



Ripley Town Council

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Contact: Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk

Derbyshire Council of the Year 2020 & 2018
Highly Commended 2019, 2022 & 2023



MINUTES of Tuesday 24th September 2025 at 5.00pm RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Ripley Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley, DE5 3BT.

In attendance; Cllrs: C Bailey, A Burslem, L Cox, M Hawkins, T Holmes (Chair), A Nicholls, and P Weaving.
Also: H. Curzon (Town Clerk) and B. Farnsworth (Community Engagement Officer)
Plus: Mr. Chris Howarth – Head of Ripley St John's Primary School.

AGENDA

240925/1. To Receive Apologies for Absence – None

240925/2. Variation of Order of Business – None required.

240925/3. Declaration of Members Interests – None declared.

240925/4. Public speaking
None.

240925/5. Discuss Ripley St. John's Primary School Community Arts Project to be presented by Mr. Chris Howarth (Headteacher).

Mr. Howarth spoke about the school currently being a Platinum Artsmark School. They would like to become a Platinum Plus Artsmark School and to do this, they must focus on a community arts project. Collaborating with other local schools, churches, and community groups, they are creating a representation of Ripley on a tote bag which can be purchased. The school would like to attend the Ripley Christmas Market to sell the bags if they are produced in time. They are also designing a mural of the children's drawings to go on a building(s) in Ripley Town Centre (with the correct approvals from the council and building owners). The school will be liaising with Platform 31 to apply for funding from the Arts Council to enable them to recruit a local artist to paint the mural from the children's designs.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that Ripley Town Council offer Ripley St. John's Primary School a free stall at the upcoming Ripley Christmas Market where they can sell their community tote bags. The council will help raise the profile of this project and offer advice where needed. The money raised from the sales of the bags will go to schools, churches, Fair Trade charities via the Coop, Ripley Hospital League of Friends and community groups.

240925/6. Discuss the Halloween Outdoor Cinema event.

The Town Clerk explained that after discussions with Amber Valley Borough Council, they said that if Ripley Town Council were to submit an event application to them for the use of Crossley Park, Ripley for an outdoor cinema in late October, they would refuse it. This is due to the park being very dark at the time of the event as there are no lights inside it and this is a health and safety issue.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the Community Engagement Officer devises activities for town centre businesses and residents to take part in for Halloween, for example, best Halloween/Autumn window display and a Halloween Hunt trail. Open the Ripley Town Council

Office during the day to young trick or treaters on 31st October 2025.

240925/7. Discuss Ripley Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9th November 2025.

The Town Clerk reported that she had met with representatives from All Saint's Church and the Ripley RBL to discuss plans for this year's event. The wording for the Order of Service has been agreed, the bugler has been booked, and the Cadets will be leading the parade with percussion. Invites to local groups will go out by the end of this week. This year the Mayor will be personally purchasing a biodegradable wreath from a local florist.

NOTED

240925/8. Discuss the Ripley Christmas Market and Lights Switch on 23rd November 2025.

The Community Engagement Officer reported that we are at full capacity with the number of stalls booked for this event. A cancellation list has been started for people wanting to attend. He will talk to businesses along Oxford Street, Ripley and encourage them to be open for the duration of the event. The children's rides and face painter will be situated down Oxford Street.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the Community Engagement Officer investigates having a 'quiet hour' before the event officially opens for neurodivergent people to attend.

240925/9. Date of the next meeting: 5pm on Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 5.00pm.

240925/10. Meeting Closed: 17:48

The date for the next monthly Town Council Meeting is Monday 20th October 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Ripley Town Hall.