

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor Davis
 Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 Councillor Jeffrey
 Councillor Lambert
 Councillor Molyneux
 Councillor O’Sullivan
 Matt Baldry
 Tony Rusling
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

24/154 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

24/155 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.

24/156 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

24/157 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council held on on Tuesday 26th November 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

24/158 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported:

Monies received since last meeting.

	£
1. Miguel Llera – Hire of Multi-use Games Area	375.00
2. Various MUGA Users – Hire of Multi-use Games Area for Tennis	56.00
3. Barclays Bank – Interest	108.88
4. Miguel Llera – Hire of Multi-use Games Area	270.00

Payments made since last meeting.

1. St. John Ambulance – Medical Cover at Fireworks Display	137.28
2. Rotherham MBC – May Election Costs	113.52
3. Todwick Village Hall – Hire of Main Hall	21.00
4. Susan Wright – Opening of Recreation Ground Gates	50.00
5. Paul O’Sullivan – Repay Cost of Business Hosting	211.20
6. AD Electrical Services Ltd – Install Electrical Supply to Christmas Tree	3540.00
7. Jewson – Timber for Bowling Club	322.56

Payments to be made.

1. HMRC – December Tax/NI	352.46
2. J R Walker – December Salary and Expenses	1189.11
3. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance at Recreation Ground	996.00

Un-presented cheques

1. St. John Ambulance – Medical Cover at Fireworks	137.28
2. Rotherham MBC – May Election Costs	113.52

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account (Cheque Feeder)	Community Account (Cheque)
£21,839.38	£-3882.56

Total balance after all payments and receipts to date £15,438.45

24/159 COMMITTEES ORGANISATION REPORTS

(a)

- i. Councillor Dixon reported that play area inspection reports did not conclude there were any urgent repairs required. Councillor Lambert was to head the project group to study the play equipment at both play areas and would ask Lucy Morley for an update on the proposals for the footpath at the Mary Gregory Play Area and the progress of any grant application.

(b)

- i. Councillor Molyneux reported that Miguel Llera had paid his fees for hire of the MUGA up to January. The Ladies Football Team was playing on the grass pitch and quite happy with the facilities.
- ii. Councillor Jeffrey reported that the pest control contractor was retiring and would not be undertaking the work after the end of January. Councillor Davis recommended Anston Pest Control as a replacement.
- iii. Councillor Jeffrey had prepared the letters concerning the increase to allotment plot rents, also emphasising the need to keep the entrance gate closed.
- iv. Councillor Dixon reported recent damage to the boundary/retaining wall at the village hall. This had been caused by a vehicle being driven into the wall during a parking manoeuvre. Part of the wall was now in a potentially dangerous condition and temporary works were required to make safe.

Councillor O'Sullivan declared an interest as the wall bounded his property and he did not participate in the discussions or resolution.

Councillor Dixon invited Matt Baldry to join in the discussions, since he was Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Matt Baldry had viewed the damage and CCTV images showing the offending vehicle.

Efforts were underway to obtain driver and insurance details.

Resolved:

That the Clerk and Financial Officer report the incident to the Council's Insurers and seek advice on submitting a claim and the undertaking of temporary support to the wall.

The meeting was suspended at 8.15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

1. Tony Rusling enquired whether RMBC had yet responded to his reports, including weeds in the carriageway channel at Goosecarr Lane.
The Clerk advised that no substantive reply had been received and he would contact RMBC yet again.

2. Matt Baldry referred to RMBC Councillor Josh Bacon having access to £300,00 for use in the Ward
3. Councillor Dixon had been invited to attend a Bowling Club meeting on the 27th December. This was to introduce himself and discuss any matters of relevance to the Parish Council
4. Councillor Molyneux and Matt Baldry gave details of the recent singing of Christmas carols around the newly planted Christmas Tree at the recreation ground. This had been well attended and it was hoped would become an annual event. Favourable weather had helped.
5. Councillor Molyneux and Matt Baldry gave details of the highly successful Christmas Fayre at the village hall. Over £2,000 had been raised for village hall funds. The Children's Party had also been successful and the Parish Council was thanked for the £250 donation to this. Some 26 children had attended.
6. Tony Rusling advised that the Bowling Club was in the process of obtaining quotations for relaying block paving. These would be passed to the Parish Council. Councillor Dixon had noted the poor condition of the bowling green surface and suggested the Bowling Club may wish to pursue a grant to renew this at the end of the next season.
7. Matt Baldry and Tony Rusling complained about the problems with vehicles being parked on both sides of The Pastures. The Clerk had reported this to RMBC several times but received no reply.
8. Matt Baldry reported that Sue Wright had retired as caretaker at the village hall due to ill health. A replacement caretaker had been appointed but would not begin duties until 6th January. Meanwhile various people including Councillor Molyneux and himself were seeing to things. All present expressed their thanks for the work Sue had undertaken at the village hall and for the Parish Council. Councillor Dixon reported that Sarah Baldry had agreed to open the recreation ground entrance gates previously carried out by Sue Wright. The remuneration would be the same.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.40 p.m.

