

# TREETON PARISH COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

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

Councillors T Adair, O. Baum-Dixon, V. Beckett, J Chadburn, K. Hickey  
R. Rowbottom.

In attendance: J. James Clerk to the Council

### 2024/59 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Croxton and Scott

### 2024/60 Public Question Time

1 member of the public attended. Representations were made about potential names for the War Memorial Gardens. **Action** Clerk to add to agenda for the next meeting and wreaths on the graves on unknown soldiers in the old burial **Action** Clerk to add to agenda in September

### 2024/60 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2024/62 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held 26<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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 25<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March are approved and signed by the Chairperson.

**Proposed:** Councillor Baum-Dixon

**Seconded:** Councillor Rowbottom

Minutes of the HR Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were received and confirmed & draft minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 noted.

### 2024/63 Matters Arising

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

The Clerk reported the EA have advised that the flood gate being refurbished in Rother Valley Park has been fully operational since 21st December 2023.

In respect of the degree to which it will mitigate flood risk in Treeton the EA advise that downstream of the confluence with the Doe Lea, between Killamarsh and Rotherham, the Rother runs through a series of washland storage areas with 3 regulators: Meadowgate, Woodhouse Mill and Canklow, these can be operated to divert flow into storage or restrict the flow being passed downstream.

The regulators delay the peak flow from the Rother before it joins the river Don, allowing the peak from the upper Don catchment to pass through Rotherham ahead of the peak flow from the Rother, thereby reducing the peak flow in Rotherham and the lower Don. The main benefit of the regulators is on the river Don, in particular communities in the Lower Don such as Doncaster. Local communities such as Treeton do benefit, however the flood risk mitigation they provide is minimal.

#### 2024/7 xxxii Damage to Bole Hill by buses

The Clerk reported that this will be repaired and reseeded by the Parish Team in the coming weeks

#### 2024/37 Walls around St Helens Church and the closed burial ground

The Clerk advised that RMBC do have an ongoing project to repair the retaining wall between houses on Washfield Crescent and the closed burial ground, that faculty permission and funding from the Council are in place with the latter eager to start the works. There have been delays due to contractual issues with RMBC main contractors and more recently with solicitors working for residents on Washfield Crescent. As soon as the final legal issues are resolved RMBC will be in a position to start on site.

There has been no response from RMBC on the rest of their plans for that area and specifically the Church Lane/Old Rectory wall which the Clerk reported as a dangerous structure.

#### 2024/39 Addressing Fly-tipping

Cllr Hickey reported that he still waiting for a response from RMBC. Parish Councillors raised concerns over the fly tipping 'epidemic' across the village and advised that they are proactively reporting sightings and that there is an article in the forthcoming newsletter

### **2024/64 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 March
- vii. RMBC - Details of network Meeting
- viii. RMBC - Arrangements for forthcoming elections

- ix. RMBC – Flatts Lane PROW footbridge - the deck is now sturdy and safe however it needs new handrails RMBC will schedule for the new financial year.
- x. YLCA - White Rose bulletin
- xi. YLCA - Training and Discussion Group Opportunities
- xii. YLCA - Advice on elections process and documentation
- xiii. YLCA - Law & governance bulletin and updated LTN regarding procurement
- xiv. NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin
- xv. SYCMA - Changes to bus services from April
- xvi. SYCMA - Transfer of the running of the Supertram to his office
- xvii. Alexander Stafford - Prime Minister visits Maltby
- xviii. Alexander Stafford - Petition about road safety including the junction of Treeton Lane/Aughton Lane
- xix. Residents – flood prevention work Shorland Drive – exchanges of emails between residents and RMBC
- xx. Cllr Baum-Dixon – for residents – suspicious Facebook post regarding a burglary – contacted the Police
- xxi. Cllr Baum-Dixon - for resident – antisocial behaviour by Arundel Park estate – contacted the Police and enquired about CCTV.
- xxii. Treeton Playing Fields Trust – policy on grants and donation – information provided
- xxiii. Resident – information on housing – given contacts at RMBC
- xxiv. Resident – suggestion that unused land off Rodwell close could become a community orchard – given Land Registry and suggestions to ascertain ownership
- xxv. Treeton Primary School – offer of a defibrillator - accepted behalf of the PC on the understanding if not the PC cannot locate it, they will re-gift it within Treeton if possible but if not to a charity/Parish Council outside of the village.

