



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 **Monday 20th October 2025** in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

In Attendance: Cllrs M Allwood, R Ashton, C Bailey (Chair), A Burslem, S Carter, L Cox, R Emmas-Williams, S Freeborn, M Jones, P Lobley BEM, P Moss, K Somers, A Ward, N Weaving, P Weaving, and M Wilson.
Plus: Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk & Jayne Simpson – Responsible Finance Officer.
Plus: Two members of the public.

AGENDA

201025/1. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hawkins, Holmes, Nicholls, Smith and Williams.

201025/2. Variation of Order of Business

None

201025/3. Declaration of Members Interests

None

201025/4. Public Speaking

None

201025/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Meeting on September 16th 2025 and accept the resolutions therein. (previously circulated electronically).

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

201025/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee Meeting on September 23rd 2025 and accept the recommendations therein (previously circulated electronically).

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

201025/7. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting on September 24th 2025 and accept the recommendations therein (previously circulated electronically).

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

201025/8. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Certificate of Merit Working Party Meeting on October 14th 2025 and accept the recommendations therein (previously circulated electronically).

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

201025/9. To determine which items if any part of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

None

201025/10. Mayor's Announcements.

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

18th September 2025 – Amber Valley Alliance for Learning Difficulties

26th September 2025 – Ripley Hospital League of Friends cheque presentation

28th September 2025 – Attended a service in Chesterfield

29th September 2025 – Hosted pupils from Ripley St. John's School in the Council Chamber

19th October 2025 – Amber Valley Civic Service at St Luke's Church, Heage.

Greenhillocks Allotment Association Coffee Morning (Deputy Clerk)

201025/11. Town Clerk announcements:

a) Certificate of Merit winner.

The Clerk reported that the Certificate of Merit Working Party selected 16-year-old, Miss. Caitlyn Bullock from Ripley to win this years' award. Caitlyn was an attendee of the Old Farm Bus and is now a volunteer facilitator there. She was nominated for her hardworking efforts at The Old Farm Bus. The Clerk is meeting with Caitlyn and her parents on Wednesday to invite them to attend the Civic Service where Caitlyn will receive her award and also to invite her to lay a wreath on behalf of the Township at the Remembrance Service.

NOTED

b) Fair Dinner Reminder – Tuesday 21st October 2025 at The Excavator, Sawmills.

The Clerk reminded members that are attending the Fair Dinner that it will take place tomorrow. Please arrive for 7pm for the meal at 7.30pm.

NOTED

c) 774th Ripley Charter Fair

The Clerk reported that the fair will officially open on Wednesday 22nd October at 6pm with the Town Crier reading the precis of the Charter.

NOTED

d) Ripley Pirate Takeover event reminder – Tuesday 28th October 2025 at Greenwich Community Sports Hub.

The Clerk reminded members that this event, which the council gave a financial grant towards, was originally due to take place on Saturday 4th October, but was cancelled due to Storm Amy. The new date is 28th October, during the half term holidays and will now be held at Greenwich.

NOTED

e) Ripley Poppy Appeal

The Clerk reported that the Deputy Mayor will be officially launching the Poppy Appeal at Sainsburys this Thursday where he will buy the first poppy. Poppies will be available from the Town Council office and various shops and supermarkets in the area.

NOTED

f) Remembrance Parade and Service

The Clerk reported this will take place on Sunday 9th November. If you would like to take part in the parade, please be in the Coop Car Park no later than 10.15am. The Parade Marshal will advise you where to stand in the parade. The Deputy Mayor will lay a wreath at All Saints Church on behalf of the council, and as previously mentioned, the Certificate of Merit winner will lay the wreath on behalf of the township.

NOTED

g) Ripley Town Council Civic Service reminder – Sunday 16th November 2025 at 3pm in All Saint’s Church.

The Clerk reported that all members have received their invitation. Please respond to Lisa by Friday 7th November 2025.

NOTED

h) Ripley Town Centre Business Traders meeting.

The Clerk reported that this meeting has been arranged on Thursday 20th November. It will be chaired by Cllr Jones and will be attended by invited Ripley Town Centre Businesses. Guest speakers include Linsey Farnsworth MP, representatives from Amber Valley Borough Council, the Ripley Safer Neighbourhood Team and Amber Valley CVS. Delegates will be informed about various initiatives available to them and will be encouraged to set up their own, formal Traders Forum.

NOTED

i) Ripley Christmas Market and Lights Switch on reminder – Sunday 23rd November 2025, 12 noon until 6pm.

The Clerk asked if any members would like to volunteer at this event, please let Bradd know. The event will take place on Ripley Market Place and down Oxford Street for the first time.

NOTED

201025/12. Discuss Councillor Conduct

The Mayor read the following statement regarding a recent incident when he removed a flag from a lamppost in Heage.

I would like to address the community upset that has happened recently.

I apologise to anyone who has been upset by my actions, but it was done with the best of intentions. I have since returned the flag to the owner and spoke with them in person to apologise.

