**TREETON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM ON MONDAY 24th March 2025**

**Present:**

Cllr W Parker-Foers (Chairperson), Cllr T Adair, Cllr O Baum-Dixon, Cllr V Beckett, Cllr J Chadburn, Cllr K Parry and Cllr R Rowbottom,

**In Attendance**

Mrs Y Colverson – Clerk

3 members of public

A period of not more than fifteen minutes will be made available for members of the public, and Members of the Council, to comment on any matter prior to the start of the meeting.

Member of the public expressed an issue with a neighbour and a possible risk of damage to his property and the environment.

Cllr Adair will take this up as the Borough Councillor

**25-051 Apologies for Absence** – To receive, and approve if appropriate, apologies for absence and reasons given.

Apologies received from Cllr R Croxton

**25-052 Declaration of Members Interests**

1. Members were reminded to declare any interest in any item on the agenda at this time, or at any time during the meeting, in accordance with Treeton Parish Council’s Code of Conduct.

None received.

1. To receive, and approve if appropriate, requests for dispensation from Members on matters in which they have an interest and wish to vote.

None received.

**25-053 To approve Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on Tuesday 25th February 2025

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th February 2025 are approved as a true record of proceedings.

**25-054 Clerk’s report** – The Clerk gave the following report, stating actions undertaken since the meeting held on Tuesday 25th February 2025

Email had been sent regarding hanging baskets. No reply to date so will be chased.

Solicitor now has the Clerk as the contact for the Parish Council

New Mower has been ordered and will be delivered in the very near future

Training on the Rialtas finance software has been undertaken and work is underway to get the accounts up to date for the year end.

Correspondence: Forwarded to Councillors:

* YLCA Updates
* RMBC weekly planning
* RMBC March events in Rotherham
* Neighbourhood Allert – Wiseup Event
* Neighbourhood Watch Network Trustee Opportunity
* South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – update

The Chair recommended that Rialtas be contracted to assist the clerk with the financial year end, there is a cost of £650 + VAT

All in favour

**RESOLVED**: That Rialtas will be contracted to assist in the year end process

Updates from the Chair:

Work has started on the wall on Church lane. The contractors state that this work should take three weeks to complete.

**25-055 Exclusion of press and public** – to resolve items, if any, to be discussed with the press and public excluded.

*Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*

**RESOVLED:** That item 25-056.j be discussed with the press and public excluded due to the confidentiality nature of the subject matter

**25-056 Item for consideration and resolution**

1. Grounds Maintenance Contract

Grounds maintenance contract with RMBC for the financial 2025/26 will be £1,406.84, this will be a fixed price if the council chose to commit to three years.

Cllr Rowbottom moved that the three-year commitment be undertaken.

All in favour

**RESOLVED:** That the Grounds Maintenance contract with RMBC will be undertaken for the next three years

1. Bus terminus – Damage has been caused to the grass by vehicles turning in the bus terminus. Council discussed how this could be stopped and the grass re-established.

**RESOLVED:** That this item will be discussed at the next meeting of the council following some research into ownership and possible actions to improve the area.

1. VE Day – Cllr Baum-Dixon, Cllr Beckett and Cllr Rowbottom, representing the Events Group, reported that a brass band has been booked for this. It will be an evening event when members of the community will be invited to the war memorial park for music, and will be able to bring along their own lanterns.

Council was asked if they could purchase a ‘lantern of Peace’ for the occasion.

All in favour

**RESOLVED**: That a Lantern of Peace will be purchased from the Royal British Legion and that the Clerk will inform RMBC of the plans for the evening

1. Flag Master – Cllr Beckett stated she is aware of someone who would take on this role and will report back at the next meeting after speaking with them.

**RESOLVED**: That this will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Becket to speak to potential Flag Master

1. Events – Cllr Baum-Dixon, Cllr Beckett and Cllr Rowbottom, on behalf of the Events Group, outlining planned events to take pace throughout 2025 including:

Easter event

VE Day

Picnic on the pitch

Local Heros

Christmas, Santa and Carols.

There was some discussion regarding public safety, risk assessments and insurance for the picnic on the pitch.

**RESOLVED:** That comprehensive risk assessments will be carried out for all events. Vendors will be informed there will be no electricity available for picnic on the pitch, if they require power they will have to bring their own generators.

1. Cowfields – Cllr Baum-Dixon and Cllr Adair gave a report following a meeting held on 14th March with the Cricket Club, Contractors, RMBC and the local FA.

There are number of options available for the drainage of the Cowfields however funding will determine which option can be taken. Some CIL money will be made available for this.

Further discussion with RMBC will take place before a recommendation can be made.

**RESOLEVED:** That further updates will be given at the next meeting of the Council

1. Hanging Baskets – The Clerk has emailed the supplier but has not yet had a response so unable to supply a quotation. It was suggested that the Footpaths Officer should be asked as he is in direct contact.

