

TREETON PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM

ON MONDAY 29th JANUARY 2024

Present: Councillor: W. Parker-Foers (Chairperson)

Councillors T Adair, O. Baum-Dixon, V. Beckett (from 6.40), K. Hickey,
R. Rowbottom. G. Scott, J Chadburn (from item 2024/5)

In attendance: J. James Clerk to the Council

2024/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Croxton.

2024/2 Public Question Time

3 members of the public attended. There were no representations.

2024/3 Declaration of Interests

Item 17e Report from Community Centre & Playing Fields Memorial Committee

Cllrs Adair & Baum-Dixon acknowledged that they are Trustees, it was noted that there is no conflict of interest with their role as Parish Councillors should the Parish Council choose to support their grant application to an external body.

2024/4 Co-option to Parish Council

Resolved To co-opt Jenny Chadburn to the remaining vacancy on the Parish Council.

Proposed: Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Adair

Cllr Chadburn signed a Declaration of Office and joined the meeting

6.40 Cllr Becket joined the meeting

2024/5 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11th December 2023 were taken as read copies having been circulated to all members of the Parish Council previously and with the agenda.

Resolved: That the minutes of 11th December are approved and signed by the Chairperson.

Proposed: Councillor Adair

Seconded: Councillor Baum-Dixon

2024/6 Matters Arising

2023/176 Flooding - prevention, responses by EA & RMBC, input to review & lessons learnt. Report back from the meeting with RMBC.

The Chairperson updated on the Teams meeting with Cllr Allen and officers of RMBC highlighting a difference in opinion on how well the Borough had handled the flood event and communication and support to Treeton out of which Cllr Allen offered herself as a direct contact given the absence of Ward councillors.

The Clerk reported that a leaflet drop would be undertaken to households who had been impacted by Storm Babet to advise them of Storm Resilience Grants that are available to them.

Action Clerk to make contact with the Environment Agency/RMBC to establish if the new replacement floodgates at Rother Valley Country Park are fully operational and will reduce the flood risk along the valley and Cllr Baum-Dixon to include information on flood preparedness and resilience in the next newsletter.

It was **agreed** that the PC's Emergency Plan would be reviewed at the next PC meeting and following that consideration would be given to the offer of support with emergency planning from RMBC.

2023/178e Improvements in the Public Realm

The Chairman reported that the street cleaning work planned by RMBC w/c 15th January for 2 weeks on: Arundel Street, Mill Lane, Station Road, Well Lane, Bole Hill, Front Street, Wood Lane, Church Lane, Washfield Lane, Rother Crescent & High Hazel Road is taking place and that RMBC have been seen working on 2 days.
Action Clerk to follow up to ensure work is complete.

The Clerk reported that further to the Parish Council's resolution in December to continue to participate in the PROW Partnership RMBC have advised they will increase the funding to £1,000pa.

2024/7 Clerk's Report & Correspondence Received

The Clerk's report previously circulated was noted. It detailed the following:

- i. RMBC - Details of planning applications, decision and appeals.
- ii. RMBC - Roadworks reports
- iii. RMBC - Rotherham Town Centre News
- iv. RMBC - Rotherham Roundup
- v. RMBC – Rother Vale News from your Neighbourhood
- vi. RMBC - What's on across Rotherham through January
- vii. RMBC – Consultation on school term dates for 2025/26 academic year
- viii. RMBC – Invitation to CAP meeting 17th January
- ix. RMBC – Flood Preparedness information and offer of support with emergency planning.
- x. YLCA – White Rose bulletin

