

## WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 March 2025 AT 6.30 PM

**C24/134 Present:** Cllr E McDonagh (chair), Cllr A Clamp, Cllr A Jordan, Cllr A Pollock, Cllr S Maskrey, Cllr F Rostron, Cllr P Taylor, Cllr S Thompson and Cllr C Whittall.  
In attendance: D Cllr P Slack, 1 member of public, a representative from SDCVS and Paul Jennings  
Teams: Cllr S Barker

**C24/135 Apologies:** None

**C24/136 Variation of Order of Business:** None

**C24/137 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:** None declared

Cllr Clamp	Personal interest in item 7 Community Grants as chair of Now
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*Open Forum opened 6:35pm*

**C24/138 Open Forum:**

A representative of SDCVS provided more information regarding the Derbyshire Time Swap initiative.

A resident spoke about their concerns regarding the loss of housing stock, community facilities and access to affordable housing for residents including Heritage Centre and Glenorchy Centre.

D Cllr Slack provided a written report and gave more information regarding this.

*Cllr Pollock departed 6:55pm*

*Open Forum closed 7:05pm*

**C24/139 To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Wirksworth Town Council held on 17 February 2025**

**C24/140 Town Mayor's Announcements**

**C24/141 To receive the recommendations from Committees:-**  
Environment and Town dated 3 March 2025  
Finance, Buildings and Personnel dated 10 March 2025

**RESOLVED to adopt all the recommendations of the Environment and Town dated 3 March 2025 and Finance Buildings and Personnel dated 10 March 2025.**

**C24/142 Accounts Paid**  
February 2025 in the sum of £ 104,602.28

**C24/143 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.

**RESOLVED to note progress.**

**C24/144 Derbyshire Time Swap**

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

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

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**RESOLVED to promote the scheme and share details with local groups such as Stoney Wood Group, Twinning etc.. SDCVS to be given details of the concessionary Tuesday Market stall for charity/local groups.**

**C24/145 Representative on External Bodies**

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

**RESOLVED to that Cllr Thompson be the representative, with Cllr Maskrey as alternate.**

**C24/146 Glenorchy Centre**

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

**RESOLVED that given the limited time frame and statutory powers of the Town Council the council should seek to influence the use of the building through the planning process, referencing the Neighbourhood Plan (a change of use should be referred for discussion by Full Council).**

*Cllr Clamp left 7:35pm*

**C24/147 Community Grant**

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

**RESOLVED to agree the grant (from L40 Town Promotions).**

*Cllr Clamp returned 7:40pm*

**C24/148 Co-option Process – Vacant Seat**

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

**RESOLVED that as DDDC have confirmed (on 17<sup>th</sup> March) that the vacancy can be filled by co-option, that the council follow the existing process (including 300 word statement). The co-option to be undertaken at the Annual Town Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

**C24/149 Delegated Decisions**

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

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 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> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
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**RESOLVED to ratify the decision.**

