

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

Present

Councillor Dixon – Chairman

Councillor Jeffrey

Councillor Molyneux

Councillor O’Sullivan

Borough Councillor Bacon – 7.50 to 8.50 p.m.

Tony Rusling – To 8.50 p.m.

Stuart Edwards – To 8.50 p.m.

J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

23/95 APOLOGIES

Councillor Morley had sent an apology and her reason for absence approved.

Matt Baldry had sent his apologies.

23/96 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

23/97 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

23/98 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st October 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

23/99 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

(a) The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that he had:

- written to British Gas on the 4th November but had not yet received a reply. A cheque had been received covering the period July to October for FiT readings between 44407 and 45678. The previous cheque received covered the period January to April for readings between 42339 and 43009. Nothing has been received covering the period between April and July for readings 43009 to 44407.
- contacted Woodsetts Parish Council as instructed and sent a reminder but had still received no response.
- submitted a further up-to-dated financial forecast to Members in advance of the meeting.

Monies received since last meeting.

	£
1. British Gas – Feed in Tarif Payment	898.72
2. MUGA Users – Hire of Multi Use Games Area	140.00

Payments made since last meeting.

1. Hobsons Nurseries Ltd – Summer and Winter Planting	240.00
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2. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Room Rent	21.00
3. HMRC – November Tax/NI	519.71
4. J R Walker – November Salary and Expenses and Back Monies	1464.23
5. Mr. James Dixon – Repaid Pavilion Charges	360.00
6. YLCA – Webinar Fee	33.40
7. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance	996.00

Payments to be made.

1. Paul O’Sullivan – Repaid Business Hosting Fee	184.14
2. Daniel Thorpe – Cleaning and Security at the Recreation Ground	250.00
3. Chesterfield Canal Trust – Subscription Renewal	50.00

Un-presented cheques

1. Hobson Nurseries – Summer and Winter Planting	240.00
2. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Room Rent	21.00
3. YLCA – Webinar Fee	33.40

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account (Cheque Feeder)	£33,862.83	Community Account (Cheque)	£-1,823.23
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Total balance after all payments and receipts to date £31,401.06

(b) Members considered the latest financial forecast to the 31st March 2024 provided by the Financial Officer.

Councillor Dixon reported on essential works required to the bowling pavilion roof and the shower areas at the sports pavilion.

A loft access had been installed to facilitate inspection of the roof. Various options to remediate the problems were being considered, including removal of the pitched roof and reinstatement of the flat roof. Estimated costs were between £10,000 and £14,000.

Zurich Insurance had agreed to fund the exploratory investigation at the shower area to ascertain the reason for the decay to the floor. It wasn’t certain but it was hoped Zurich would fund at least some of the replacement costs. The investigation had revealed a problem with the drainage system installed underneath the shower and it was likely that solving this would considerably add to the cost.

Councillor Dixon was aware of the financial situation and suggested that repairing the bowling club roof should take priority. He would arrange a meeting with representatives of the Bowling Club to ascertain what financial contribution it could make and recommended that grant aid be sought to construct a new building. He had also spoken with Borough Councillor Bacon who was to attend the Open Session later in the meeting.

23/100 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER’S SALARY

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported:

He had forwarded to Members the 2023 to 2024 National Joint Council National Pay Agreement notified by the National Association of Local Councils. In accordance with his Employment Contract the Clerk and Financial Officer’s salary was paid at Salary Common Point 23 with a working week of 18 hours. He had submitted the calculation giving his new salary and the back monies due in advance of the meeting.

Resolved:

1. To confirm an increase in the Clerk and Financial Officer’s annual salary from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 from £13,731.12 to £14,667.12.
2. To pay back monies of £546.82 for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 October 2023.

23/101 COMMITTEES ORGANISATION REPORTS AND DONATIONS

(a) Members considered the most recent play area inspection reports. No urgent works were required. The cost of reports, a decision on the inspection frequency and methodology would be considered at the budget meeting in January 2024. Councillors Jeffrey and Dixon would liaise to arrange removal of some tree branches causing a potential problem at the recreation ground.

(b) This item had been covered earlier in the meeting [Minute 23/99(b)].

(c) (i) Councillor Jeffrey reported that all the allotment plots were now let. He would shortly be sending out letters to plot holders and receiving rents.

