



# 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 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

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

Plus: Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk and Jayne Simpson – Responsible Finance Officer

Plus: Six members of the public.

## **AGENDA**

### **170326/1. To receive Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ward and Wilson.

### **170326/2. Variation of Order of Business**

**RESOLVED** to split Agenda item 18 into two parts:

- a. Discuss highway maintenance in the Ripley Township, in particular the stalled lighting works on the A38 island in Ripley.
- b. Discuss potholes in the Ripley Township.

### **170326/3. Declaration of Members Interests**

Councillors Allwood, Cox, Burslem, Holmes, Jones, Lobley and Williams all declared a personal interest in Agenda items 14 and 15 as members of Amber Valley Borough Council. They remained in the meeting for these discussions.

Councillor Cox declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 13 as a Member of Heanor and Loscoe Town Council. She remained in the meeting for the discussion.

### **170326/4. Public Speaking**

A member of the public spoke about the National Grid Upgrade and the impact it will have on Lower Hartshay in the Ripley Township. She wanted to remind members of the consultation event at Greenwich Community Sports Hub this coming Friday. She asked if Ripley Town Council was asked to participate in the consultation webinar, what is the distance involved in the grid upgrade and how tall will be pylons be?

A member of the public also spoke about the National Grid Upgrade. She said residents in Ripley don't realise how high the pylons will be – taller than Nelsons Column. She is concerned people won't put their views forward until the pylons are in place. She suggested all councils get together to object or insist the cables go underground. She had attended the consultation webinar prior to this meeting and there were 70 people on it. She would like to see Ripley Town Council use social media to encourage people to go to the consultation at Greenwich this week and show images of the height of the pylons in comparison to other landmarks. She fears it is down to the public to object, although the final decision lies with the government.

Cllr Allwood thanked the residents for their contributions. He reported that Ripley Town Council did respond to the first consultation via a meeting the Member of Parliament for Amber Valley organised. He said that the council has shared information regarding the consultation on our social media platforms, and will do so again, plus we have all the consultation documents on display in the foyer in the Town Hall. He went on to say National Grid have undergone an

extensive advertising campaign and sent information leaflets to all homes regarding their proposals. There is a fund available that affected parishes can apply to. He reiterated that it's important that everyone puts their points across. The demand for electricity is increasing over the coming years, and work does need to happen. Putting the cables underground costs considerably more and ventilation would be needed to keep the cables cool.

Cllr Lobley reported that he had been contacted by a Lower Hartshay resident and explained to them that Amber Valley Borough Council and Ripley Town Council are statutory consultees for the National Grid Upgrade and ultimately, it's the government who make the decision. He is aware of a community meeting at The George in Lower Hartshay and at The Black Boy in Heage soon, where a Councillor from Amber Valley Borough Council will be present. The community group in Lower Hartshay are aware of these meetings, should they wish to attend.

A resident spoke about the dangers of Chesterfield Road in Heage with speeding vehicles. The houses there are isolated and there is no pavement along this stretch of road. The speed of the vehicles exceeds the legal speed limit, making it extremely difficult for residents to get off their drives in cars. Over the years, there has been an increase in traffic too. There have been two accidents in the last 18 months. The 40mph speed limit needs to be reduced before someone is killed.

Cllr Williams spoke about Coope Street off Peasehill Road, Ripley and the difficulties residents are continuing to face with vehicles blocking access and egress to the street. Cllr Williams asked the Clerk to enquire with Derbyshire County Councillor Tony Wilson whether the potholes on Queen Street in Waingroves are on his list. The Clerk said she will find out and report back to Cllr Williams.

**170326/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and accept the resolutions therein.**

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

**170326/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Heritage, Environment and Regeneration Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**170326/7. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**170326/8. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**170326/9. To confirm the Confidential Minutes of the Employment Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and accept the recommendations therein.**

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

**170326/10. 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 21, to consider a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960, s1, in order to discuss the item.

### **170326/11. Mayor's Announcements.**

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

- 26.02.2026 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amber Valley Association of Learning Disabilities.
- 14.03.2026 Amber Valley Borough Council Civic Dinner at Horsley Lodge.
- 16.03.2026 Ripley Hospital League of Friends fundraising Fish and Chip supper.