24/160 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Councillor Dixon reported on the recent exchange of emails between the Clerk and Financial Officer and the External Auditor, together with his own discussions with the Charity Commission, concerning the responsibilities of the Council as a parish council and as the Sole Trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity.

Resolved:

That Councillor Dixon and the Clerk and Financial Officer meet with the Internal Auditor and an expert on charity matters to recommend a way forward.

24/161 PLANNING MATTERS

1. RB2024/1713

Erection of single storey rear and single storey side extension at 17 Manor Way.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application

2. RB2024/1715

Demotion of existing front dormer, rear extension and detached garage. Erection of dormers to the front, two storey side, two storey rear, first floor rear and single storey rear extension at 2 Manor Way.

Resolved:

Not to object to the application

3. Councillor Dixon reported on his discussions with representatives of Whitestone Solar Farms Ltd, concerning proposals to site a battery storage facility in the area. He had arranged for a meeting between the Parish Council and the representatives on the 15th January 2025 to obtain

relevant details. A time had not yet been agreed but he would inform Members when this was known. It would be a closed meeting but he intended this to be followed by a public meeting at a later date.

24/162 IT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Councillor O’Sullivan had kept the website updated and included the RMBC weekly notification of roadworks in the area. He had renewed the hosting for the gov.uk addresses and intended refreshing the presentation of the website.
2. Councillor O’Sullivan had set up a new group on Facebook to sit alongside Neighbourhood Watch. The recent spate of burglaries had not been made known to parishioners and this was an effective way to do this and for other crime and police-related matters. Councillor Dixon considered this to be an excellent initiative and would do anything he could to assist. Councillor Molyneux advised that the area PCSO Amy Whaley was holding a meeting in the village hall in January.

24/163 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Clerk reported the crime statistics prepared by Norman Anderson.

Monthly Categories for Todwick

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Burglary	1	3				1	2			2			9
Criminal Damage and Arson			2						1				3
Other Theft	1		1	1				1					4
Other Crime							1		2	1			4
Vehicle Crime	2	2	1	3		1		1	2				12
Public Order		1	1				1			1			4
Violence and Sexual		3	4		1	1	5	1	3	3			21
Possession of Weapons				1		1							2
Drugs			1										1
Bicycle Theft													
Anti-social Behaviour	1	4	2	2		4		3	3	2			21
Shoplifting									1				1
Total	5	13	12	7	1	8	9	6	12	9			82

The total number of reported offences for Todwick up to the end of October 2023 was 64. This year it was 82.

Total and Main Offences for the whole of Rotherham Borough

	Total	Violence and Sexual	Anti-social Behaviour	Criminal Damage and Arson	Vehicle Crime
October	787	275	181	76	-
September	776	274	129	-	74
August	716	256	119	-	76

There had been no recorded figures for the Red Lion area for quite some while.

A large section of crash barrier on the M1 Junction 31 Roundabout had been damaged. The perpetrator was presently unknown.

24/164 COUNCIL VACANCY

No applications to become a member of the parish council had been received.

24/165 PARISH MATTERS

1. Councillor Davis advised that local Round Table was to have the Christmas Children’s Toys Appeal again and all donations would be gratefully received. This was being carried out in conjunction with the Salvation Army at Dinnington.
2. Councillor Davis advised that the Christmas Santa tour of the village would also be going ahead.
3. The condition of the shop frontages at the Cyprus Gardens, Vintage Tea Rooms and Sistachic premises at The Pastures had been greatly improved since the November meeting and no action by the Parish Council was proposed.

24/166 NEWSLETTER

Councillor Dixon had intended preparing a newsletter before Christmas but had insufficient articles to justify this. He now hoped to be able to publish one at the end of January and asked Members for their input.

24/167 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

24/168 ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

No items were raised.

24/169 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. The budget and precept setting meeting would be held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall. This would be a closed meeting.
2. The January council meeting would be held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall. This would be open to the press and public as normal.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date