- xi. YLCA - Training and Discussion Group Opportunities
 - xii. YLCA – Law & Governance Bulletin
 - xiii. YLCA – New password for PCllr log in to seek support
 - xiv. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin
 - xv. SYCMA – Confirmation of no changes to bus service 73
 - xvi. SYCMA – Changes in bus fares from January 2024
 - xvii. Alexander Stafford – My week in Rother Valley
 - xviii. Alexander Stafford - Bus services in Rother Valley
 - xix. Police & Crime Commissioner – Latest PCC’s blog
 - xx. Resident – Expressing thanks for the work on the war memorial gardens and acknowledging the Christmas Trees and community spirit
 - xxi. Resident via Cllr Parker-Foers – Concerns over weed treatment of footpaths and the impact on wildlife and of Glyphosate based chemicals and their impact on health, responded with information and referring to RMBC
 - xxii. Staff team – Pothole pavement Mill Lane Railway bridge – 3rd report to RMBC. (PTH220, 308, 603)
 - xxiii. Residents – Ongoing issues with flooding Shorland Drive/Windle Court – contacted RMBC out of hours and Service Manager on return to work
 - xxiv. Resident – Concern over drivers not stopping at junctions – given information and contacts at the Police and RMBC
 - xxv. Cllr Rowbottom – Pothole road side Front Street- reported to RMBC who have advised it does not meet their criteria for repair. Action Clerk to request RMBC criteria for repair and their routine inspection schedules
 - xxvi. Cllr Croxton for resident – Pothole pavement Front Street - reported to RMBC who have advised it does not meet their criteria for repair
 - xxvii. Cllr Rowbottom for resident – Vermin in vegetation around roundabout Wood Lane – reported to RMBC
 - xxviii. Parish Team – Damage to grass verge Bole Hill - reported to RMBC
 - xxix. Cllr Baum-Dixon - Numerous potholes on Long Lane reported to RMBC, they have now been marked with paint and repaired.
 - xxx. Staff team – Broken grate cover Treeton Lane – reported to RMBC
 - xxxi. Cllr Rowbottom – for resident – Damage to Front Street caused by RMBC contractors – reported to RMBC
 - xxxii. Resident – Damage to Bole Hill ‘island’ by buses cutting the corner off – reported to SYCMA
 - xxxiii. Cllr Rowbottom for resident – Further report of vermin vegetation around roundabout Wood Lane – reported again to RMBC
- LATES**
- xxxiv. YLCA – Speaker at Conference Tim Taylor, Director of Public Transport Operations,
 - xxxv. Nationwide – Change in interest rate from 3.8% to 4.3%
 - xxxvi. Cllr Parker-Foers – Report of street lighting outage, response from RMBC is that there is a cable fault and Norther Power will repair to a timescale of 20-25 working days
 - xxxvii. Staff Team – Damage to verge caused by lorries turning into Mill Road – contacted RMBC planning & highways

2024/8 Borough Councillors Report

Item not taken.

2024/9 Wood Lane Mine wheel - Decision on Planning Application to relocate

Jones Homes application for a variation to their approved plans to seek permission to relocate the wheel from the approved site further back to one closer to the road with the aim of maximising visibility within the constraints of their land and highways sight lines alongside proposals to level the soil bund was discussed.

Resolved: Whilst acknowledging that the monument will never achieve its original visibility due to the sale of the land after considerable negotiations it was agreed this outcome is the best that can be achieved and therefore to support the application.

Proposed: Councillor Rowbottom

Seconded: Councillor Baum-Dixon

The Clerk reported that she is still chasing RMBC to remove the no littering sign on Wood Lane as part of trying to remove 'obstructions to visibility'

It was further noted that measures behind the wheel may be needed to ensure no access by off-road vehicles to the boat club road.

2024/10 Project to remedy drainage on Cowfield – Update on progress

Cllr Adair reported that there has been no further progress, they are still waiting for the weather to be suitable to take core soil samples.

2024/11 Policy for Grants & Donations

Resolved: To adopt the policy as amended

Proposed: Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Adair

2024/12 Parish Council Admin arrangements – purchase of mobile phone and service contract.

Resolved: To purchase 2nd hand phone at a cost of £200 and delegate to the Clerk authority to enter into a rolling monthly contract/PAYG to a maximum budget of £12p.month.

Proposed: Councillor Scott

Seconded: Councillor Beckett

2024/13 Bus Services - issues and update

Cllr Parker-Foers update on Cllr Croxton's behalf information from a recent presentation by the South Yorkshire Mayor and in particular significant problems with missing/late buses in Treeton for a variety of reasons including routes and traffic.

Regrettably the SYCMA did not seem to agree there was a problem focussing more on seeking significant extra government funding and his office running the buses.

2024/14 Planning & Review of Progress on Projects through 2024

Flower Holsters on Lamp posts

Resolved: To order 150 flower holsters along the same route as in 2023 at the same cost of £44 each

Proposed: Councillor Hickey

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D Day

Item postponed to next meeting

The forward planner was reviewed and noted:

2024/15 Standing Items

a) Reading Room

i. Parish Cllr, Housing & PCSO Surgeries

Wed 7th February - Cllrs Croxton & Adair

ii. Progress on refurbishment/storage

Cllrs Croxton and Scott were thanked for their work replacing the ceiling tiles which were all now fitted with the exception of a few which need further attention.

The financial monitoring report to 31.12.23 was noted in particular that as part of the annual review of Earmarked Reserves attention will need to be paid to those for the Reading Room.

iii. Proposal to purchase curtains & further refurbishments

Resolved: To install blinds on the 2 remaining windows. Further with a budget of £200 to purchase additional serving utensils, a microwave and foldable baby change

Proposed: Councillor Hickey

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

b) Allotments/Garage sites

The Clerk updated on matters from the December inspection.

c) Burial Ground

i. Registering the Land – The Clerk reported that this remains with the solicitors.

