

Councillor Information

Councillor	Ward	Attendance Record	(%)	Committees in 2021 * Bold indicates Chairman of cttee
Alex Greenwood (Chairman May–Sep)	Rishworth	23	88	COM, FIN, REB
Peter Hunt	Rishworth	16	83	EMP, ENV, (resigned), STD, FIN, REB
Felicity Isott (Chairman Sep–May)	Barkisland	18	85	COM, STD , FIN, REB, JUBILEE
James Mellor	Ripponden	10	41	COM, STD, PLN
Jane Moran	Soyland	21	80	COM, ENV, RELOC, JUBILEE, HER
Andrew Naylor	Soyland	15	78	BLD, ENV
Ray Nicholls (Vice-Chairman)	Barkisland	21	100	EMP, RELOC , PLN
Philip Nothard	Rishworth	13	63	BLD, EMP , PLN
Steven Pickles	Ripponden	19	78	COM , EMP, STD, RELOC, REB, FIN, Flag Master
Robert Thornber	Barkisland	9	44	BLD, ENV
Lech Webster	Ripponden	23	76	COM, ENV, STD, RELOC, PLN (resigned), JUBILEE
Nic Winrow	Soyland	14	62	BLD, ENV , RELOC, REB, JUBILEE

* Committee abbreviations: Buildings –BLG, Communications–COM, Employment–EMP, Environment–ENV, Standards–STD, Relocations Sub-cttee–RLOC, Heritage Working Group–HER, , Planning Working Group–PLN, Finance Working Group–FIN, Jubilee Working Group–JUB, Rebranding–REB

Annual Report 2022– 23

Well, it has been a busy year for the Parish Council with lots to celebrate and some frustrations. Alongside residents, we have managed to support the planting of over 3000 trees in the Parish with more still to come in Millfold Park at the next available opportunity. Species that we have planted include grey willow, hawthorn, dog rose and sessile oak. June saw us celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with a visit from our very own town crier (Clr Pickles). Unfortunately the big picnic had to be cancelled as the weather did not look favourably on us.



Every aspect of Ripponden Parish Council’s work and activities can be viewed on its website www.rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk and regular updates appear on Facebook too.

In August the winners of all four categories in our annual garden competition received certificates and prizes. Watch this space for more details on the announcement of this year’s competition. September also saw our first Parish Council action day where councillors met to strategically plan the next four years, more on this in the year ahead section below. In November we were honoured to mark Remembrance Sunday with the traditional services at each memorial and the return of the parade from Rishworth to Ripponden by councillors, uniformed groups and the public following the removal of covid restrictions.

We have however this year had our frustrations as we had hoped that the old Ripponden Library building would have been transferred to us as a community asset transfer from Calderdale Council. We still await a workable lease. This brings the review of this year to a close and also sees many of the current councillors stepping down at the end of their four, or more in some cases, year tenure. A new line up of councillors will be announced soon to join those already announced.

Council Committee Updates

Environment Committee

At the start of the year the environment committee arranged for the clearing and tidying of the turning circle in Rishworth. It had a post winter tidy up last month too and is now ready for spring growth.

Behind the scenes, the committee has been working with Calderdale MBC to instate railings around the Ripponden War Memorial. Currently the Calderdale gardeners are limited in where they can work due to the steep drop so with new railings and a replanting scheme, the site should greatly improved visually and much safer.

Standards Committee

The standards committee reviews all of the policies the council uses. The council also reviewed over 80 planning applications for the area in this year.

Communications Committee

The communications committee worked with and supported various groups for the Jubilee celebrations this year. They also had the sad task of organising the Ripponden Parish Council's response to the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The condolence book, which was held at St Bartholomew's Church was filled with moving tributes and comments about the Queen, which will be retain for prosperity.

The communications committee was also hard at work producing the annual reports, organising the annual assembly and promoting the activities and events within the parish. Our thanks go out to Councillor Steven Pickles, who as the Flag Master, did a sterling job of reading the Jubilee proclamation and has kept us all entertained and informed with the social media posts marking the official flag days.

Employment Committee

The employment committee continues to look after the RPC employees.

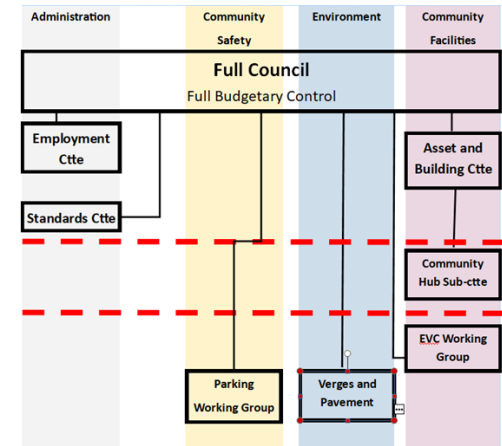
Building Committee

As described in the introduction, the buildings committee has been working on gaining the lease of the old Ripponden Library Building. Just as this report was going to print we received the draft lease and the joint working agreement from Calderdale Council. Once these have been signed we will be looking for volunteers to help sort the books we have had donated and assist with refurbishing the building ready for it opening to the public.

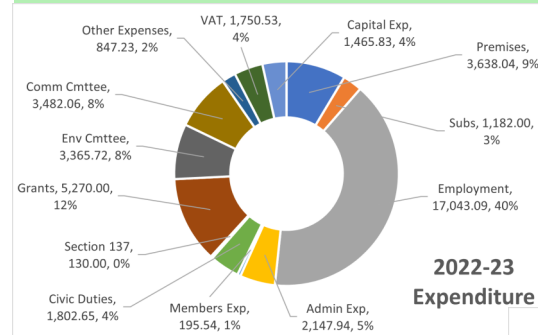
Once open, the space will be available to hire during the day and in the evenings for small groups, the Parish Council will maintain an office on site, the local police will operate some drop in sessions for the area and residents will be able to use the book exchange and also drop and collect home service books from Calderdale Library services. If you would like to volunteer please contact us any and all help is appreciated.

Looking at the year ahead

As mentioned in the review this year, the first strategic planning day where the priorities for the next four years were decided was held in July. This day has led to some significant changes in the way the council is structured based on what residents have identified as key areas of interest. As a council we will be focusing on creating a community hub in the old library building, creating a book exchange, meeting space for local groups and of course a location for you to come and talk to us. More details on the four year plan can be found on our website and any questions can be directed to the clerk.

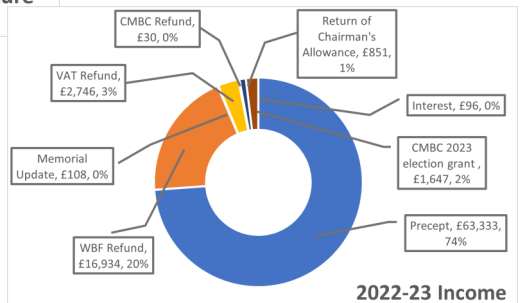


Financial Report



In line with legislation the Council has conducted both internal and external audits. The reports can be found on our website. Accounts are also published on our website and can be requested at any time from the Clerk. Details of the public review of the accounts will be published on our website and on our Facebook page.

The precept for 2023/4 was £58344 over the entire parish, which for a Band D property is £19.71, an increase of 15 pence. The RPC has attempted to keep the precept as low as possible while still providing an excellent service to residents, but with over £6000 of grants from Calderdale removed some increase was need to meet costs.



Contact Ripponden Parish Council via Facebook, through our website www.rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk, by email at clerk@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk or telephone us on 07918 693383