



# 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 the MEETING OF RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL** held at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

In Attendance: Cllrs R Ashton, C Bailey, A Burslem, L Cox (Chair), R Emmas-Williams, S Freeborn, M Hawkins, T Holmes, P Lobley BEM, K Somers, N Weaving, P Weaving, and D Williams.  
Plus: Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk & Jayne Simpson – Responsible Finance Officer.  
Plus: Three members of the public.

### **AGENDA**

#### **150425/1. To receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Allwood, Carter, Moss, Nicholls, Smith, Ward and Cllr Wilson.

#### **150425/2. Variation of Order of Business**

**RESOLVED** to discuss Agenda Item 15 without the Press and Public present as it is a confidential matter discussing professional fees.

#### **150425/3. Declaration of Members Interests**

Councillor Burslem declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. She remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Cox declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. She remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Freeborn declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 16 as a member of Amber Valley Access Group. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Holmes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Lobley BEM declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

#### **150425/4. Public Speaking**

Melanie Mallinson, Senior Operations Manager at Citizens Advice Derbyshire Districts gave a report on how Citizens Advice has helped residents in the Ripley Township between April 2024 and March 2025. She thanked the Council for their continued financial support of funding their weekly sessions in Ripley Library on Monday mornings. Melanie explained that they had helped 98 individuals at this venue during this period of time, and secured benefits and grants to the total of £300,594 and assisted in writing off debt of £20,060. Most of the people were aged 60 and above.

Cllr Burslem asked if the service has enough volunteers. Melanie explained that they are less reliant on volunteers as numbers has depleted over recent years, and they have more trained, paid staff. Funding is not increasing with the demand the service is receiving. They are only able to deal with 60-65% of the demand. Previously, each person seeking advice had on average 2.9 issues they needed help with. Now it is 5.1 issues.

Cllr Somers said she was grateful for the assistance she received several years ago from Citizens Advice and would strongly support the funding gap if the opportunity was there from the council.

Cllr Freeborn stated his gratitude for Citizens Advice. He said their work is personally important to him. The number of people coming the advice sessions shows that the need is still there, and austerity is not over. It is tragic that we live in a society where the poor get poorer, and the rich get richer. He went on to say that moving forward, it may be possible for Citizens Advice to help provide information to the council regarding a future Ripley Neighbourhood Plan by providing data around disability, housing etc. Ongoing dialogue is needed between the council and Citizens Advice and suggested that Melanie approach the council via the Town Clerk to ask for additional financial help and let us know in plenty of time for when we set our budget for the next financial year.

**150425/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

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

**150425/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept any recommendations therein.**

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

**150425/7. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept any recommendations therein.**

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

**150425/8. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept the recommendations and resolutions therein.**

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

**150425/9. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**150425/10. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**150425/11. To determine which items if any part of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.**

**RESOLVED** in view of the confidential nature of item 15 to consider a resolution, to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, in order to discuss the item.

**150425/12. Mayor's Announcements.**

The Mayor and Consort attended the following engagement since the last Town Council monthly meeting:

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – Mayor of Ripley's Charity evening at Greenwich Community Sports Hub. £755 was raised for the Ripley Hospital League of Friends and Grow Outside CIC.

**150425/13. Town Clerk announcements:**

**a) Civic Dinner reminder – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7.00pm at The Excavator, Sawmills.**

The Town Clerk reported that the invitation to the Civic Dinner had been sent to all Councillors and guests earlier today and asked them to RSVP by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**NOTED**

**150425/14. Update members on the financial position of Ripley Town Council, as at the financial year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**

The Responsible Finance Officer had provided the council with a written report on the healthy financial position of the council, prior to the meeting. She asked if any members needed clarification on anything. No questions were asked.

**NOTED**

**150425/15. Discuss the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan.**

**RESOLVED** that the Ripley Town Council Planning Committee discuss the concept of considering a new Ripley Neighbourhood Plan in more detail with a stepped approach, to minimise and control costs of managing each stage of the process.

**150425/16. Discuss Disabled Access in Ripley.**

**RESOLVED** that Ripley Town Council:

1. seek a meeting with a senior Amber Valley Borough Council Planning Officer, and also a senior representative of Derbyshire Building Control Partnership, to discuss how the needs of disabled people are reflected in their decision making.
2. continues to support the work of Amber Valley Access, through sending a representative (Cllr Bailey) to its meeting, and also supporting the development of a database about Ripley's premises.
3. contact the Derbyshire County Council Highways Department to register its dissatisfaction with the poor quality of many public footways across the township.
4. contact the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner asking her to prioritise resolution of the problem of illegal parking on footways.

**150425/17. Planning applications**

**NONE**

**150425/18. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in Agenda Item 15.

**150425/19. Meeting Closed at 19:35**

**Date for the Next Full Council Meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, at 7.00pm.**

**Signed..... Date.....**