- ii. Paving – Cllrs Parker-Foers & Scott reported that they are still trying to arrange to meet on site with the contractor.

iii. Coloured Bench

Resolved: To waive Standing Order 7a (6month rule) to allow consideration of a request to vary resolution 2023/145

Proposed: Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

Resolved: To extend the date by which the bench should be repainted natural wood in colour to 30th April 2024 and further that this deadline is finite and should the bench remain in breach of the rules and regulations for the burial ground the owner will be asked to remove it.

Proposed: Councillor Rowbottom

Seconded: Councillor Adair

iv. Requests to vary Burial Ground Regulations

Two requests one for a plaque and kerbs and a further for a vase both in front of existing headstones were discussed at length alongside the Regulations for the Burial ground which it was resolved in June 2023 would be revisited in 2 years' time.

Resolved: Mindful of the Parish Council's regulations in this respect these requests were both declined and further that all memorials must adhere to the Burial Ground Regulations which would not be revisited until their planned review in June 2025

Proposed: Councillor Parker-Foers

Seconded: Councillor Baum- Dixon

- v. Notice Board – Cllr Parker-Foers reported for Cllr Croxton that that the metal posts for the old notice board were rotten and have been removed, further that Cllr Croxton is exploring options to use a surplus notice board from the Community Centre

d) Recreation Ground and Play areas

Nothing to report

e) Environment

River Rother Works

Cllr Parker -Foers reported that Cllr Croxton is in negotiation with Sheffield Wildlife Trust to try and make some new habitat for the Sand Martins by hand dig a suitable bank.

Flatts Lane Public Right of Way

The Clerk reported that RMBC have now closed off the damaged footbridge pending repair and that they have funding in the new financial year for repairs to the footpath itself.

f) Planning Applications

The weekly lists of planning applications and planning decisions in the Borough were circulated by email to all Parish Councillors. In Treeton there have been:

New applications – Application for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of Vehicle Reclamation Centre, Including Offices with Associated Service Yard, Parking Facilities, External Sprinkler Tank and Pumping Station Land at Mill Road

The Clerk advised that this site has a 1993 lawful use certificate for vehicle dismantling that will have been acquired as a result of longstanding use without consent so this application is a further stage on top of that already approved.

Resolved: To submit an objection which whilst acknowledges the benefits of bringing a commercial site out of dereliction back into use have significant reservations covering:

Ensuring no 'creep' of development as occurred due to the lawful use certificate

Concern over the size of the buildings proposed seeking clarify & to quantify and assure there will be no activity outside the buildings e.g. crushing.

Concerns over HGV traffic and consequent noise and dirt pollution and traffic hazards, should the application be approved can it be conditional upon HGV access via Treeton Lane.

Concerns over offsite parking - can the plans ensure sufficient parking on site so that street parking is unnecessary.

Concerns over potential noise nuisance - there is insufficient information in the application over machinery noise can this be explored please with a noise nuisance assessment.

Flood risk - Treeton Lane and Mill Lane has been subject to flooding twice within the last 20 years: June 2007 & October 2023 and so the risk level in the application is much lower than the reality. This gives rise to concerns over contamination from the activities, hazardous substances and waste produced on the site out to residential properties as river levels rise and into the river and impact on wildlife as it recedes. The PC ask that the EA are consulted in respect of the above and Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

Wildlife - the site has been derelict for many years and despite being industrial its proximity to the river and woodland has encouraged wildlife to take up residence. Can RMBC undertake a survey to ensure

no protected species eg bats are roosting or nesting in the buildings and engage the Ecology Officer as part of the consultation and decision-making process.

Proposed: Councillor Adair
Seconded: Councillor Scott

Decisions: 22 Spa Well Crescent - application for lawful development for an extension withdrawn as it would be permitted development

Other matters: Mill House - The Clerk reported that she has raised again concerns over this residential property being used for commercial purposes.

g) Newsletter

Cllr Baum-Dixon headlined the proposed content for the Spring newsletter and advised that copy deadline will be 1st March, to printers 16th March and ready for distribution 23rd March

h) Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Rowbottom reported on the planned NW meeting on 7th February and updated on the progress by RMBC with site surveys and recommendations for CCTV noting that as yet there is no indication of cost or clear proposals on sources of funding.

2024/16 Events Working Group: Report on recent events and future plans including the consideration of risk assessments, agreement to any financial implications & Parish Council sign off

Cllr Baum-Dixon reported that the Events group will meet on 20th February to plan events through 2024. He advised that the Santa's Sleigh was well received and Cllr Rowbottom that donations to the value of £189.50 were gratefully received, this will be coded in the accounts for future events.

2024/17 Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved: That Standing Orders limiting the length of a Parish Council meeting to 2 hours be suspended to allow business to be completed.

