

# TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

## **Present**

Councillor Davis

Councillor Dixon – Chairman

Councillor Jeffrey

Councillor O’Sullivan

J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

Matt Baldry

Daniel Thorpe

Norman Anderson

Steven Cocking

Dr. G French

Mrs H French

Mrs V Pound

Mr B Pound

Elaine Tame

Andrew Robinson (Brampton-en-le-Morthern Resident and Thurcroft Parish Council Member)

Erica Williamson (Harthill Parish Council Member)

Leigh Sissons (Harthill Parish Council Member)

## **25/131 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Dixon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Molyneux and Tony Rusling

## **25/132 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 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.

## **25/133 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

No items were raised.

## **25/134 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## **25/135 REPORT BY THE CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In addition to his normal duties, the Clerk and Financial Officer had:

- Submitted the Annual Return for the Recreation Ground Charity to the Charity Commission.
- Met with a representative of Barclay’s Bank to arrange for payments to be made other than by cheques, although that would remain an option. As now and in accordance with Standing Orders, all payments would have to be checked and approved in advance by the Chairman or Councillor O’Sullivan in addition to himself.
- Informed members of the arrangements for his forthcoming operation which he hoped would

not adversely affect his ability to undertake his duties.

Monies received since last meeting. £  
1. M Angel – Hire of MUGA 760.00

Payments made since last meeting.

1. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Rent	21.00
2. Haywards Horticulture – Grounds Maintenance at Rec Grd./Hedging at Allotments	1274.00
3. HMRC – October Tax/NI	425.84
4. Warburton Signs – Banner re Fireworks Display	60.00
5. James Dixon – Repaid cost of TENS License	21.00

Payments to be made.

1. J R Walker – October Salary and Expenses	1229.34
2. Paul O’Sullivan – Repaid Cost of Business Hosting for todwick-pc.gov.uk	237.47

Un-presented cheques

1. Todwick Village Hall – Meeting Room Hire	21.00
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Present bank statement balances

Business Saver Account	Community Account
(Cheque Feeder)	(Cheque)
£39,940.38	£1.00
Total balance after all payments and receipts £38,453.61	

**25/136 DONATIONS**

No further applications had been received.

**25/137 COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATION REPORTS**

1. Councillor Jeffrey reported that the pest control reports had been received from RMBC and that the hedging works were satisfactorily completed.

**25/138 GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

a. Data protection with respect to the Installation of CCTV Cameras

There was nothing further to discuss following approval of the Data Protection Policy and related documentation at the September meeting.

Councillor Dixon confirmed that although there had been some delay due to the unavailability of some essential parts, it was anticipated installation of the cameras would commence in November. There would be no intrusion into private properties. The Parish Council would have no direct access to the information but it would be monitored by the central control at RMBC and available to the Police when requested. There would be no link with ANPR Cameras.

b. Preparation of a Business Continuity Plan

Councillor O’Sullivan would bring a discussion document to Council once prepared.

c. Other Governance Matters

The Clerk gave additional details of his discussions with Barclays Bank.

**Resolved:**

That Councillor O’Sullivan be approved to check and approve payments in advance should the Chairman be unavailable.

Councillors Dixon, O’Sullivan and the Clerk and Financial Officer completed and signed the requisite forms provided by Barclays.

**25/139 PLANNING MATTERS**1. Application RB2025/1362

Erection of single storey front extension, two storey side extension, single storey rear extension to connect to the existing garage and alterations to hardstanding for vehicle access at 5 Wasteneys Road

**Resolved:**

Not to object to the application

**25/140 IT AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Councillor O'Sullivan had contacted ex Councillor Carter in order that he became the designated Master Administrator of the Council Facebook Page. Once this was done he would develop a circulation information group.

**25/141 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Clerk reported the crime statistics prepared by Norman Anderson.

Monthly Categories for Todwick

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Burglary			1	1	1	2							5
Criminal Damage and Arson				1									1
Other Theft													
Other Crime													
Vehicle Crime	1	1			2								4
Public Order	1		1		1	1	3	3					10
Violence and Sexual	2	3		5		2	1	1					14
Possession of Weapons													
Drugs					1								1
Bicycle Theft													
Shoplifting								1					1
Robbery							1						1
Anti-social Behaviour	6	4	1		1			2					14
Total	10	8	3	7	6	5	5	7					51

There were 917 disclosed incidents in the whole of Rotherham Borough in July and 841 in August. The Todwick Area had 7 in August, 4 of which were outside the village boundary on Hardwick Lane.