**Resolved:** To enquire with chemists over interest in partnering with the PC to locate the defib outside their premises, **agreed** Cllr Rowbottom to lead.

**Proposed:** Councillor Rowbottom

**Seconded:** Councillor Adair

## **2024/65 Borough Councillors Report**

Item not taken.

## **2024/66 Project to remedy drainage on Cowfield – Update on progress**

Cllr Adair reported that the grass has been cut, the pitch should be marked out this week and core soil samples will be taken shortly thereafter, subject to weather conditions.

## **2024/67 Proposal for a beacon and/or flag pole**

**Agreed** that there is no suitable site for a beacon and that Parish Councillors would meet on the War Memorial Gardens to explore options for a flag pole and report to the next meeting.

## **2024/67 Flower Holster/Xmas Tree Route**

The Clerk reported on the retraction by RMBC of their initial blanket refusal to allow adornments on concrete lamp posts and later retraction on restrictions on 3 steel lamp posts on Bole Hill. She confirmed the flower holsters are on order and should now be installed in full on the original route.

Agreed that this is an agenda item for a meeting early Autumn with the aim of contacting RMBC to ensure there is some engagement between the PC and Borough Council over concrete/any other unsuitable lamp posts and their individual risk assessment/replacement at RMBC cost.

## **2024/69 Planning & Review of Progress on Projects through 2024**

The forward planner was noted

## **2024/70 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 including the application to RMBC Events for D-day Memorial Garden Party Fete**

Cllr Baum-Dixon reported that arrangements are in place for the planned Easter Party at the Miners Welfare on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Resolved: That the application to RMBC Events for the D-Day Memorial Garden Party Fete noting there is no provision for sale of sweets/drinks, erecting a gazebo, or providing an electrical supply or generator is agreed and the Clerk to submit to RMBC

Proposed: Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

## **2024/71 Standing Items**

### **a) Reading Room**

#### **i. Parish Cllr, Housing & PCSO Surgeries**

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Cllrs Adair & Parker- Foers

### **b) Allotments/Garage sites**

The Clerk updated on general issues.

### **c) Burial Ground**

- i. Registering the Land – The Clerk reported that she has located a certified copy of a record at West Yorkshire Archives detailing the purchase of land and sent this to the solicitor however their advice remains that there is insufficient evidence to meet the criteria for Absolute Title and recommend seeking Possessory Title and that should more information come to light or with the passage of time the PC may be able to secure Absolute Title.

Resolved: Following legal advice to make a claim for Possessory Title and for the Clerk to instruct the solicitors accordingly.

Proposed: Councillor Beckett

Seconded: Councillor Hickey

- ii. Paving – Cllrs Parker-Foers reported that due to adverse weather the contractor had not been able to replace any of the pavers and that she would follow this and the stain up.
- iii. Notice Board –The Clerk reported that Cllr Croxton is carrying out repairs to the notice board
- iv. Contravention of Burial Ground Regulations

Blue Bench - The Clerk was instructed to write to the owners reminding them that in order to comply with the Burial Ground Regulations and as previously advised that they should return the bench to natural wood colour by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 or remove it.

#### **d) Recreation Ground and Play areas**

Nothing to report

#### **e) Environment**

Resolved: To remove the fly tipped builders waste from land off Station Road and to agenda for the next meeting to explore use/ restricting access.

Proposed: Councillor Hickey

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

#### **f) Planning Applications**

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

##### New applications:

22 Spa Well Crescent - single storey extension – no comment

##### Decisions:

Old Flatts Farm Flatts Lane - conditional approval for the extension to existing barn and conversion for use as dog kennels

Other matters: Mill House - The Clerk reported that RMBC Planning Enforcement are investigating any potential unauthorised use.

#### **g) Newsletter**

Cllr Baum-Dixon reported that there has been slippage in the publication schedule and that it is now expected to be ready for proof reading this week and subject to the printer capacity for distribution shortly after Easter.

