

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 Councillor Jeffrey
 Councillor Molyneux
 Matt Baldry
 Tony Rusling
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

24/136 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davis, Lambert and O’Sullivan.

24/137 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.

24/138 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were raised.

24/139 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council held on on Tuesday 29th October 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

24/140 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported:

Monies received since last meeting.

	£
1. HMRC – VAT Refund	5269.73
2. Jamie Raywood – Stalls at Fireworks Event	200.00
3. Todwick Parish Council – Gate Receipts from Fireworks Event	720.63

Payments made since last meeting.

1. Hobson Nurseries Ltd. – Hanging Baskets and Planting	4286.40
2. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00
3. Sheila Pantry – Donation to Library Books at Wales High School	200.00
4. James Dixon – Repaid Cost of Poppies, Wreath, Fireworks Sign, etc	516.98
5. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance at Allotments	278.00
6. HMRC – November Tax/NI	476.19
7. SSE Energy Solutions – Electricity Bill at Recreation Ground	280.54
8. AD Electrical Services Ltd – Distribution Board etc at Recreation Ground	564.00
9. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance	996.00
10. Susan Wright – Opening Recreation Ground Gates	50.00

Payments to be made.

1. Daniel Thorpe - Cleaning and Security at Recreation Ground	250.00
2. J R Walker – November Salary, Back Monies and Expenses	1505.50
3. Tracy Molyneux – Repaid Materials for Sports Pavilion	19.17

Un-presented cheques

1. Hobson Nurseries Ltd – Hanging Baskets & Planting	4286.40
2. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00
3. Sheila Pantry – Donation to Library Books at Wales High School	200.00

Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account	Community Account
(Cheque Feeder)	(Cheque)
£28,456.77	£-49.00

Total balance after all payments and receipts to date £22,125.70

He had sent the latest financial forecast to the year end in advance of the meeting and asked for any input from Members. Councillors Dixon and Molyneux gave details of further projected income and expenditure.

Wales High School would not accept payment by cheque for the donation to the purchase of new library books. Since this was presently the only option available to the Parish Council, the donation cheque had been paid to Sheila Pantry. She had then transferred the £200 to the school.

Councillor Molyneux handed £375 cash to Clerk and Financial Officer received from Miguel Llera for hire of the Multiuse Games Area.

Councillor Jeffrey handed £56 cash to Clerk and Financial Officer received from various tennis players for hire of the Multiuse Games Area.

24/141 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S SALARY

The Clerk and Financial Officer had sent details of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024/25 to Members in advance of the meeting, together with the calculation giving his new salary and the back monies due in accordance with his Contract of Employment.

Resolved:

1. To confirm an increase in the Clerk and Financial Officer's annual salary from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 from £15,604.44 to £16,232.11.
2. To pay back monies of £366.14 for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024.

24/142 COMMITTEES ORGANISATION REPORTS

(a)

i. Councillor Dixon reported that there were no urgent repairs required at the play areas. He 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.

ii. Councillor Dixon referred to the need for someone to head the project group to study the play equipment at both play areas and he would discuss with Councillor Lambert

(b)

i. Councillor Dixon was to arrange a meeting with the Cricket Club to discuss maintenance of the playing surface and other matters.

ii. Councillor Jeffrey reported an infestation of rats at the allotments. He had arranged the addition of many more bait boxes. The situation would be closely monitored.

iii. Councillor Jeffrey reported that the boundary hedging had been cut at the allotments.

- iv. Councillor Jeffrey would shortly be sending out letters to plot holders informing of the plot rents for 2025

24/143 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The Clerk and Financial Adviser had written an email to the external auditor concerning the relationship between and responsibilities of the Council as a parish council and as the sole trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity.

Resolved:

To await a response from the External Auditor.

24/144 PLANNING MATTERS

1. RB2024/1566

Erection of single storey front extension to be rendered at 12 Mill Hills

Resolved:

Not to object to the application

2. Councillor Dixon referred in general to planning applications for use of green belt land for the storage of batteries used to supplement the National Grid. Some areas of the country had approved such applications and others had not. Consultation events had been held in other local parishes but not in Todwick. He had expressed his concerns to Jake Richards MP who agreed that this was unacceptable. The MP had liaised with the appropriate people who proposed an initial meeting with Parish Council Members. Councillor Dixon would continue to liaise and inform when proposals for such a meeting were made.

24/145 IT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

No reports were received.