Anti-social Behaviour and Violence and Sexual now had the most overall at 14 each for the year to the end of August.

Public Order was next at 10.

Burglary was at a low 5.

Criminal Damage and Arson just 1.

Norman Anderson was liaising with PSCO Whaley to arrange a vehicle speed check on Kiveton Lane.

**25/142 COUNCIL VACANCIES**

No applications to join the Council had been received.

The meeting was suspended at 7.30 pm

**OPEN SESSION**

1. Mrs H French asked:-

- What opinion the Parish Council had on the Whitestone Solar Farms proposals in the area?

- How had the Parish Council canvassed the opinion of Todwick Parishioners?
- Had the Parish Council met formally with Whitestone and if so, what was the outcome?
- Had the Parish Council written a letter of objection to the proposals.

Members advised:-

- The Parish Council had noted that there were presently no proposals to site any solar panels within the parish. It was concerned about traffic/highway issues on Kiveton Lane during the construction phase. There were three separate areas to be developed but only one of these centred around Harthill and Woodall would result in increased traffic volumes and cable laying through Todwick.
- The Parish Council had not canvassed the opinion of individual parishioners. Whitestone had held an event in the village hall to which anyone could attend.
- The Parish Council had met informally with Whitestone representatives.
- The Parish Council had commented to Whitestone concerning vehicle movements on Kiveton Lane but had not yet submitted full comments/objections. The matter would be discussed following the Open Session and the public were most welcome to hear the debate and any resolution passed. Any comments made during the Open Session would be considered.

Dr and Mrs French were unhappy with the response and in particular the lack of proactive consultation to inform parishioners of the implications of the proposals, particularly those living on and near Kiveton Lane. They were strongly opposed to the proposals and urged the Parish Council to register formal objections before the deadline for submissions. Cable laying on Kiveton Lane would be a huge problem in addition to the increased traffic flows by HGVs in particular.

Mr and Mrs Pound were also concerned about the proposals.

Elaine Tame agreed that the Parish Council should have done more to inform parishioners and she too was concerned about the consequences for the village.

The Clerk explained some of the procedures Whitestone would need to comply with and conditions that could be imposed as part of any permission given.

Matt Baldry had no strong objection to the proposals and urged everyone to base their decisions on facts and not any scaremongering as was evident by some posts on social media.

Andrew Robinson, Emma Williamson and Lee Sissons gave a precis of the consequences for Thurcroft and Harthill with Woodall Parishes and the objections raised by those parish councils. They urged Todwick to also object.

Councillor Dixon explained that Members would be considering the matter later in the meeting. All those in attendance were most welcome to witness the discussions and any resolution but would not be allowed to make any further comments.

2. Matt Baldry enquired what action had been taken to ensure replacement of the dead Christmas tree at the recreation ground.

Councillor Dixon advised that this was in hand but there had been some delay because of the death of the contractor's daughter.

3. Elaine Tame explained the need for a wayside seat at the northern end of Goosecarr Lane and asked that one be provided.

Councillor Dixon explained that these seats were now the responsibility of RMBC and the Clerk would submit a request.

The Clerk explained the possibility of an individual or the Parish Council obtaining a license to site a seat should RMBC not agree to do so. This had not been included when agreeing the budget for 2025/26 but Members may choose to consider this at the budget setting meeting for 2026/27.

4. Norman Anderson noted that union flags had been removed from the lighting columns presumably by RMBC

Councillor Davis informed that TPC Councillors would be attaching poppies to the lighting columns as in previous years on the coming Saturday and Sunday. Anyone wishing to help would be most welcome.

5. Steven Cocking asked if any response had been received from RMBC concerning the problems he had reported at Lindley's Croft.

The Clerk had not received a reply and would again urge a response.

6. Steven Cocking asked what progress had been made in installing additional measures to prevent unauthorised vehicular access at the entrance to the recreation ground.

