

TREETON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE READING ROOM ON MONDAY 29th JULY 2024

Present: Councillor: W. Parker-Foers (Chairperson)
Councillors: T. Adair, O. Baum-Dixon, R Croxton,
K. Hickey, R. Rowbottom, J Chadburn

Councillor V.Beckett – arrived 7:39pm

2024/158 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Item 9 on original agenda to be brought forward to item 4.

Matters Arising - 2024/159 RMBC Maintenance Schedule – Increasing Number of Complaints.

Barry Connolly Head of Environmental Services RMBC attended and listened to issues, complaints and questions around the grass cutting and street maintenance schedule and quality of work completed. He acknowledged the poor service, and in some cases poor workmanship and stated that he is addressing these issues within his teams, though work this year has also been hampered by poor weather at the start of the season. RMBC are introducing new technology such as telematics to allow tracking of work completed/undertaken and considering how to measure quality and have also invested in new machinery to replace that at the end of its useful life.

Expected schedule for Contracted Cutting (Cow Field) is 15 visits per year
Expected schedule for Highways (verges etc.) is 10 visits per year

The sequence of works should be a litter pick, a ride on mower, a pedestrian mower, a strimmer and a blower and then re-check litter.

It is worth noting that, at this point in the year Treeton would have expected to see 10 Contracted cuts and has received 7, and 7 Highways cuts and has received 4 (though this quantity was disputed). It is also worth noting that RMBC do NOT subscribe to “No Mow May”, however they do have wildflower verges that aren’t cut and also a number of Bee Orchid sites which also aren’t cut but are clearly signed (none of which are in Treeton).

Where weather does not allow this number of visits, a system of “banking” hours is being considered, where the teams would be asked to complete other work in the same area at a later point, such as street grubbing. Barry advised that RMBC in to liaise with Borough Councillors around Winter and Wet Weather Works.

Weed spraying should be completed twice per year. Road Sweepers should be in attendance on A roads each month, on B roads each quarter and on minor roads once in 6 months and on side streets once per year.

Roundabout works such as that on The Crescent would require road closures, Barry noted the condition of the shrubbery and will look to review the nature of the vegetation to avoid this being necessary going forward.

Barry confirmed he would be happy to attend a future meeting when invited by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to thank Barry for his attendance, and for his understanding and commitment to working to improve the current situation.

2024/160 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2024/161 Community Centre Management Committee - PC Representation

The details of the lease having been shared it was agreed that it was never the intention of the PC to have day-to-day involvement in the running of the Community Centre. The relationship between the PC and the Community Centre should be that of Landlord and Tenant.

Resolved: To renegotiate the lease with the Community Centre with a view to removing point 14 from the existing lease.

Proposed: Councillor O Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor K Hickey

2024/162 Public Question Time

27 members of the public attended.

Representations were raised regarding a resident wishing to purchase a Cremated Remains plot in the graveyard, the condition of the pavements, particularly on Front Street, and the trees at the back of Spa Well Crescent.

Action: Clerk to make a formal complaint on behalf of residents in relation to the quality of the pavements on Front Street and Spa Well Crescent

Action: Clerk to determine ownership of land behind Spa Well Crescent (top side) and follow up on the condition of the trees on behalf of resident.

2024/163 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 24th June 2024 be taken as read, copies having been circulated to all members of the Parish Council previously and with the agenda, are approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor O Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor T Adair

2024/164 Matters Arising

2024/37 Walls around St Helen's Church & the closed burial ground

The Chairperson reported that there is no further update relating to the enforcement action being taken by RMBC.

2024/86xxvii Correspondence - Sewage leak

The Chairperson reported that there had been no further update from the Environment Agency and that no further leak had been reported

2024/115 Windle Court/Shorland Drive

The Chairperson reported that work was due to start on 1st July and an update would be sought to confirm.

2024/119 Correspondence – Overgrown hedges High Hazels Road

The Chairperson reported that Jones Homes' contractor had cut back hedges during late May/early June and that if specific locations were provided to Jones Homes, they would ensure that they attend to them on their next visit. Further enquiries have been made by a resident in relation to the trees being cut only to reachable height and that they now need trimming at a higher level.

