



# WIRKS WORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN HALL, WIRKS WORTH, DERBYSHIRE DE4 4EU

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Website: [www.wirksworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wirksworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Clerk to the Town Council & Responsible Financial Officer:

Paul Jennings

Office hours: 8:30am-12:30pm Mon-Thurs

11 March 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summonsed to the Meeting of Wirksworth Town Council on MONDAY 17 March 2025 at 6.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Wirksworth.

**Admission of public: If you wish to join the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk for full meeting details.** (\*If you wish to attend the meeting remotely please contact the Town Clerk)

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Variation of Order of Business**
  - Including to consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1) to exclude members of the press and public in order to discuss an agenda item.
3. **Members' Interests in Agenda Items**
  - To enable Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they have in subsequent agenda items, in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct.
4. **Open Forum: (3 minutes per speaker, total available 15 minutes)**
  - Public Forum (At the start of the meeting, a period is available for members of the public to address the Council)
  - Police Matters (A police representative may be in attendance to offer information or respond to questions from Councillors on Police matters)
  - Cllrs with a pecuniary interest making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business to be transacted
  - District & County Councillor Reports
5. **To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Wirksworth Town Council held on 17 February 2025 (attached)**
6. **Town Mayor's Announcements**
7. **To receive the recommendations from Committees:-**
  - Environment and Town dated 3 March 2025 (attached)
  - Finance, Buildings and Personnel dated 10 March 2025 (attached)
8. **Accounts Paid**

February 2025 in the sum of £ 104,602.28
9. **Meadows**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of the project (using UKSPF grant) has now been completed. Works continue on site, as some work streams were funded from other sources. A 1<sup>st</sup> volunteer day has been arranged to plant the 400+ trees on site.
10. **Derbyshire Time Swap**

To consider whether to participate in this scheme (as an organisation).

<https://www.sdcvs.org.uk/derbyshiretimeswap>

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**Resolution C23/99 - The 3 principles that will underly all Council Decisions are:  
Community Cohesion, Communication and Environmental Impact**

**11. Representative on External Bodies (attached)**

The Wirksworth branch of the Royal British Legion have requested a Town Councillor representative.

**12. Glenorchy Centre (attached)**

A resident has proposed that the Town Council should purchase this as a community asset.

**13. Community Grant (attached)**

Request from NOW for a grant of £888 towards Town Promotions.

**14. Co-option Process – Vacant Seat**

To consider how to fill the vacant seat on Wirksworth Ward should DDDC Electoral Services confirm that a casual vacancy exists and can therefore be filled by co-option.

**15. Delegated Decisions (Appendix 1)**

All delegated decisions will be reported in line with guidelines for Open and Accountable Government (Openness of Local Government Bodies 2014).

**16. Town Councillor Representative Reports**



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**Appendix 1**

**Delegated Decisions**

| Date     | Decision Taken   | Alternative Options Considered and/or background information  |
|----------|--|---|
| 05/03/25 | To authorise tree works to dangerous tree on Meadows (adjacent to Orchard House/Woodland path) | <p>On Monday afternoon (3/3/25), one of the residents of the adjacent house emailed to raise concerns regarding a crack they had spotted in the crown of the Beech tree on the Meadows that overhangs the bottom of their garden/hen’s house.</p> <p>Jack Thompson (Thompson Tree Services) went out late Monday, and given the size of the tree and the position of the crack, sought a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion on Tuesday.</p> <p>He called Wednesday morning to advise that the tree was dangerous and needed to be felled/significantly reduced in size.</p> <p>Given the risk to people and property, I advised our insurers. In their opinion (which I share) the normal process of seeking best value should not impede any actions to tackle the issue as any costs arising from a failure to act would be significantly greater than those costs associated with addressing the issue. Within the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations, provision is made to allow an officer to make the decision to commit expenditure in circumstances where there is a risk to people or assets.</p> <p>We have closed the woodland paths around Orchard House, with no access off summer land as the tree poses a risk to the public. I have advised the householder that the tree is dangerous. We posted details of the closure to facebook.</p> <p>On Wednesday (5/3/25) as Clerk to the Council, I authorised the cost of the works under delegation (this falls under exigent</p> |

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|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p>circumstances given the size of the tree and, in the view of our insurer the issue must be dealt with as quickly as possible to mitigate the risk posed to people and property).</p> <p>When deciding to engage a contractor without seeking additional quotes, the following factors were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The time-sensitive nature of the issue - the tree may fail at any point, posing a risk to 3<sup>rd</sup> party property and public trespassing on the closed woodland path.</li> <li>- The capability of the contractor to safely undertake complicated and hazardous works in the public realm.</li> <li>- The capacity of the contractor to swiftly accommodate the Town Council's requests.</li> <li>- In the past 12 months, at the request of the council, 3 quotes were sought for tree work and the contractor was found to represent best value.</li> <li>- The contractor is based in Wirksworth (complying with WTC policy to source locally).</li> <li>- The contractor has previously undertaken work to the tree and is known to the adjacent property owner.</li> <li>- The contractor is already familiar with the sensitivities of the wider meadows site.</li> </ul> <p>On the basis of the above, the actions were taken (as quickly as possible) to address the risks identified in compliance with the duties under Health and Safety legislation.</p> <p>The works commenced on Tuesday 11 March.</p> |
|--|--|---|