



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 20th January 2026** in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

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

Plus: Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk, Jayne Simpson – Responsible Finance Officer and Fiona Barrett – Deputy Clerk

Plus: Three members of the public and two representatives from the Ripley Safer Neighbourhood Team.

AGENDA

200126/1. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Allwood, Holmes, Nicholls and Wilson. And T Wilson (DCC)

200126/2. Variation of Order of Business

None

200126/3. Declaration of Members Interests

None

200126/4. Public Speaking

A member of the public asked that RTC use their social media to warn pedestrians to take care when using pedestrian/zebra crossings in the town centre – in particular the ones on Church Street and on HSBC corner. Near miss incidents and speeding motorists have been witnessed on numerous occasions. Cllr Somers also confirmed this.

Cllr Freeborn expressed his thanks for bringing this issue to the meeting and stressed the importance of public safety.

Cllr Somers also reported that the signage in Crossley Park prohibiting the use of e-scooters is currently making a difference.

Simon Mallett (representative and volunteer driver for Belper Community Transport) came to raise awareness of the service they provide for older, vulnerable and disabled people across DE56 areas (which includes Ambergate, Bullbridge, Sawmills, Heage and Nether Heage). A £25 annual membership allows the member access to book a driver and vehicle to attend appointments, go on shopping trips visit friends/family etc. He asked that RTC encourage residents to use this service and supplied a quantity of leaflets to help with this. He also asked if RTC would be prepared to put a small article in the next newsletter (April) about this service and pass on details for volunteer drivers when they attend community meetings etc.

Mr Mallett also invited councillors from the Ambergate, Heage and Nether Heage areas to attend their AGM on 9th February 2026 at 6pm, at the Strutt Centre, Belper.

Cllr Williams wished them every success and hopes this service could go beyond to other areas in Amber Valley.

PC Sadler reported a slight spike in Anti-Social Behaviour in the town towards Christmas and groups causing issues with off road motorbikes. He also reported that recent events on social media about a murder in the township were untrue.

The annual Christmas 'Factory Friday' celebrations resulted in the town being flooded with officers on foot in the town centre but not many arrests were made.

PC Sadler reported that another PCSO (Sam), had started on the SNT and that another PC would be starting by the end of March.

Cllr Lobley questioned PC Sadler about reports of a huge drug bust in Amber Valley. PC Sadler replied that it was a result of intel - the users are known to the police and that bigger police teams get involved. He also reported that a new drug dealing gang is in Ripley now.

Cllr Ashton reported that there is currently a big problem with cars driving down Oxford Street as the barriers are damaged again.

PC Sadler responded to say that he had ticketed cars there last week and that shops (who have a key for the barrier) were letting vehicles out at the bottom. PCSO Shaw also responded to say that she had let some vehicles out as people just don't read the signage.

200126/5. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Town Council's Meeting on 18th November 2025 and accept the resolutions therein.

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

200126/6. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee Meeting on 25th November 2025 and accept the recommendations therein.

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

200126/7. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 16th December 2025 and accept the recommendations therein.

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

200126/8. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Policy and Management Committee meeting on 16th December 2026 and accept the recommendations therein.

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

200126/9. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 13th January 2026 and accept the recommendations therein.

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

200126/10. To determine which items if any part of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

None

200126/11. Mayor's Announcements.

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

- 23.11.25 Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On
- 28.11.25 Opening of Your Home Care in Ripley
- 04.12.25 Snax and Chats at Amber Valley Caravan Park
- 08.12.25 Swanwick Carol Service
- 09.12.25 Christmas Presents Wrapping at Salvation Army
- 10.12.25 Amber Valley Carol Service and Wellbeing Wednesday Singing Party
- 18.12.25 All Saints Church Carol Service

200126/12.Town Clerk announcements:

a) Ripley Township Christmas Lights

The Clerk reported that the Council increased the number of Christmas light displays in the township villages, which was welcomed by residents.

Unfortunately, we were limited what we could put up in Ambergate, on the A6 due to the roadworks taking place and many of the lighting columns on Derby Road going through Marehay couldn't have light displays attached to them, however we were able to put additional lights on Warmwells Lane.

The Christmas tree on the Market Place was spectacular. People from outside the area came to look at it and have their photo taken beside it.

We received numerous emails and telephone calls from people thanking us for the displays and congratulating us on them. All comments have been passed on to the contractors.

Work on obtaining permissions and testing for the installation of the 2026 Christmas lights will start in the next couple of months.

Cllr Burslem thanked the council for the lights on Street Lane on behalf of the villagers.

Cllr Freeborn praised staff and the contractors for organising such a great display.

NOTED

b) Former TIC Office Update

The Clerk reported the lease to enable the work on the new office to start was signed last week and work started yesterday on the internal works and redecoration. This should take around two weeks to complete.

The lease for the council occupying the office has been signed and is being taken to the solicitor tomorrow.

At first, the office will be used for Committee meetings, staff meeting space and potentially Citizen Advice Drop-in sessions. Over the coming months, we will start to utilise the space for exhibitions and tourism displays and incorporate that into some of the Town Council events we hold on the Market Place.

NOTED

200126/13. Discuss precept setting and review the proposed budget for 2026/2027 to include the signing of the Precept Form to send to Amber Valley Borough Council.

RESOLVED that Ripley Town Council accept the precept of £750,000 for 2026/2027 and for the Mayor of Ripley to sign the precept form which is to be sent to Amber Valley Borough Council to action.

200126/14. Discuss access issues to Public Footpaths and Footways across the Ripley Township.

RESOLVED that Ripley Town Council create a section in the action plan/vision to govern ongoing maintenance of footpaths and footways to improve access in the township where access for disabled people will no longer becomes an issue.

200126/15. Discuss Ripley Town Council support for local foodbanks.

RESOLVED that Ripley Town Council donate £1000 to Salvation Army Foodbank from s137 funds.

200126/16. Planning applications (if any)

None

200126/17. Exclusion of Press and Public

None

200126/18. Meeting Closed at 20.04

Date for the Next Full Council Meeting Tuesday 17th February 2026, at 7.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....