



# 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> July 2025** in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

In Attendance: Cllrs M Allwood, R Ashton, C Bailey (Chair), A Burslem, L Cox, R Emmas-Williams, S Freeborn, M Hawkins, T Holmes, M Jones, P Lobley BEM, P Moss, A Nicholls, 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 and one member of the press.

## **AGENDA**

### **150725/1. To receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carter, Smith and Ward. Also, Cllr Wilson (Derbyshire County Council) and the Ripley SNT team.

### **150725/2. Variation of Order of Business**

**None**

### **150725/3. Declaration of Members Interests**

Councillor Allwood declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Burslem declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. She remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Cox declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. She remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Holmes declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Lobley declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in Agendas Item 15 and 19 as a member of Amber Valley Borough Council. He remained in the meeting for the discussion.

### **150725/4. Public Speaking**

Cllr Burslem reported that herself and other Community Speedwatch volunteers had recently been out recording the speed of motorists. Their presence was well received from pedestrians that they spoke to. She spoke about speeding being a problem and that the perception of speed is not always accurate. She confirmed that more Community Speedwatch sessions are coming up. They are looking for areas to Speedwatch. If anyone has any suggestions, please send them to the Town Clerk.

On behalf of Ripley Music Festival, Councillor Freeborn thanked Ripley Town Council for their help and support. The financial support of the council is key for the Music Festival to move forward. The date of the 2026 festival is 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July 2026. He went on to say that the attendance

this year in Crossley Park and at the other venues in the town, was the best it has ever been. Some people used social media to tell lies about the festival. Not one single incident happened in Crossley Park, and no first aid incidents were reported. There was an incident on Ripley Market Place the evening of the festival, for which Ripley Music Festival were blamed, however this was totally unrelated to the event.

Councillor Williams reported that the Waingroves Community Woodland Trust and Waingroves Show organised two events as part of the Ripley Music Festival and both were well supported.

Councillor Hawkins reported that he was volunteering as a Steward at the Ripley Music Festival all day on the Saturday and that the people there displayed wonderful behaviour all day. He thanked Ripley Town Council for their support.

Councillor Ashton said that the performances at the Ripley Music Festival on the Saturday were tremendous and the bands were superb – it was the best he had ever seen on the park. He thanked all involved. Cllr Ashton also said that he had been stopped on Oxford Street by five members of the public complementing the floral arrangements in town.

A member of the public commended Ripley Music Festival and commented how great the school children performed on the Friday, despite the hot weather. They also commended Ripley Town Council on the floral displays and how thrilled they were to see bees around them. This person spoke about the booklet they had received from Amber Valley Borough Council regarding Devolution. They stated they don't agree with the reorganisation however, if the county is split, Amber Valley should go into the northern council area as it has more in common with the north rather than the south. For example, heritage and infrastructure. They believe that a referendum should have been had regarding Devolution.

**150725/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Monthly Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

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

**150725/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept any recommendations therein.**

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

**150725/7. To confirm the Confidential Minutes of the Employment Committee Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept any recommendations therein.**

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

**150725/8. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee meeting on June 24<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.

**150725/9. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Heritage, Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**150725/10. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance Committee on July 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 and accept the resolutions and recommendations therein.**

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

**150725/11. 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 19 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.

**150725/12. Mayor's Announcements.**

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

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 – Pure Steel Band performance at Music in Crossley Park.

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – Attended the raising of the flag ceremony in Crossley Park for Armed Forces Day.

5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Judged the Scarecrow Competition in Nether Heage.

6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Attended the annual Crich Pilgrimage at Crich Stand.

9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Attended The Ripley Academy student presentation event.

11<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Attended the Ripley Hospital League of Friends fundraising quiz at Greenwich Community Sports Hub.

**150725/13. Town Clerk announcements:**

**a) Staffing updates**

The Clerk reported that the Deputy Clerk had a successful operation after which there will be a long recovery. She is hoping to return to work towards the end of this year, all being well. She asked the Clerk to pass on the thanks for all the support, well wishes and gifts she has received during her treatment and recovery.

