

DINNINGTON ST. JOHN'S TOWN COUNCIL (DSJTC)
Annual Parish Meeting - 7pm, Monday 8th April 2024
held at the Lyric, Laughton Road, Dinnington

Present: Cllr D Smith (Chair), 10 Dinnington Town Councillors, 33 parishioners attended

In Attendance: A Evans (Clerk), L Warne (Assistant Clerk)

1 Welcome from the Chair

Cllr D Smith (Chair) addressed the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 17th April 2023

There were no requests for amendments to the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting and were approved as a true record.

3. To consider any matters arising from the minutes - none

4. Chair's Annual Report 2023/24

Once again it has been a busy and interesting year for Dinnington St John's Town Council.

I first want to address the problem of flooding we have in a certain area of Dinnington from Eel Myres Dyke. I have been made aware of an additional problem caused by a different part of Eel Myres Dyke and the lack of maintenance to it. DSJTC staff took a look at that part of the dyke to find that it was heavily silted up and part of it was blocked. This was creating a major ecological problem by causing a fishing pond to burst its banks and flood surrounding woodland. I have reported this to Rotherham Borough Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. This flooding exacerbates the flooding problems faced by houses in the area. I have put this in my report to show that these are just some of the problems we must deal with all the time.

Thanks to the partnership between Dinnington Rugby Club and Dinnington St Johns Town Council, the bonfire and firework display last year was a tremendous success and will go ahead again this year.

The Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-on was also a success once again.

DSJTC's Community Club, in addition to its monthly free events will be providing a trip to Skegness in September.

Dinnington St John's Town Council was the first in Rotherham to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and it has proved to be invaluable. It was a major factor in bringing forward the £11 million for the regeneration of an area of Laughton Road. Here is what our MP Alexander Stafford had to say about it in a reply to a question on why Maltby didn't get money for their high street and I quote "Labour had no plans for Maltby so couldn't apply for the cash. Fortunately for Dinnington, the independent Town Council had an outline plan that could be used. That is why it is important to have a Council that is bothered about everywhere". This is why our Neighbourhood Plan is for the whole of Dinnington and not just one area.

This year should have seen the start of putting in motion plans for the much-needed sports and leisure facilities for Dinnington. However, Rotherham Borough Council, as they always seem to do when it is Dinnington, have seen fit to come up with every obstacle possible to stop the money coming forward to us. But we have not given up and it will happen.

There is a similar problem with the planned Social Housing. As Dinnington St John's Town Council insists that the houses to be built on our land must go to Dinnington people, Rotherham Borough Council are dragging their feet. We did have a meeting on Thursday and we are hopeful that we have made some progress. Again, we know it will happen.

Another piece of land owned by Dinnington St Johns' Town Council is in Rotherham Borough Council's local plan for housing, which could be going forward for planning. Although it is Dinnington's land, Rotherham Borough Council can keep it tied up for at least another two years. This is another lot of

housing that Dinnington needs, but Rotherham Borough Council are stopping us from having. This is an ongoing fight.

Instead of spending the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money as it comes in, on small projects that will not make any real difference to the people of Dinnington, we have taken the decision to accumulate it in a separate account, so that when it is spent, it will make a lasting impact and a difference to the people of Dinnington. To make sure we are on the right lines, we brought in experts to run workshops for our Councillors. This has brought forward ideas and plans that over the next year will begin to happen

We will be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on the 7th June in the Lyric and I hope you will all join us for this very important celebration.

The next year will be a busy and exciting one for Dinnington

5. Open Session – Cllr D Smith (Chair)

Cllr D Smith welcomed everyone and encouraged questions and comments

A question was asked about why his fun fair could not have a presence at the Christmas Lights Switch-on.

Cllr D Smith (Chair) explained that he could not answer the question on behalf of the Town Council as this was a Parish meeting, not a Council meeting and therefore the Councillors were not officially in attendance to answer that question. Cllr D Smith suggested he attend the next full Council meeting to ask the Town Council. As the question was pressed again by the resident, Cllr D Smith explained that as a result of the complaint the resident had made to the Showmen's Guild, the Town Council felt that the Council and people of Dinnington were being held to ransom by the Guild on this issue and therefore were not allowed to choose what entertainment appeared at the Christmas Festival.

Some shop owners on Laughton Road voiced that they were not happy about the fun fair event taking place on the Council's car park between 18th to 21st April, as they said they would lose business by their customers not being able to park there during that time

It was explained to them that there was plenty of alternative parking in the near vicinity and that the residents of Dinnington enjoy and welcome these types of events.

The school on East Street had been vandalised and was impacting children's education. Can DSJTC ask the Police for further action to be taken as a result of this?

The Chief Inspector for this area and the South Yorkshire Mayor would be contacted.

Those in attendance were encouraged to report all the crime and ASB they see to the Police.

A question was asked what everyone thought about the suggestion to break away from Rotherham Borough Council to be an independent area. The pros and cons were discussed

Cllr D Smith was very concerned about the majority of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money received by Rotherham Borough Council, not being re-invested back into Dinnington.

As no further questions were asked, Cllr D Smith thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.