



**MINUTES of the MEETING OF RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL**  
held at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024** in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

In Attendance: Cllrs M Allwood, R Ashton, C Bailey, A Burslem, L Cox, R Emmas-Williams, S Freeborn, M Hawkins, T Holmes, M Jones, P Lobley BEM (Chair), P Moss, A Nicholls, K Somers, K Smith, A Ward, N Weaving, P Weaving, D Williams, and M Wilson.

Plus: Jayne Simpson - Town Clerk and Hannah Curzon – Deputy Clerk

Plus: Three members of the public.

## **AGENDA**

### **200224/1. To Receive Apologies for Absence.**

No apologies were received.

### **200224/2. Variation of Order of Business - None**

### **200224/3. Declaration of Members Interests**

Councillor Ashton declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 14 and 16 as a member of Derbyshire County Council. He remained in the meeting.

Councillor Moss declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 14 and 16 as a member of Derbyshire County Council. He remained in the meeting.

### **200224/4. Public Speaking**

Cllr Ashton reported that Derbyshire County Council have replaced the barriers on Oxford Street. They have stated that if they are damaged in the future, they will not replace them again. He suggests that CCTV cameras are installed to see who is causing the damage. He is pleased to see that vehicles are being ticketed by the Police.

Cllr Williams thanked Derbyshire County Council for resurfacing the footpath between the two allotment sites on Albion Street.

### **200224/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.

### **200224/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 and accept any recommendations therein.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.

### **200224/7. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 and accept any recommendations and resolutions therein.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.

**200224/8. To confirm the confidential Minutes of the Employment Committee Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 and accept the recommendations therein.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.

**200224/9. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 and accept the recommendations and resolutions therein.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm and agree to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.

**200224/10. To determine which items if any part of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.**

**NONE**

**200224/11. Mayor's Announcements.**

The Mayor attended the following engagements since the last Town Council monthly meeting:

- 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Leesbrook Academy to watch Ripley Girls Under 9's Football match.
- 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Ripley Morris Ale Feast.
- 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Meeting with Ripley Brownies at Ripley Town Hall.
- 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Cheque presentation from Rotary Amber Valley for Warm Wednesday.
- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Ripley Coop Heritage Walk.

**200224/12. Town Clerk announcements:**

**a) Mayor's Charity evening – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that tickets are still available to purchase for this charity evening, with the fish and chip supper being kindly donated by Ripley's Fish and Chips.

**NOTED**

**b) Civic Dinner booked at The Excavator on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.**

The Clerk reported that invitation for this event will be sent out in the coming weeks.

**NOTED**

**c) Warm Wednesday update**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the final session takes place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Two attendees have kindly donated £100 each towards activities and food at the sessions. We are welcoming on average, 44 people each week and that current spending is within the budget. It's noticeable that not all attendees are there for the free lunch, but for company and friendship. A proposal for a summer social hub will be written and circulated to the council for consideration in due course.

**NOTED**

**d) Speed Indicator Devices (SID) update**

The Clerk reported that the Object in the Highway Licence has been approved by Derbyshire County Council and is now awaiting signature from them. The SID will then be moved from Sawmills to Waingroves. We will be installing a second SID on Hartshay Hill with the funding we have received from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The process for testing the lamppost and licencing with Derbyshire County Council has started.

**NOTED**

**200224/13. Discuss Youth Initiatives in the Ripley Township**

The Clerk reported that she had met with our current youth activity providers, The Old Farm Bus and Blend and asked them to put their costings together for the next financial year so we can continue our youth work with them.

Cllr Freeborn said he was pleased with the work we do regarding youth initiatives. He wanted the council to note that Amber Valley Borough Council are in receipt of s106 money from the

28/2023

Firs Works development in Nether Heage for the provision of youth facilities. He hopes that Ripley Town Council can develop a partnership with them to see this happen.

**NOTED**

**200224/14. Discuss traffic on Oxford Street, Ripley**

Cllr Emmas-Williams reported that on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024, there were two cars parked on Oxford Street and the bollards were down. He wanted to know why this had happened. He went on to say that in previous years, White's Jewellers had a key for the barriers that can be used in an emergency should a vehicle need to be let out. This could be something that is considered again.

Cllr Somers replied to say that the barriers at the bottom of Oxford Street are sometimes down so cars can exit safely.

**NOTED**

**200224/15. Discuss Ripley Town Council possibly looking to employ a Grounds and General Services Operative.**

Cllr Wilson explained that the Clerk is looking into how much it would cost to employ someone to undertake tasks in the surrounding villages and towns and looking at what these tasks might involve, what the rate of pay will be, in liaison with DALC (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils). The information will be discussed at the Employment Committee, Environment and Regeneration Committee and Finance and Management Committee meetings for joint working. A proposal will then be put together for the council to consider.

Cllr Freeborn added that councillors, especially with villages in their ward, need to feed into this process via the committees mentioned.

**NOTED**

**200224/16. Discuss roads and pathways in the Ripley Township.**

Cllr Hawkins reported that the current state of the roads with potholes is shocking. He encouraged people to report faults via the Derbyshire County Council website.

Cllr Holmes reported that vehicles are parking on pavements in Ripley Town Centre, particularly on Church Street and Grosvenor Road. This is becoming an access and safety issue for pedestrians. He suggested Ripley Town Council place floral planters in these areas to prevent parking.

**NOTED**

**200224/17. Discuss the cost-of-living-crisis**

Cllr Freeborn reported that the crisis still exists. The scale of cuts is high, especially on highways to make up for the statutory services. The future is bleak in our community. He had recently spoken to local headteachers who are feeling increasingly desperate through the lack of support where hardship occurs. This is now a middle-class crisis too. One in three people earning £30k-£60k will fall into debt through high interest rates, student debt and job insecurity. Ripley Town Council provide Citizen Advice sessions in Ripley Library to help. He recently read that the Department for Work and Pensions have banned job centre staff from sending people to foodbanks due to Data Protection Law. This is the scale of poverty in our community.

**NOTED**

**200224/18. Planning Applications – None**

**200224/19. Exclusion of the Press and Public – None**

**200224/20. Meeting Closed at 19:33**

Signed..... Date.....

**Date for the Next Full Council Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 7.00pm.**

**RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**BHIB AWARD WINNER FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2018 & 2020**

**BHIB HIGHLY COMMENDED WINNER FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2019, 2022 & 2023.**

29/2023