I am as patriotic as the next man. The flag I removed from a lamppost in Heage was not a Union Flag. I would describe it as a football supporters’ flag with ‘England’ written on it. For me this issue is not about a flag, it is about responsibility and procedure in the public realm.

Permission is needed to hang anything on a lamppost owned by Derbyshire County Council - be it hanging baskets, Christmas Lights or a Speed Indicator Device.

When I first saw flags in the area slipping down lampposts, I contacted Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

They told me they had not given permission for flags to be erected, and they currently plan only to remove any that caused a health and safety hazard. With flags slipping down posts, it is only a matter of time before an incident involving a pedestrian or motorist was to occur.

I presumed permission had not been granted by DCC. It’s important that permissions and regulations are followed – they are implemented for good reason, and by not obtaining permissions it sets a precedent that people can be allowed to break rules for certain things, but not others. This is not constructive or helpful to our community.

These are the reasons that led to my actions. I repeat, it is not about flags.

Coming back to patriotism, everyone has the right to put up a flag or Christmas Lights up at home. I put up an England flag at my bedroom window to honour the brilliant victory at the Women’s Rugby team recently. This is my private property, so I did not require permission. A public lamppost is not my property and so I would have no right to attach anything to it.

My actions are reflective of my beliefs and views regarding rules and regulations and flying flags. My actions are not reflective of the staff or my fellow Councillors at Ripley Town Council.

Again, I apologise to anyone that was upset by this incident.

Colin Bailey

Cllr Carter stated that it was disgraceful that the Mayor took the flag down.

Cllr Freeborn raised a point of order and pointed out that the complaints were examined by the Monitoring Officer at Amber Valley Borough Council who found that Cllr Bailey was acting in a personal capacity and did not go against the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Cllr Carter said that all public servants need to behave and it was not fitting for the Mayor to be ripping down the flag. This incident made national news. Councillor Carter proposed the following motion:

MOTION: The Mayor of Ripley to stand down with immediate effect.

Cllr Freeborn said when the incident took place, complaints were made to the council. The council does have policies and procedures in place for complaints and all complaints received were redirected to the Monitoring Officer at Amber Valley Borough Council. He investigated the complaints and along with an independent person, concluded that Councillor Bailey was not acting in an official capacity and that he did not go against the Councillor Code of Conduct, nor did he bring the council into disrepute. In addition, Cllr Freeborn said that no one had spoken to him in favour of flags on lampposts. Some observations he's had is that some flags in urban areas are covering fire hydrant signs and some are at half-mast or upside down.

Cllr Ashton said the Mayor of Ripley is the Mayor whether they are wearing the chain or not and should act responsibly.

Cllr Burslem said that councillors need to ensure residents in the area keep to the rules and regulations of England and not putting flags or banners on lampposts without the correct permission. Rules must be upheld. If councillors see something that's wrong or a mess, they will tidy it up.

Cllr Ward reported that Reform lead Derbyshire County Council said flags can be left up if they are in good order. There are quite a few ex-military personnel in our township, and the Union Flag is a sign of patriotism. There are lampposts with poppies on, and Derbyshire County Council do not have a problem with it. It left a bad taste when she saw the CCTV footage of the incident. She questioned whether the Mayor is a suitable person to be laying a wreath on Remembrance Day.

Cllr Moss said that whilst the Monitoring Officer feel that no further actions should be taken, elected members are held to a high standard and the Mayor to an even higher standard. It does reflect poorly on the council overall.

Cllr Jones said that putting flags up at half mast, and upside down is disrespectful of the flag. Let's not conflate being patriotic with flags.

Cllr Allwood stated that the previous Amber Valley MP was caught playing Candy Crush in a parliamentary meeting. He questioned whether Cllr Carter asked for his resignation at the time. He said that he had reported some nasty and inciteful social media comments relating to Cllr Bailey to the Police.

The proposed motion was put the vote.

RESOLVED Councillors voted and the above motion was not carried.

201025/13. Report on the Town Twinning Arrangements

Cllr Emmas-Williams reported that he had received an email from the Chateau Renault Twinning Association in France saying that they are possibly dissolving their association in 2026. This is due to members getting older and no younger people are interested in carrying on the arrangements.

Cllr Freeborn said he was really saddened to hear and thanked Cllr Emmas-Williams for all the work he's done over the years with the Twinning Association.

RESOLVED for Ripley Town Council to do an appeal for new members of social media and in the newsletter.

201025/14. Finance

a. Summary of Bank Balances and total monies held overall as of 30th September 2025.

Co-op Current Account	£446,355
NS&I Reserve Account	£ 32,712
Co-op Mayors Account	£ 2,669
Derbyshire Community Bank	£ 20,304
Nationwide Building Society	£ 41,853
Unity Bank	£ 4,747
Total	£548,640

NOTED

b. To confirm and agree Financial Payments for October 2025 payments.