2024/124 Fly Tipping – Use of Covert CCTV

Cllr Adair as Ward Cllr reported that this is to be discussed and agreed at an RMBC meeting in September.

2024/145 Speeding Through the Village.

The Chairperson reported RMBC have been asked to include a speed awareness strategy on the next CAP meeting and funding for speed awareness signage.

Cllr Adair, as Ward Cllr reported that he has arranged with the police for a speed camera presence in the village and in respect of the introduction of a weight restriction on Long Lane.

2024/146 Defibrillator in the Bole Hill Area.

The Chairperson reported that this project had been paused due to lack of capacity

2024/147 Jones Homes Relocation of Winding Wheel.

The Chairperson reported that work has commenced, and it is expected to be completed very shortly. The hedgerow has been trimmed back by the Parish Council Team to maximise visibility.

2024/148 Security in the Reading Room

The current alarm will not allow fob access; it is, however, suitable for security needs.

2024/149 Brinsworth to High Marnham Grid Update

It was noted that there could be the potential for a member of the National Grid to attend a future meeting to give a presentation relating to the project.

2024/165 Clerk's Report & Correspondence received

The Clerk's report previously circulated was noted, it detailed the following:

- a. RMBC - Details of planning applications, decision and appeals.
- b. RMBC - Rotherham Roundup

- c. RMBC – Rother Vale News
- d. RMBC – Details of concrete lamp posts used for installations and plans for replacements – details of lamp posts used provided along with a request to schedule replacements outside of installations
- e. RMBC – Children’s Capital of Culture – virtual meeting 19.7.24
- f. YLCA - White Rose bulletin
- g. YLCA - Training and discussion group opportunities
- h. YLCA - Annual Review & Report for 23/24
- i. SYCMA – Proposed changes to bus timetables from 1st September
- j. SYCMA – Impact of Tramlines Festival on buses & trams in the Hillsboro area
- k. SYCMA - Measures to support cycling
- l. SYCMA - Changes to bus fare for children.
- m. Cllr Croxton – update on flood gates at Rother Valley
- n. Cllr Croxton – littering issues around Treeton Dyke
- o. Cllr Rowbottom – vehicle used in fly tipping identified using CCTV
- p. Resident via Cllr Rowbottom – concern about overgrown grounds at the community centre. Cllr Adair has advised that grounds services are scheduled
- q. Clerk at Waverley PC – Traveller encampment – landowner taking action.
- r. Resident via Cllr Croxton & Rowbottom - rough sleeping under railway bridge – RMBC made aware & Cllr Croxton followed up with Housing Officer
- s. Cllr Croxton - Designation of Local Wildlife sites and representation to include land between the river & railway line at the bottom of Washfield Lane
- t. Resident - report of suspicious behaviour & access to CCTV recordings - advised that as the incident has been reported to the police, they will be able to access the recordings to help in resolving the case.

2024/166 Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Adair in his capacity as Ward Councillor reported that he has attended meetings with the Police relating to speeding within the village following concerns raised by residents of potential accidents, mobile speed cameras are to be deployed to assist. Also concerns over a weight limit being required on Long Lane was discussed.

A temporary CCTV camera is to be installed on Spa Well Crescent.

Plans are in place to install covert CCTV on Long Lane due to fly tipping.

21 Catcliffe residents have returned to their homes now that repairs have been completed following the flooding in 2023. 7 residents have been housed in alternative accommodation. It was reported that insurance premiums are now extremely high in this area, making costs prohibitive in some cases.

2024/167 Project to remedy Cowfield drainage

Cllr Adair reported that the samples have been taken and submitted to the FA and are awaiting analysis of the findings in order to proceed further.