Councillor Dixon advised that consideration of the options was ongoing and no decision had been made. The cost of installing suitably resilient lockable security posts was estimated at some £300 to £1000 each. The possibility of installing steel height barriers was also being considered. The Parish Council had not budgeted for either of these items in the present financial year but they would be considered a priority when funds could be made available. No further discussions on these would be held until then.

7. Steven Cocking repeated his previous concerns on discovering that rabbits had been shot at the recreation round. In his opinion this was ill advised, potentially dangerous to people and illegal.

Councillors Davis, Dixon and O'Sullivan explained the reasons for removing the rabbits in what was considered to be the most humane way of dispatching them when comparing the alternatives. The shooting had been carried out with the advance permission of the Parish Council. Culling had been undertaken in the late evening, utilising vehicle headlights and following checks to ensure there were no other persons on the ground.

Steven Cocking was not satisfied by the response and may choose to take the matter further.

*The meeting recommenced at 9.15 pm*

## **25/143 PARISH MATTERS**

Members discussed the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm Development and considered the comments made by parishioners earlier in the meeting.

Significant concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on the parish and community.

Whilst the importance of renewable energy was recognised the current proposals were inappropriate.

The overall scale of the Whitestone Solar Farm was excessive. Although no array was directly sited within Todwick Parish, the Development's size, character, and associated infrastructure would have a clear and lasting effect on the wider rural setting linking Todwick with Aston, Kiveton Park, Harthill, and Wales.

The industrial nature of the proposals conflicted with the Green Belt purpose of preventing urban sprawl between these communities.

The greatest concern related to construction and servicing traffic. Kiveton Lane ran directly through the centre of Todwick, past the primary school, residential properties, and narrow junctions. It

already experienced congestion at peak times. Any increase in HGV or abnormal-load movements would pose unacceptable risks to pedestrian safety, especially for schoolchildren, and would severely disrupt local traffic flow. There was no credible Transport Management Plan demonstrating how large vehicles would access the construction areas without traversing Todwick. Unless construction and delivery routes would avoid Kiveton Lane entirely, Todwick Parish Council must object to the proposal on safety grounds.

Residents in Todwick had received little direct engagement or clear information about likely traffic routes, cable corridors, or timescales. Given the project's scale and its classification as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, the level of consultation provided locally had been inadequate.

The Development's cumulative visual and environmental footprint across South Rotherham raised broader concerns about the progressive industrialisation of rural land.

The lack of a detailed Transport Management Plan and absence of road condition or swept-path analysis for local lanes undermined confidence in the proposal's readiness.

Any benefits cited were outweighed by the disruption, safety risks, and loss of rural amenity likely to result from construction and long-term maintenance traffic.

The assertion that Todwick had been formally consulted and had no objections was untrue.

Notwithstanding concerns over the grading applied to the proposed land in Rother Valley, there was nothing in the plans that proposed utilising alternative, brownfield sites. One prime example, which could easily connect to the Brinsworth substation would be the former Sheffield City Airport - a site of some 32 hectares.

Todwick Parish Council would not support the Whitestone Solar Farm proposals as currently presented and requested that:

- The developer confirmed in writing that no construction or maintenance traffic would route through Todwick via Kiveton Lane or The Pastures.
- A comprehensive traffic and safety assessment be undertaken jointly with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council before any further submission.
- Revised proposals considered scale reduction and alternative logistics routes to remove the risk to the Todwick Community.
- Revised proposals looked at brownfield sites in and around the Brinsworth substation to avoid the use of agricultural land

Unless the assurances were provided, Todwick Parish Council would maintain its objections and make further representations to the Planning Inspectorate should the Development Consent Order application proceed, alongside the MP for Rother Valley

**Resolved:**

1. That Councillor O'Sullivan formally object to the proposals on behalf of the Parish Council and before the prescribed deadline.
2. To circulate the objections to adjacent parish councils and other relevant parties.

**25/144 NEWSLETTER**

No report was received.

**25/145 DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEMS FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED**

There were no items to discuss.

**25/146 ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

No items were raised.

**25/147 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:**

That the next council meeting take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Todwick Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 10.10 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date