### **170326/12. Town Clerk announcements:**

- a) **Mayor's Charity Fundraising evening – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Greenwich Community Sports Hub. Raffle tickets are on sale.**

The Clerk reminded members about this event.

**NOTED**

- b) **Civic Dinner – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at The Village Inn, Marehay.**

The Clerk informed members the invitation for this event will be sent out this week.

**NOTED**

### **170326/13. Discuss the Town of Culture Competition**

Cllr Allwood updated members and informed them that himself, Cllr Holmes and the Town Clerk are attending weekly meetings with the Amber Valley MP, Alfreton Town Council and Heanor and Loscoe Town Council to work on the joint Expression of Interest submission (deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026). The submission is coming together and if we get to the next stage, we will be awarded £60,000 to progress to the next stage of submitting a bid for the competition.

Cllr Holmes said he was impressed that all three towns are working together. The culture and history of Ripley is vast and it's time to celebrate it.

**NOTED**

### **170326/14. Discuss Ripley Town Council applying to Amber Valley Borough Council to take on the licence for Ripley Market.**

**RESOLVED** that Ripley Town Council apply to Amber Valley Borough Council to take on the licence to operate Ripley Market.

### **170326/15. Discuss the Amber Valley Borough Council Green Belt Consultation**

**RESOLVED** for Ripley Town Council to urge residents to comment on the Amber Valley Borough Council consultation.

### **170326/16. Discuss the weight limit of vehicles travelling through Ripley Town Centre.**

**RESOLVED** for Ripley Town Council to write to Derbyshire County Council asking them to impose a 7.5 tonne weight limit through Ripley Town Centre.

### **170326/17. Discuss the speed limit on Chesterfield Road, Heage and signage regarding the speed limit upon entering Heage.**

**RESOLVED** for Ripley Town Council to write to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and publish the letter on social media, asking them to erect a sign at the entrance to Heage from Buckland Hollow (outside Glen Brae property) on Chesterfield Road, Heage, and to lower the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, and not to wait until a serious accident happens. Also ask DCC to contact landowners on Chesterfield Road, Heage to cut back their hedges so the visual splay can be observed from vehicles and pedestrians egressing their drives and along the road to see

oncoming vehicles. Ripley Town Council to look into the possibility of erecting a Speed Indicator Device on a suitable lamppost along Chesterfield Road or for the Community Speedwatch Group to conduct more regular Speedwatch sessions on a safe area along this road or Church Street, Heage.

**170326/18. a) Discuss highway maintenance in the Ripley Township, in particular the stalled lighting works on the A38 island in Ripley.**

**RESOLVED** Ripley Town Council to write to Derbyshire County Council to ask what the delay is with the street lighting on the A38 island in Ripley and ask when they will be switched on.

**b) Discuss potholes in the Ripley Township.**

**RESOLVED** Ripley Town Council write to Cllr Charlotte Hill at Derbyshire County Council about our concerns regarding the poor state of the roads in the Ripley Township. Invite her to come and look at them, and for the letter to be published on social media.

**170326/19. Planning Applications  
NONE**

**170326/20. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are to be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in Agenda item 21.

**170326/21. Discuss staffing updates relating to additional council projects.**

The Town Clerk reported to members that due to increasing business needs of the council and the additional work that managing Ripley Market and future projects at Greenwich Community Sports Hub will bring, as per the minutes of the Employment meeting (100226/6 and 100326/7) which were accepted earlier in this meeting, we are looking at increasing the work hours of the Community Engagement Officer and Admin Assistant. The Admin Assistant job will also incorporate projects into the role, which is to become Admin and Projects Officer.

**RESOLVED** for the Admin Assistant role to become Admin and Projects Officer (25 hours per week) and the Community Engagement Officer to increase his hours by 5 per week to 30 hours, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

**170326/22. Meeting Closed at 19:58**

**Date for the Next Full Council Meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, at 7.00pm.**

Signed.....

Date:.....