24/146 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	3				1	2						7
Criminal Damage and Arson			2						1				3
Other Theft	1		1	1				1					4
Other Crime							1		2				3
Vehicle Crime	2	2	1	3		1		1	2				12
Public Order		1	1				1						3
Violence and Sexual		3	4		1	1	5	1	3				18
Possession of Weapons				1		1							2
Drugs			1										1
Bicycle Theft													
Anti-social Behaviour	1	4	2	2		4		3	3				19
Total	5	13	12	7	1	8	9	6	12				73

The three main issues continued to be Anti-social Behaviour, Violence and Sexual, and Vehicle Crime as reflected in the Borough-wide statistics.

24/147 COUNCIL VACANCY

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

The meeting was suspended at 8.00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

1. Discussions took place on the siting and lighting of a planted Christmas tree at the entrance to the recreation ground and the possibilities of adding other features to increase the attraction of that area. Matt Baldry reported that the Village Hall Management Committee was to ring-fence any profit from the Christmas events to pay for something in the area. Councillor Dixon's suggestion of a crib and nativity scene such as at Aston was an option.
2. Tony Rusling reported significant changes to the Bowling Club Committee details of which would be given to the Parish Council.
3. Tony Rusling reported that quotations were being sought for the renewal of block paving at the bowls club area. The bowls club would be seeking financial assistance from the Parish Council. Councillor Dixon advised that the Council's annual budget meeting would be held in January and therefore any requests, together with quotation details must be received before then if the Council were to consider including something for 2025/26.
4. Tony Rusling had observed that the entrance gate to the allotments was often left open allowing the opportunity for unlicensed tipping. Councillor Jeffrey had already raised this with plot holders and would add something on this in his letter informing of the rents for 2025.
5. Tony Rusling was concerned that despite his complaints and action by the Clerk, RMBC had done nothing about removing the weeds in the gutters particularly evident on Goosecarr Lane. Members agreed that as one of many instances where RMBC had failed to address complaints the Clerk should involve the RMBC Chief Executive and Ward Members.
6. Matt Baldry confirmed that the Village Hall Committee had ordered a banner advertising the Christmas events. This would be placed fronting the newly installed Christmas tree at the recreation ground.
7. Matt Baldry and Tony Rusling complained about the problems with vehicles being parked on both sides of The Pastures. HGVs often found it difficult to get through. Reference was made to the site meeting that took place some months ago with RMBC and it was highly unlikely RMBC would agree to impose parking restrictions.
8. Councillor Molyneux thanked the Parish Council for its donation to Christmas events being arranged by the Village Hall Management Committee.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.30 p.m.

24/148 PARISH MATTERS

1. A handwritten letter of thanks had been received from Jake Richards MP related to the public meeting on the 15th November. He hoped it had been useful for residents and would follow up on the issues raised. He offered further assistance if requested.
2. A complaint had been received about the condition of the shop frontages at the Cyprus Gardens, Vintage Tea Rooms and Sistachic premises at The Pastures.. Members were aware of recent improvements on the frontage and within the properties and considered more time should be given to allow any offending items to be removed.

Resolved:

To reconsider at the December meeting.

3. Further complaints had been received about the condition of the highway left after the contractor had installed fibre optic cables at various locations in the village. The Clerk had reported this several times without any apparent action by RMBC.

Resolved:

That the Clerk include this in his further complaints to the RMBC Chief Executive and Ward Members

4. Councillor Dixon referred to the recent resurfacing on three roads by RMBC thanks to the repeated requests made by the Parish Council.
5. Councillor Molyneux referred to Christmas lights being attached between lighting columns in some of the neighbouring villages. She wondered whether these were provided by the parish councils or RMBC.

Resolved:

That the Clerk write to RMBC.

24/149 NEWSLETTER

There was no report to consider.

24/150 SOUTH YORKSHIRE BUS FRANCHISING CONSULTATION

Members considered the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority’s request for people, businesses and organisations to have their say on how buses should be run in South Yorkshire.

Bus services through Todwick had significantly declined over many years. There were no direct buses to Dinnington, Rotherham or Worksop and very few to Anston, Harthill or Sheffield. Since Todwick had no doctors, post office, general store, or butchers etc., parishioners had no option but to travel elsewhere to access these amenities. This added to the sense of isolation felt by parishioners, particularly the elderly and more vulnerable.

Resolved:

That the Clerk write to the South Yorkshire Mayor Combined Authority expressing the Parish Council’s concern about the extremely poor bus services provided. If service improvements for the village could only be achieved via “Bus Franchising”, then this would be supported.

24/151 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss.

24/152 ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

No items were raised.

24/153 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

1. That the December council meeting take place on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.
2. That the budget and precept setting meeting take place on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.
3. That the January council meeting take place on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date