The Greenwich Caretaker returned to work last week after a long period of sickness.

As approved, the Grounds Maintenance Operative, is taking on five additional hours per week from 1<sup>st</sup> August, working 35 hours per week.

Councillor Lobley stated that the state of the township has improved since we employed the Grounds Maintenance Operative. He reported that he is doing a marvellous job.

Also as approved, our Temporary Admin Assistant is becoming a permanent member of staff from 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**NOTED**

**b) VJ Day grants and event**

The Clerk reported that last week grant applications opened for local groups to apply for grants to hold celebrations. At present, we have received one application. The team are organising a VJ celebration on Ripley Market Place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August where a wartime singer will perform, military vehicles will be on display, Ripley branch of the RBL will be in attendance, and activities throughout the town for children.

**NOTED**

**c) Garden and Allotment Competition**

The Clerk reported that we have received 11 entries to the competition this year. Unfortunately, no schools have entered. Judging will take place this coming Saturday and there will be a presentation in the Coop in September for all the winners and runners up.

Cllr Freeborn said that the wet weather could have played a part in us having fewer entries this year. He suggested we move the judging from July to June in 2026.

Cllr Lobley thanked the Coop for supporting the competition again this year and for hosting the presentation in September. Ripley Town Council are extremely grateful for that.

**NOTED**

**d) Reminder that there is no Full Council meeting in August.**

The Clerk reminded members that the next Full Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm.

**NOTED**

**150725/14. Ripley Town Council Financial Grants – Thanks received from the following organisations:**

1st Heage Scout Group, Ambergate Carnival, Amber Valley Movie Makers, Ambergate Cricket Club, Yellow Daisies Stay & Play/The Village Hall at Heage, Nuttalls Fearn Avenue Allotment Association, Greenhillocks Fellowship, Nether Heage Community & Neighbourhood Watch, Ripley Wild Flowerers, Heage PTFA, Amber Sound FM, Friends of Ripley Greenway, Ripley OAP Association, Sawmills Over 60's Club, Waingroves Well Dressing, 4th Ripley Rainbows, Nuttalls Park Pit Lane Allotments.

**NOTED**

**150725/15. Discuss the Derbyshire Local Government Reorganisation Public Consultation**

**RESOLVED** Ripley Town Council support that the Ripley Township is kept as a whole entity and that if Amber Valley Borough Council is to be dissolved and split, the Ripley Township should belong to the North of the county.

**150725/16. Discuss the 2026 Well Dressing in Ripley.**

**RESOLVED** that Ripley Town Council plan for the 2026 Well Dressing by seeking volunteers to design and create the well dressing boards.

**150725/17. Discuss Citizen Advice sessions in the Ripley Township**

**RESOLVED** that Ripley Town Council extend the Citizen Advice service into the villages in the township by holding weekly sessions in these communities. The Town Clerk is to find venues where other events are going on, for example coffee mornings, where there's a room for confidential meetings and to ensure the Citizens Advice Worker isn't lone working. Councillors to email venue suggestions to the Town Clerk.

**150725/18. Planning applications**

**NONE**

**150725/19. Discuss the Ripley Town Council office expansion.**

**RESOLVED** that Ripley Town Council rent the room adjacent to the current Ripley Town Council office in Ripley Town Hall, due to the expansion of the staffing team and increased staff hours. Ripley Town Council to pay the agreed rent of £15,000 per annum, including service charge, to Amber Valley Borough Council, subject to approval and legal checks from Amber Valley Borough Council. The Ripley Town Council Finance Committee has approved a budget of £10,000 for the cost of renovations and furnishing the additional office space.

**150725/20. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public left the meeting at 19:38 prior to Agenda Item 19 being discussed, due to the confidential nature of the business that was transacted.

**150725/21. Meeting Closed at 19:41**

**Date for the Next Full Council Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at 7.00pm.**

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