*Cllr Taylor departed 8:00pm*

*The meeting closed at 8:10pm*

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Chairman

# Wirksworth Town Council

## PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
513	Maintenance	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Refuse collection	DDDC	Z	302.76		302.76
513	Maintenance	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Refuse collection	DDDC	Z	302.00		302.00
511	Fannyshaw Community	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Internet	W3Z	S	29.16	5.83	34.99
516	Barmote Croft Toilets	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Internet	Smarty	S	15.00	3.00	18.00
532	General Administration	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current	3926	Cardnet payment	Cardnet	Z	0.26		0.26
512	General Administration	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Payroll	Sage	S	118.00	23.60	141.60
508	General Administration	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		HR Support	Castle Associates	S	43.00	8.60	51.60
514	General Administration	03/02/2025		Lloyds Current		IT Support	Software Into Action	S	392.00	78.40	470.40
525	Fannyshaw Community	04/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Electricity	SSE	L	305.46	15.27	320.73
535	Meadows Phase 1	06/02/2025		Unity Trust		Meadows works	Wildscapes (Sheffield)	S	69,440.14	13,888.03	83,328.17
540	Rates	07/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Gas	Corona Energy	S	594.84	118.97	713.81
519	General Administration	08/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Consumables	Viking	S	129.97	25.99	155.96
519	General Administration	08/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Consumables	Viking	S	-27.99	-5.60	-33.59
543	Maintenance	13/02/2025		Unity Trust		Consumables	Complete	S	51.08	10.22	61.30
543	Maintenance	13/02/2025		Unity Trust		Consumables	Complete	S	50.00	10.00	60.00
545	General Administration	13/02/2025		Unity Trust		IT Support	Software Into Action	S	75.00	15.00	90.00
544	Grit Bins	13/02/2025		Unity Trust		Grit bin maintenance	Salisbury & Wood	S	450.00	90.00	540.00
546	Meadows Design Works	13/02/2025		Unity Trust		Meadows works	Urban Wilderness	S	743.83	148.77	892.60
542	Meadows Phase 1	13/02/2025		Unity Trust		Tree works	Thompson Tree	S	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00
517	Telephone	14/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Telephony	Smarty	S	4.50	0.90	5.40
541	Meadows Phase 1	17/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Meadows equipment	Screwfix	S	293.30	58.66	351.96
515	Maintenance	19/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Sanitary disposal/ service	Cathedral Leasing Ltd	S	71.13	14.23	85.36
515	Maintenance	19/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Sanitary disposal/ service	Cathedral Leasing Ltd	S	71.00	14.20	85.20
527	Rates	20/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	78.41		78.41
521	Fuel	21/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	S	415.67	83.13	498.80
522	Fuel	21/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	82.94	4.15	87.09
528	Rates	21/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	100.43		100.43
534	Rates	24/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	32.28		32.28
523	Fuel	24/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	181.00	9.05	190.05
524	Fuel	24/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	216.11	10.81	226.92
529	Salaries	25/02/2025		Unity Trust		Pension contributions	DCC	Z	1,627.19		1,627.19
531	Salaries	25/02/2025		Unity Trust		Salaries	Wirksworth Town	Z	5,033.05		5,033.05
530	Salaries	25/02/2025		Unity Trust		Tax & NI	HMRC	Z	1,327.63		1,327.63
530	Wages	25/02/2025		Unity Trust		Tax & NI	HMRC	Z	293.34		293.34

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
531 Wages	25/02/2025		Unity Trust		Salaries	Wirksworth Town	Z	3,626.94		3,626.94
529 Wages	25/02/2025		Unity Trust		Pension contributions	DCC	Z	1,014.83		1,014.83
533 General Administration	25/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	Z	25.00		25.00
509 Managed Telecoms	26/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Internet	Emtel	S	43.95	8.79	52.74
536 Rates	27/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	20.88		20.88
550 Maintenance	27/02/2025		Unity Trust		Consumables	Complete	S	119.72	23.94	143.66
548 Therapy Rooms	27/02/2025		Unity Trust		Maintenance materials	Twigg	S	63.36	12.67	76.03
549 Stoney Wood	27/02/2025		Unity Trust		Annual inspection	Gordon Playground	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
549 Wash Green Play Area	27/02/2025		Unity Trust		Annual inspection	Gordon Playground	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
549 Kingsfield Play Area	27/02/2025		Unity Trust		Annual inspection	Gordon Playground	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
549 Fannyshaw Community	27/02/2025		Unity Trust		Annual inspection	Gordon Playground	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
551 Fanny Shaw Skate Park	27/02/2025	C24/130	Unity Trust		Grant	NOW	Z	650.00		650.00
526 General Administration	28/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	Z	9.50		9.50
510 General Administration	28/02/2025		Lloyds Current		Internet	Zen	S	29.00	5.80	34.80
547 General Administration	28/02/2025		Unity Trust		Bank charges	Unity Trust	Z	10.20		10.20
							<b>Total</b>	<b>89,675.87</b>	<b>14,926.41</b>	<b>104,602.28</b>