**RESOLVED:** That the same hanging baskets as last year will be provided, the Clerk to arrange this

1. Reading Room –
   * 1. possible further renovations to the Reading Room including converting the men’s toilet to a store room – for the size of the building it was felt that two toilets will be sufficient. Upgrading the office, plasterwork, electrics, general decoration and flooring.

Cllr Baum-Dixon was concerned that the Council should consider the possible use of the office, and benefit to the community, before spending money to improve it.

**RESOLVED:** That consideration will be given to possible options and will be discussed at the next meeting

* + 1. A new gas meter cover is required.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Croxton will be asked if he can help with this.

1. Cost of advertising in the Newsletter was discussed.

Cllr Baum-Dixon moved that a full page be £40 per issue, a half page £30 per issue.

**RESOLVED:** The cost of advertising in the newsletter will be £40 per full page per issue, £30 per half page per issue. Two issues to be produced this financial year, to be invoiced as one payment.

1. Land – item to be taken with the press and public excluded.
2. Whitestone Solar Farm – Cllr Rowbottom gave an update after attending an online meeting, for Parish Councils, regarding the planned Solar Farm.

Whitestone Solar Farm will be larger than anticipated as it will join up with others in the area.

There was some discussion regarding community payback however the advice, at this time, is not to enter into any agreement with the developers as it might be advantageous for Parish Councils to work together on this.

The decision for this will be with Central Government and there will be no opportunity to object. Although this cannot be stopped, there may be opportunities to influence plans and there will be further meetings.

**RESOLVED** That this information is received and Councillors will attend further meetings wherever possible.

**25-057 Finance**

* 1. Account balances – balances as at 24th March 2025

Current account = £9,285.24

Deposit account = £32,837.21

**RESOLVED** That this information is received.

* 1. Payments – To receive and approve authorisation of payments

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Date | Payee | Method | Amount |
| 24.02.25 | Cleaning contract | SO | £45.00 |
| 24.02.25 | Staff Costs | SO | £1,515.77 |
| 24.02.25 | Treeton Memorial – Grant | SO | £500.00 |
| 26.02.25 | Nest pensions | DD | £156.04 |
| 26.02.25 | C&H Alarms – Contract | SO | £96.00 |
| 26.02.25 | P Thomas – Gas service | SO | £165.00 |
| 26.02.25 | Dignity UK | SO | £516.00 |
| 26.02.25 | Petty Cash purchases | ATM | £15.49 |
| 03.03.25 | Amazon purchases | Card | £29.95 |
| 05.03.25 | Churches Fire | SO | £200.34 |
| 05.03.25 | Dignity UK | SO | £823.00 |
| 10.03.25 | Card purchase | Card | £11.99 |
| 13.03.25 | World of mowers | SO | £649.00 |
| 14.03.25 | Sky Business | DD | £28.74 |
| 14.03.25 | Rialtas | SO | £336.00 |
| 14.03.25 | A Flinders | SO | £395.65 |
| 14.03.25 | SJD Sports Coaching | SO | £6,180.00 |
| 18.03.25 | EDF Energy | DD | £76.52 |
| 20.03.25 | Petty cash purchases | Card | 17.89 |
| 21.03.25 | Scottish Water | DD | £20.43 |
| 21.03.25 | Scottish Water | DD | £52.15 |
| 21.03.23 | Key cutting | SO | £32.00 |
| 26.03.25 | Flower Sandford | SO | £1.20 |
| 26.03.25 | Flower Sandford | SO | £60.00 |
| 26.03.25 | RMBC | SO | £25.00 |
| 26.03.25 | Staff Costs | SO | £1,651.01 |

**RESOLVED:** That these payments are approved

* 1. Internal Audit – to review internal audit quotations and resolve to appoint for the year end audit, financial year 2024/25

**RESOLVED** That Mr Brian Smythe will be appointed internal auditor for the financial year 2024/25

**RESOLVED** Standing orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue.

**25-058 Items to be included on the next agenda**

* Parking on the corner of Front Street
* Speeding and weight restrictions along Long Lane
* Bus terminus
* Flag master
* Update on Cowfield Drainage
* Update on Whitestone Solar Farm
* Potential improvements to the Reading Rooms
* Planning to be added as a standing item
* Councillor updates to be added as a standing item

**25-059 Date and time of next meetings**

1. To resolve a date time for the next full council meeting

**RESOLVED** That the next, and annual, meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 12th May 2025

Members were asked to leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following item.

Land issue – The clerk reported that all ID documents have now been completed and she is now the point of contact for the Council.

The solicitors are in the process of gaining the land registrations required to proceed.

**RESOLVED** That this information is received.

Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm