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 HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Held at 5.00pm on Thursday 1st October 2026 in The Gallery Room, Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley.

IN ATTENDANCE:
Councillors M Allwood (Chair), C Bailey, A Burslem, R Emmas-Williams, M Hawkins, N Weaving, P Weaving, and D Williams.

ALSO PRESENT:
Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk

011026/1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
No apologies were received from Cllr Ashton.

011026/2. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS
NONE

011026/3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
Councillor Emmas-William declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 as he has had previous conversations with the member of the public who brought this matter to the council's attention.

011026/4. PUBLIC SPEAKING
NONE

011026/5. TO DETERMINE WHICH ADDITIONAL ITEMS ON ANY PART OF THE AGENDA SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED.
NONE

011026/6. DISCUSS THE RECENT HERITAGE OPEN DAY ORGANISED BY THE RIPLEY AND DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST ON SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2926.
Cllr Burslem reported that between 150-180 people attended the event. Ripley Town Council would be happy to host the event in 2027 if the Ripley and District Heritage Trust would like to do it again.
NOTED.

011026/7. DISCUSS THE RECENT HEAGE AND NETHER HEAGE HISTORY DAY ON FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2026.
Cllr Burslem reported it was a great turnout and supported well by local residents, with standing room only at the back of the room. Speakers, Peter Smith from the Ripley and District Heritage Trust, Sylvia Mason from the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group, and Roger Hatcher from Heage Windmills were informative. Ripley Town Council were thanked for hiring The Village Hall at Heage for the event and their support with social media advertising and for collating stories post the event.
NOTED.

011026/8. UPDATE REGARDING THE HIPPODROME, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY.

Cllr Williams reported that he had recently spoke with the owner of The Hippodrome. He still has plans to restore the frontage to its original state and to turn the ground floor unit into a shop and the first floor into a flat. He said a planning application will be submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council in 2027.

NOTED.

011026/9. DISCUSS THE LOCATION OF THE NEXT PLAQUES / HISTORICAL INFORMATION BOARDS.

The committee went through the list of suggested locations for historical information boards and plaques.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the following places of historical interest are researched and permission sought from building/landowner to erect a plaque or information board there:

Greenwich (near the toll post at the entrance to Sainsburys) – Information Board
Former Butterley Ironworks site at Asher Lane, Hammersmith – Plaque
Site of the Ripley Rattler Terminus at Coop Square, Ripley – Plaque
Waingroves Windmill, corner of Steam Mill Lane and Waingroves Road – Information Board
Heage Firs former Prisoner of War camp – Information board
Former Flax Factory on Derwent Business Park, Heage Road, Ripley – Plaque
Former Marehay Railway Crossing – Ripley Greenway near Marehay Garage – Information Board
Birthplace of Walter Brierley (author) – 96 Waingroves Road, Waingroves - Plaque

011026/10. UPDATE REGARDING PUBLIC FOOTPATH 55 – ACROSS FORTERRA LAND FROM COLLINS EARTHWORKS TO WAINGROVES.

The Town Clerk wrote to Forterra on 19th August 2026 asking for an update regarding the reinstatement of the public right of way across the Forterra site between Whitely Farm and Waingroves Wood. This was chased on 1st October 2026 as no update had been received.

NOTED.

011026/11. UPDATE ON PEASEHILL WOODLAND.

The Town Clerk reported that she had received an email from the landowner on 10th September 2026 saying that they are in the process of registering the land with the Land Registry, which is taking a time. In the meantime, they will continue with their plans for the woodland. The Clerk responded reminding the owner that whilst the land is in their private ownership, the council cannot give financial grants until it is registered as a Community Interest Company or a charity, however the council would still be interested in receiving a written outline of their intentions for the land and how they propose to manage it for community and environmental benefit.

NOTED.

011026/12. DISCUSS TREE PLANTING IN THE RIPLEY TOWNSHIP.

The Clerk reported that permission is still being sought for the tree planting from some landowners. Futures Housing has granted permission to place trees at Oak Tree Close and Maple Avenue in Ripley.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that Ripley Town Council suggest an area on Ripley Greenway near to the 'bear' to Derbyshire County Council for additional tree planting.

011026/13. UPDATE ON THE THOMAS HARTLAND LAND, CROMFORD VIEW, RIPLEY.

The Clerk reported that she had emailed the contact at Morris Homes again on 21st September 2026 asking him to again clarify the wording and intentions of Morris Home from his email received on 29th April 2026. No response has been received. The Council has enlisted the assistance of a Cromford View resident to try to contact Morris Homes. They sent an email on 30th September 2026 and at the time of this meeting, also hadn't received a reply.

NOTED.

011026/14. DISCUSS HOW RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL CAN HELP BEES AND HEDGEHOGS.

The Town Clerk reported that the Admin and Project Officer had recently been on online seminars about how councils can help bees and hedgehogs thrive.

RECOMMED TO FULL COUNCIL that Ripley Town Council do the following to help the bee and hedgehog population:

a. Create informative social media campaign using images and videos about how residents can help.
b. Take part in the Bee Squared Project, encouraging residents, groups, schools, and businesses to dedicate a one-metre square of garden space (a Bee Square) or large pots to growing nectar-rich wildflowers with the goal of creating vital 'fuel stops' to help solitary bees, bumblebees, and other pollinators that struggle to travel long distance.
c. For the council to purchase native wildflower seeds in early 2027 and distribute them free of charge to residents, groups, schools and businesses via events or directly for collection from Ripley Town Hall.
d. To join the Hedgehog Street campaign and encourage residents to create a hole in the bottom of fences or purchase gravel boards to enable hedgehogs to feely travel safely between gardens. Possibly make hedgehog houses or give residents information as to how to make one themselves.

011026/15. DISCUSS THE RIPLEY TRADERS MEETING TAKING PLACE ON THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2026.

The Town Clerk reported that 'save the date' letters have been distributed to all town centre businesses. The final invitation will be delivered next week.

NOTED.

011026/16. DISCUSS LITTER IN AND AROUND RIPLEY TOWN CENTRE.

The Town Clerk reported that she had received an email from a resident about litter in Ripley Town Centre, suggesting we have a Keep Ripley Tidy campaign.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL to refer this issue to Amber Valley Borough Council, via Councillor Matt Allwood and their Landscape Services and Street Cleaning team to investigate.

011026/17. DISCUSS BUS SHELTERS IN THE RIPLEY TOWNSHIP.

The Town Clerk updated the committee that the responsibility for Bus Stops and Bus Shelters has now passed from Derbyshire County Council to the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). EMCCA has commissioned a review of bus shelter ownership, management and maintenance to help inform future approaches to shelter provision and maintenance. The Clerk has completed a consultation questionnaire relating to the 18 bus shelters in Ripley Town Council's ownership.

NOTED.

011026/18. DISCUSS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FOR RIPLEY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the Deputy Clerk obtains a quote from potential community transport operators (with wheelchair access) for running a free service from the Ripley Township villages into Ripley Town Centre on a Friday or Saturday. Look into possible routes and frequency of the service.

011026/19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5th November 2026 at 5pm in The Gallery Room, Ripley Town Hall.

011026/20. MEETING CLOSED AT 18:04.

Date for the Next Full Council Meeting Tuesday 20th October 2026, at 7.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____