2024/168 Planning & Review of Progress on Projects through 2024

The forward planner was reviewed

Resolved: To agree a budget of up to £300 for winter bulbs, predominantly mini daffodil and to be planted across the village

Proposed: Councillor V Beckett

Seconded: Councillor K Hickey

2024/169 Events Working Group: Report from the Group on Recent Events and Future Plans including Consideration of Risk Assessments, Agreement to any Financial Implications & Parish Council Sign Off

Cllr Baum- Dixon reported that the Picnic on the Pitch event was well attended and well received. Positive feedback has been received on social media. Issues were raised relating to parking in general and in particular parking for disabled visitors. These are to be discussed and remedied ahead of next year's event.

Consideration was given to the next Treeton's Heroes event planned for 11th October; this will take broadly the same form as last year's event. A budget of £300 for refreshments is suggested.

Resolved: That a budget of £300 has been agreed for refreshments at the Treeton Heroes event.

Proposed: Councillor O Baum-Dixon

Seconded: Councillor J Chadburn

Consideration was given to the Pumpkin Festival planned for early November

Resolved: That an alternative venue to the War Memorial Gardens will be sourced and this will be held at the Community Centre subject to availability.

Proposed: Councillor V Beckett

Seconded: Councillor O Baum-Dixon

2024/170 Standing Items

a) Reading Room

i. Parish Cllr, Housing & PCSO Surgeries

Wed 7th August - Cllrs Croxton and Parker-Foers

Wed 4th September – Cllrs Croxton and Parker-Foers

ii. Fire Alarm system – decision on replacement or removal.

Clerk to determine whether a Fire Alarm is required as a condition of insurance and report to next meeting. Clerk to ensure that no flammable liquids are present in the secure office – these should be in the locked outdoor store.

iii. Signal Booster – potential to be installed atop Reading Rooms

An approach has been made by a third-party company to erect a generic

signal booster on the roof of the Reading Rooms with a payment of £350 per annum and an electric cost of no more than £25 per annum.

Action: Clerk to gather further information relating to the contract and report back to September meeting.

Action: Clerk to check whether the Reading Rooms are in the Conservation Area and if planning permission will be required.

b) Allotments/Garage sites

Cllr Parker-Foers reported that work continues with tenants to address some minor concerns over unturned plots.

Consideration was given to the overgrown tree on Well Lane Allotments, Cllrs Rowbottom & Parker-Foers to investigate further and any decisions to be made will be deferred

c) Burial Ground

- i. Registering the Land – The Clerk reported this remains with the solicitor.
- ii. Paving – Cllrs Parker-Foers reported that the remedial work to recently paved areas had not yet been undertaken.
- iii. Additional Land – It was noted that there may be additional land already earmarked for the burial ground and currently included within the farmer's field.

Action: Clerk to investigate land ownership and approach.

d) Recreation Ground and Play areas.

The Chairperson raised concerns that despite several requests to remove, the grass cuttings remain, and that litter left by the football club is an ongoing problem. It was suggested that there may be a need to review the tenancy agreement and a suggestion to contract out rubbish removal at a cost to the football club.

Action Cllrs Adair & Baum-Dixon to raise with the club secretary.

e) Environment

Nothing to report.

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:

Pruning of a sycamore tree on the Woodlands Farm development. – no comment – this has subsequently been approved and work has been carried out.

Pre-enquiry re former Station Hotel opposite Arundel Street change of use from nursery to residential and possibly house of multiple occupancy.

Resolved: To raise concerns over the lack of detail and purpose including assumptions about parking and potential impact on a small village with few recreational resources and limited public transport if, as an HMO it is used as a hostel.

Proposed: Councillor V Beckett

Seconded: Councillor J Chadburn

Decisions:

Woodlands Farm – See above.

Other matters:

Old Enterprise Centre - Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against RMBC refusal for the erection of 2 flats with parking at the site of Old Enterprise Centre is pending a decision.

Mill House – Business activity should now have ceased and RMBC are addressing the non-compliance with the planning permission that was granted for the dwellings. It was noted that a wall appears to be being erected around the building.

g) Newsletter

Cllr Baum-Dixon reported that the summer edition has now been delivered in full and with the support of Cllrs Rowbottom and Chadburn, the next issue is due September but can be pushed to October if needed.

h) Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Rowbottom reported that two of the co-ordinators were stepping down leaving two co-ordinators remaining.