(ii) Councillor Molyneux had arranged a meeting with Liz Wainwright from the Cricket Club and Matthew Hayward to discuss the maintenance of the cricket square and issues of concern at the sports pavilion.

23/102 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

There were no new matters to discuss.

23/103 PLANNING MATTERS

No new planning applications had been received since the October meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 8.10 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

1. Borough Councillor Bacon was pleased to have been invited to the meeting by Councillor Dixon. He had been made aware of the problems with the bowling club pavilion roof. He had £1,000 remaining in his allocation from the RMBC Community Leadership Fund and was prepared to donate this towards the cost of the works. He would also speak to the RMBC Neighbourhood Coordinator with a view to ascertaining what funding streams may be available to assist with financing the work. He would liaise with Councillor Dixon and the Clerk. Following Councillor Dixon's question he confirmed that he would be pleased to give general support to any grant application by the Parish Council.

2. Tony Rusling raised problems concerning the "micro surfacing" works completed in 2022 and more recently. The Clerk advised that he and Councillor Dixon had a meeting arranged the following week with RMBC Officers, to discuss this and other highway maintenance defects. Borough Councillor Bacon would make his own enquiries and continue to support the Parish Council's efforts to secure improvements to the condition of carriageways and footways throughout the village.

Councillor Molyneux referred to the recent carriageway works at St. Paul's Close which she thought to be of good quality.

3. In answer to Tony Rusling, the Clerk and Councillor O'Sullivan gave some information received from RMBC following the recent severe flooding in the RMBC area.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.50 p.m.

23/104 PARISH PLAN

Councillor O'Sullivan

(i) went through the responses to the parish survey questionnaire and, using a tablet computer, demonstrated the amended presentation of the data and the information to be derived.

He had created a tab/worksheet for each question, with both the raw data and a graph/chart to make the results easier to interpret. He would be grateful to receive comments from the other Members.

In future he would amend the questions somewhat.

The results were reasonably representative of the village when compared to the National Census including the respondents' breakdown of males/females in the household.

Compared to Rotherham Borough as a whole, there was a higher proportion of residents over seventy years of age but significantly less in the late teens/early twenties.

(ii) was to run an online safety session at the village hall during the coming week and hoped this would help all those who attended. He would consider running another session subject to feedback and numbers interested.

(iii) was negotiating a reduction in the cost of the provision of Office 365 used by members and the Clerk.

23/105 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

There were no further matters to discuss.

23/106 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				2
Other Theft		1				1							2
Other Crime													
Vehicle Crime	2	1	1	4	1		2	3					14
Public Order						1			1				2
Violence and Sexual	3			6	2	1	4	3	3				22
Robbery													
Drugs								1					1
Bicycle Theft													
Anti-social Behaviour		2	2			2	1	2	1				10
Total	6	4	3	10	3	10	10	10	6				62

Borough wide the overall numbers in September were 859 compared to 879 in August. A small reduction but still welcome.

Highest figures were Violence and Sexual at 303 with 263 in August

Second was Anti-social Behaviour at 141 with 181 in August.

Third was Public Order with 85 replacing last months for burglary at 81

Violence and Sexual was also the highest category for Todwick.

Vehicle Crime was the second highest for Todwick. There didn't appear to be a particular "hot spot" in the parish.

A red Subaru stolen from the village has been recovered by the police from a lock-up garage in Leicester. It was part of a bigger stolen vehicle investigation and was currently back in the locality having an engine rebuild wrecked during the theft.

23/107 PARISH MATTERS

The Clerk referred to an enquiry Councillor Morley had received on Facebook. Sandra Morrell was interested in increasing the number of bells in the Parish Church. Feedback from the congregation and wider community had suggested that this would be an asset and encourage people to consider bell ringing as a hobby. She had asked that the Parish Council offer financial assistance.

Councillor Dixon reminded Members of the legal restrictions placed on Parish Councils when considering assisting the Church.

Resolved:

Not to support the application considering the legal position and the financial situation.

23/108 COUNCIL VACANCY

(a) Numerous efforts had been made to attract applications to join the Council. Non had been received and Members were most concerned at the lack of interest.

(b) Additional methods to attract new applicants to join the council were discussed but no new suggestions made.

23/109 NEWSLETTER

Councillor Dixon intended producing a newsletter soon but this would now likely be after Christmas. He asked that other Members submit articles to him related to the areas they had knowledge of.

23/110 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

23/111 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

23/112 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

To confirm that the next monthly council meeting take place on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date