Proposed: Councillor Baum-Dixon
Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

2024/18 Report from Representatives on External Bodies

a) RMBC/Parish Council's Network Meeting

Nothing to report

b) YLCA Branch Representatives

Nothing to report

c) Banks Group – Penny Hill Wind Farm

Cllr Adair reported on a successful grant bid by the Community Centre & Playing Fields Memorial Committee for funding towards refurbishing the Washfield Lane playground

d) Treeton Youth Club - Contract, fees & general update

Cllr Adair reported that the Youth Club remains well attended and offers a range of activities for all ages.

e) Community Centre & Playing Fields Memorial Committee

Cllr Baum-Dixon reported that concerns had been raised about children climbing on the container storage on the Cowfield. He has raised with the committee who have advised they have applied anti climb paint wax. The Terriers agreed to address this with parents/carers of the Junior Teams.

Resolved: That in response to a request from the Trust the Parish Council to write a letter to Valencia Communities Fund supporting their application for grant funding for roof repairs and solar panels.

Proposed: Councillor Scott

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

2024/19 Community Centre

Cllr Adair reported that the community centre remains busy offering a range of activities

2024/20 Finance and General Purposes

a. Financial Monitoring

The financial monitoring reports for month 9 was noted

b. Internal Control Reconciliation & Accountability

Cllrs Paker-Foers & Baum-Dixon signed off the verification that transactions and bank balances reported in minutes, reconcile to those on bank statements and match those recorded in the Rialtas accounting software and that they balance.

c. Approval of accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment

Receipts

Reading Room letting	BACS	20.00
Foers Burial Fee	BACS	1,500.00
Cambridge Building Society – interest payment	BACS	1,531.84
Banks – Final 50% grant for Reading Room Refurb	BACS	2,831.50
Reading Room letting	BACS	60.00
VAT Claim – June – Dec 23	BACS	3,359.74
Reading Room letting (incl deposit)	BACS	110.00
Clarksons Memorial Fee	BACS	30.00

LATES

Foers Burial Fee	BACS	2,000.00
Reading Room letting	BACS	20.00
Donations at the Santa Sleigh event Dec 23	Cash	189.50

Payments

Staff Salaries, Pension, Exp, Q3 HMRC Jan 2024	BACS/DDebit	2,175.09
Opus Energy -Electricity Jan 2024	Direct Debit	45.19
EDF – Gas – 2 Dec 23 – 5 Jan 24	Direct Debit	258.52
A Flinders – Burial Ground Maintenance Dec 23	BACS	389.03
Sarah's Home Cleaning Services Ltd – Clean RR Jan	BACS	39.00
Dignity – Burial fees	BACS	1,646.00
RotherPrint - Dec Newsletter	BACS	709.00
Sky: initial invoice - broadband	D/Debit	22.74
Sky: 14.1.24 – 13.2.24 - broadband	D/Debit	34.55
Information Commissioner Annual Fee	D/Debit	35.00
Morrisons (OBDixon) Santa's Sleigh	BACS	35.80
Business Stream Water RRoom A/C in credit £24.73	-	-
Business Stream Water Burial Grnd A/C in credit £1.76	-	-
Cartridge People – 2 black ink cartridges	D/Debit	42.06
Amazon (Industracare) - Fire Safety log book	D/Debit	4.02
Hobsons – Christmas trees on lamp posts	BACS	2,640.00
Petty Cash – refreshments,	BACS	26.46

LATES

Refund of Reading Room letting deposit	BACS	50.00
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Proposed: Councillor Adair
 Seconded: Councillor Scott

Bank & Cash Book Reconciliation 20th December 2023

	£
Balances at bank: Current account	9,406.17
Deposit account	20,531.49
Cambridge Building Society	80,000.44
Nationwide Building Society	35,640.45

Total £145,578.55

2024/21 Items for information/Future Business

Items for February agenda:

- Review of Emergency Plan - All
- Proposal for a beacon and/or flag pole – Cllr Beckett
- Communicating Planning applications in the village via Facebook - All
- Walls around St Helens Church and the closed burial Ground Cllrs Parker-Foers & Scott

2024/22 Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the full Parish Council will be Mon 26th February 2024 at 6.30pm at the Reading Room.

2024/23 Exclusion of the Press & Public

Resolved: To exclude the Press & Public on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information (s1 (2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960).

Proposed: Councillor Rowbottom

Seconded: Councillor Hickey

2024/24 Property - Decision on leases

The Clerk reported that there had been no update from RMBC in respect of a potential lease arrangement

Resolved To accept Heads of Terms subject to addressing concerns raised and seeing the final and lease agreement

Proposed: Councillor Beckett

Seconded: Councillor Hickey

2024/25 Staffing Matters

Resolved: To approve the Statement of Particulars/Contract of Employment

Proposed Councillor Rowbottom

Seconded Councillor Adair

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairperson:

Date:

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