2024/171 Report from Representatives on External Bodies

a) RMBC/Parish Council's Network Meeting

Nothing to report – TA to confirm.

b) YLCA Branch Representatives

Nothing to report.

c) Banks Group – Penny Hill Wind Farm

Cllr Adair reported that Banks Group has now changed its name and as yet and he has not been notified of any future meetings.

d) Treeton Youth Club

Cllr Adair reported that the Youth Club is well attended, and the children seem to be more interactive.

e) Community Centre & Playing Fields Memorial Committee

Cllrs Adair & Baum-Dixon reported that the grant for Solar Panels has been approved.

2024/172 Community Centre

No further discussions were held relating to the Community Centre

2024/173 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 V Beckett

Seconded: Councillor T Adair

2024/174 Finance and General Purposes

a) Financial Monitoring Month 3

The financial monitoring statement was noted.

b) Internal Control Reconciliation & Accountability

It was reported that Cllr Parker-Foers & Rowbottom verified reporting, bank balances & accounts match and balance on 5th July 2024.

c) Changes to Bank Mandate

Resolved: That Cllr Rowbottom be added to the bank mandate and the recently resigned Clerk and interim Clerk/RFO be removed

Proposed: Councillor R Croxton

Seconded: Councillor K Hickey

d) Receipts and payments July 2024

Receipts

Clarkson's – Memorial Fees	BACS	80.00
Reading Room Letting (incl £50 key deposit)	BACS	100.00
Reading Room Letting	BACS	80.00
Foers – Pre-purchase graves	BACS	900.00

Terriers – use of Cowfield 1.4.24-31.3.25	BACS	220.00
LATES		
Resident – prepurchase grave plot	BACS	300.00

Payments

Staff Salaries Pension Expenses, HMRC July 2024	BACS/DDebit	2,581.68
EDF Energy - Gas July 2024	BACS	45.12
Opus – Electricity July 2024	BACS	57.83
Smarty – Office Mobile Phone monthly tariff July	D/Debit	10.00
Sky: 14.7.24 – 13.8.24 - broadband	D/Debit	28.74
A Flinders – Burial Ground Maintenance June 2024	Direct Debit	389.03
Sarah's Home Cleaning Services Ltd – Clean RR July	BACS	45.00
Business Stream – Water services Reading Room	Direct Debit	33.50
Business Stream – Water services Burial Ground	Direct Debit	14.60
Amazon – door sign	Direct Debit	8.49
Amazon – printer cable	Direct Debit	8.99
Amazon prime & cancellation	Direct Debit	2.24
Amazon – Stationery – finance labels	Direct Debit	10.89
Letting – refund of hire deposit for RRoom	BACS	50.00
Petty Cash – milk, mower blade, strimmer line	BACS	68.38
LATES		
Petty cash – topsoil & milk	BACS	10.20
Clarksons – refund of memorial fee	BACS	30.00
Smarty – Office Mobile Phone monthly tariff August	D/Debit	10.00

Bank & Cash Book Reconciliation 30th June 2024

Balances at bank: Current account	10,424.01
Deposit account	22,693.78
Cambridge Building Society	80,000.44
Nationwide Building Society	36,891.14
Total	£150,009.37

Proposed: Councillor K Hickey
Seconded: Councillor J Chadburn

2024/174 Items for information/Future Business

None given

2024/176 Date of the next meeting

Monday 16th September 2024

Resolved: That the date of the next meeting would be brought forward.
Proposed: Councillor V Beckett
Seconded: Councillor K Hickey

2024/177 Exclusion of the Press & Public

Resolved: To exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information (s1 (2) Public Bodies (Admissions of Meetings) act 1960).

Proposed: Councillor J Chadburn

Seconded: Councillor O Baum Dixon

2024/178 Property – Expired Lease

Action: Clerk to investigate and determine rights of access and ownership of adjacent land.

Any decisions have been deferred to future meetings.

The meeting closed at 8:58pm

Chairman:

Date:

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