#### **h) Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Rowbottom reported that a closed Facebook page and WhatsApp group had been set up for Neighbourhood watch members

#### **2024/72 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**

Nothing to report.

##### **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 the Committee had been successful in their grant application for funding towards solar panels and work on the roof

#### **2024/73 Community Centre**

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

#### **2024/74 Finance and General Purposes**

##### **a. Financial Monitoring**

The financial monitoring reports for month 11 were noted

##### **b. Approval of accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment

##### Receipts

|                                                       |        |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Reading Room letting                                  | BACS   | 80.00  |
| Foers Burial Fee                                      | BACS   | 700.00 |
| Clarksons – Memorial fee x 2                          | BACS   | 100.00 |
| Private individual – CR grave purchase out of Treeton | Cheque | 600.00 |
| <b>LATES</b>                                          |        |        |
| Clarksons – Memorial fee                              | BACS   | 30.00  |

##### Payments

|                                                 |              |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Staff Salaries, Pension, Exp, Q4 HMRC March2024 | BACS/DDebit  | 3,233.02 |
| Opus Energy -Electricity March 2024             | Direct Debit | 44.50    |
| EDF – Gas – Feb 24                              | Direct Debit | 175.57   |
| Smarty – Office Mobile Phone monthly tariff     | D/Debit      | 10.00    |

|                                                                                                |         |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Sky: 14.3.24 – 13.3.24 - broadband                                                             | D/Debit | 28.74    |
| A Flinders – Burial Ground Maintenance Feb 24                                                  | BACS    | 389.03   |
| Sarah's Home Cleaning Services Ltd – Clean RR Mar                                              | BACS    | 39.00    |
| Community Centre Q4 contribution to cleaning for youth club                                    | BACS    | 200.00   |
| C&H Alarms – RR Burglar Alarm contract                                                         | BACS    | 96.00    |
| RMBC half yearly ground rent Rother Cres Allotments                                            | BACS    | 25.00    |
| Petty Cash – refreshments, wood working materials for notice board, fuel & lubricant for mower | BACS    | 55.95    |
| <b>LATES</b>                                                                                   |         |          |
| RMBC 4xCCTV cameras & 4 x annual sim card fee (EMR CiL funding)                                | BACS    | 7,861.00 |

Proposed: Councillor Beckett  
Seconded: Councillor Hickey

### **Bank & Cash Book Reconciliation 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
|                                   | £         |
| Balances at bank: Current account | 8,121.46  |
| Deposit account                   | 20,531.49 |
| Cambridge Building Society        | 80,000.44 |
| Nationwide Building Society       | 35,640.45 |

**Total £144,293.84**

### **2024/75 Items for information/Future Business**

Items for April agenda: Naming the War Memorial Gardens, land off Station Road.

### **2024/76 Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the full Parish Council will be moved from the diaried Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm at the Reading Room.

### **2024/77 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 Baum-Dixon  
Seconded: Councillor Hickey

### **2024/78 Property - Decision on leases**

The Clerk reported on her meeting with RMBC with regard to one site and that she is still awaiting a response from them with regard to a second site.

Resolved: That with regard to the first site as the land owner will not enter into a sale and there is limited benefit from progressing a new lease the PC

continue with the holdover lease arrangements and current attempts to purchase/acquire a new lease are ceased.

Proposed: Councillor Beckett

Seconded: Councillor Rowbottom

### **2024/79 Allotments**

The Clerk reported on a number of specific tenancy issues

Resolved To allow a tenant to temporarily hold 2 plots over the 6-month growing period as part of a transfer between plots and managing an overgrown plot is agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Adair

### **2024/80 Staffing Matters**

The Chairperson updated on staffing matters.

Resolved That the delegated authority to the HR Committee for appointment to the post of Clerk/RFO is rescinded and returned to full council

Proposed: Councillor Rowbottom

Seconded: Councillor Adair

Resolved That the Clerk is instructed to make an offer of employment

Proposed: Councillor Beckett

Seconded: Councillor Chadburn

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Chairperson:

Date: