer.

Borough Councillor Bacon, Councillor Dixon, the Clerk and other Members explained the Local Plan and the mechanisms and timescales required for a change of use or any planning applications to be successful.

Councillor Dixon had noted the changes made to the wording of the initial sale advertisements which had clearly been misleading.

2. Tony Rusling was concerned about the recent flooding at the junction of The Pastures and Goosecarr Lane. He suggested this was due to a lack of maintenance of the drainage system by

RMBC.

Councillor Dixon explained the actions taken by the Parish Council when the flooding occurred and referred to meetings attended by the Clerk and himself some two years ago, at which RMBC had informed that a flood alleviation scheme had been prepared and was intended to be constructed within a three-year period. Borough Councillor Bacon would liaise with appropriate RMBC Officers to ascertain the situation and inform the Parish Council of his findings.

3. Councillor Dixon stated that “The Informer” would be produced in an entirely new format and it was intended that this be produced before Christmas. He would be relying on his fellow councillors to assist with the preparation.

4. Councillor O’Sullivan explained that the website business hosting was due for renewal. He would be paying this and reclaiming the money from the Council. He was looking at options to reduce costs.

Matt Baldry informed that as a charity the village hall had negotiated use of Microsoft 365 at no cost for two years and with ten users.

Councillor O’Sullivan had investigated this but the Parish Council was not a charity and consequently could not be treated in the same way.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.50 p.m.

23/86 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

There were no further matters to discuss.

23/87 HIGHWAY MATTERS

No reports were received and no matters discussed.

23/88 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	1					9
Criminal Damage and Arson						1							1
Other Theft		1				1							2
Other Crime													
Vehicle Crime	2	1	1	4	1		2	3					14
Public Order						1							1
Violence and Sexual	3			6	2	1	4	3					19
Robbery													
Drugs								1					1
Bicycle Theft													
Anti-social Behaviour		2	2			2	1	2					9
Total	6	4	3	10	3	10	10	10					56

The total numbers for Todwick appeared to be falling overall i.e. 56 compared to 65 in 2022. Total numbers for the Rotherham Borough were increasing in 2023 i.e. 809 in July and 879 in August. The highest number of offences being 263 Violence & Sex, 181 Antisocial Behaviour and 81 Burglary. There had been 8 reports for Possession of Weapons.

23/89 PARISH MATTERS

No further reports were received and no matters discussed.

23/90 COUNCIL VACANCY

- (a) No new applications to join the Council had been received.
- (b) Additional methods to attract new applicants to join the council would be considered at the November meeting.

23/91 NEWSLETTER

Councillor Dixon had reported on this earlier in the meeting.

23/92 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

23/93 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

23/94 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

That the December meeting be held on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date