Item Number	Method	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount
2045	CARD	Amazon EU Sarl	Laptop Bag	£10.82	£2.17	£12.99
2046	CARD	Travis Perkins	Flexvolt Hedge Cutter attachment	£105.00	£21.00	£126.00
2047	BACS	Advanced Building Plastics Ltd	AdBlue Solution 10L	£29.90	£5.98	£35.88
2048	BACS	Old Farm Bus CIC	Week 23 Workshops	£1,660.00	£0.00	£1,660.00
2049	BACS	Ripley Recreation Ground Charity	Room Hire – Blend Youth Hub Sessions	£240.00	£0.00	£240.00
2050	BACS	Advanced Building Plastics Ltd	White cable ties	£1.11	£0.22	£1.33
2051	BACS	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Pond restoration works	£569.00	£113.80	£682.80
2052	BACS	Old Farm Bus CIC	Week 24 Workshops	£1,660.00	£0.00	£1,660.00
2053	BACS	Blend Youth Project	Youth Hub sessions – April to June 2025	£1,934.50	£0.00	£1,934.50
2054	BACS	Advanced Building Plastics Ltd	Multi-purpose Anti-Bac Wipes	£6.80	£1.36	£8.16
2055	CARD	Ripley Shoe Repairs	Key Cutting	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00
2056	CARD	Royal Mail	50 x 2 nd Class stamps 50 x 2 nd Class Large letter stamps	£164.50	£0.00	£164.50
2057	BACS	High Speed Training	Staff Training	£377.10	£75.42	£452.52
2058	BACS	Derwent Valley Wind Band	Crossley Park performance	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00

2059	BACS	H Curzon	Mileage Claim	£27.00	£0.00	£27.00
2060	DD	FuelGenie Business A/C	Petrol for RTC Van	£56.23	£11.24	£67.47
2061	DD	Clear Business	Office telephone & broadband	£73.89	£14.78	£88.67
2062	DD	Spoton It'seeze	Website Charges	£49.00	£9.80	£58.80
2063	DD	ALD Automative Ltd	Monthly Lease Payment – RTC Van	£277.46	£55.49	£332.95
2064	BACS	Advanced Building Plastics Ltd	Groundsman's supplies	£21.89	£4.38	£26.27
2065	BACS	Keptkleen Ltd	Cleaning – Heage Public Toilets	£558.00	£111.60	£669.60
2066	BACS	Keptkleen Ltd	Bins Emptied – Ripley Greenway	£420.00	£84.00	£504.00
2067	BACS	Keptkleen Ltd	Cleaning – Market Place Public Toilets	£558.00	£111.60	£669.60
2068	BACS	Keptkleen Ltd	Bins Emptied – Maple Avenue	£36.00	£7.20	£43.20
2069	BACS	Ripley Recreation Ground Charity	Annual grant instalment	£5,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
2070	DD	Waterplus Ltd	Water bill – Heage Public Toilets	£91.52	£0.00	£91.52
2071	BACS	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Grounds maintenance – Play Areas	£104.22	£20.84	£125.06
2072	BACS	Old Farm Bus CIC	Week 25 Workshops	£1,660.00	£0.00	£1,660.00
2073	CARD	Amazon EU Sarl	Office Equipment, monitor, keyboard and mouse	£96.63	£19.34	£115.97
2074	BACS	Mrs J Jogela-Monk	Returned Stall deposit	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
2075	CARD	W Boyes & Co Ltd	Wool for Remembrance Poppy display	£16.45	£0.00	£16.45
2076	BACS	DCC-LGPS	September pension contributions	£3,778.00	£0.00	£3,778.00
2077	BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI contributions	£3,850.31	£0.00	£3,850.31
2078	BACS	Total Salaries	September Salaries	£11,797.85	£0.00	£11,797.85
2079	BACS	Old Farm Bus CIC	Week 26 Workshops	£1,660.00	£0.00	£1,660.00
2080	CARD	Amazon EU Sarl	Stationary Order	£26.92	£5.39	£32.31
				£37,143.10	£675.61	£37,818.71
		Income	2 nd Precept instalment			£341,250.00
			Christmas Market			£440.00
			Fair Dinner			£800.00
			Grant Returned – Marehay Miners Welfare			£200.00
						£342,690.00

201025/15. Approve the cost of £4,322.00 for additional Citizens Advice sessions in Waingroves, Marehay and Nether Heage covering three sessions per month from October 2025

RESOLVED Ripley Town Council approve the cost of £4,322.00 for additional Citizens Advice sessions in Waingroves, Marehay and Nether Heage covering three sessions per month from October 2025.

201025/16. Grant application request from Infinite Wellbeing CIC.

RESOLVED that Ripley Town Council approve a grant of £2,700 for Infinite Wellbeing to help them provide sessions at Greenwich Community Sports Hub for Ripley Township residents.

201025/17. Planning applications
NONE

201025/18. Exclusion of Press and Public
NONE

201025/19. Meeting Closed at 19:46

Date for the Next Full Council Meeting Tuesday 18th November 2025, at 7.00pm.

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