

Dinnington St John's Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.00pm in The Lyric, Dinnington

Present: Cllr N Ruff (Chair), Cllr D Adams, Cllr D Booth, Cllr L Clarke, Cllr J Hall, Cllr W Hall (Vice Chair), Cllr J Hart, Cllr Z Lowe, Cllr T Mulholland, Cllr S Scott, Cllr D Scriven, Cllr K Smallwood, Cllr D Smith, Cllr F Walden.

Absent: Cllr G Cruickshanks

Reasons for absence: None

In attendance: A Wright (Town Council Clerk & RFO), A Wilson (Locum Clerk), L Warne (Assistant Clerk) C Radford (Town Council Administrator), 4 members of public.

Cllr N Ruff welcomed everyone to the meeting, wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed the new Town Council Clerk & RFO, Amy Wright to the Council.

001/26 Public Questions

To answer questions from the last meeting:

None

To allow for questions from electors of Dinnington to ask one question only in respect of business itemised on the agenda or on a pertinent issue that may arise;

A question was asked if the Council's accounts are now up to date and available to the public ?

It was confirmed that this item is on the agenda and will be covered later in the meeting.

FORMAL MEETING

002/26 Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive and consider any reasons for absence

No reasons for absence received

003/26 Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to receive and record any declarations of interest and if necessary, to receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

No declarations of interest were raised.

004/26 Council in Private Session

Members are asked to identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature to be discussed. Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2))

A discussion took place between Councillors and the Locum Clerk regarding the agenda and how items considered for private session are presented.

Resolved: Councillors resolved that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the nature of the business to be transacted to the item number listed: **014/26 – Individuals**

005/26 Chair's Report

The Chair confirmed that going into the new year the committees will resume their regular meetings. With the new Clerk now in position more updates will follow in the coming weeks and months.

007/26 Members are asked to receive and note the minutes of the meetings of:

- **Neighbourhood Plan Committee on Thursday 4th December 2025**

Appendix A - to follow

Members received and noted the minutes of the NPC meeting held Thursday 4th December 2025

Members are asked to receive and approve the minutes of the meetings of:

- **Full Council held on Monday 8th December 2025**

Copy attached Appendix B

This prompted a discussion regarding the agenda item covering the council finances and if Brearley's were doing the full accounts for the council or just a bank reconciliation. The resolution was for Brearley's to complete a bank reconciliation. Members were assured that the accounts will be brought up to date and presented in time for the Precept meeting on 26th January 2026.

A bank reconciliation completed by the accountants was forwarded via email to all members Friday 9th January 2026.

The Clerk advised that the accounts cannot be approved from the 8th December 2025 as they were incomplete and this was known by members at that time.

The Chair assured members that the council team are working to get everything back up to date and once all of the accounts are brought up to date, they will be available to the public in the usual way.

An update was requested by members regarding the issue at Ford Corner to Throapham. The Assistant Clerk advised that she had reported the concerns to RMBC and to South Yorkshire Police. RMBC have not yet responded to the Assistant Clerk's email and South Yorkshire Police have requested information regarding the vehicle registration and any other supporting evidence if anyone is able to provide this.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8th December as true record and to be signed by the Chairman and kept on file.

008/26 Monthly Accounts Schedule and relevant finance information:

i) Members are asked to note and consider the following:

- Income and Expenditure Report
- Bank Reconciliation

Copy attached Appendix F – to follow

Copy attached Appendix G – to follow

Agenda item discussed during previous item 007/26.

- i) Members are asked to consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly lists along with any associated submissions received and any reports on previous planning applications/issues;

Planning Reference	Details	Date Valid
	None	

- ii) **Applications granted**
There are no applications granted.

- iii) **Any other planning matter**
None

010/26

Ward Member Update

The Ward Member Update was read out by Cllr J Hall on behalf of the Ward Borough Councillor, Cllr S Dack.

Ward members continue their work to support the local community. A litter pick recently took place along Constable Lane with 18 volunteers taking part made up of members of the public and Town Councillors. A thank you to Pride for Pets who provided the volunteers with hot drinks throughout the day.

Overflowing rubbish bins, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour continues to be reported to relevant departments as do missing bin collections.

Ward members have continued to support and attend community events and have also strongly objected against the Whitestone Solar Farm development.

011/26

Parish Matters

Members are asked to consider and make decisions on the following:

- i) **Members are asked to consider and make decisions on the following:**

(A) **Purchase of an additional water bowzer**

Following discussions with Works and Cemetery staff about storing rainfall water over winter months for use during warmer months, Cllr. Mulholland presented councillors with three purchase options for 10000 litre water tanks. The stored water can then be used to water the flower planters and hanging baskets around the town and will avoid any future complaints during a hosepipe ban.

Careful consideration needs to be given on the placement of the water tank when installed to ensure it's safety and that it is in the correct location.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to purchase the Enduramaxx 10000 litre water tank currently on special offer priced at £1265.00 plus VAT.

(B) **To discuss the formation of a Finance Committee**

Cllr Hart requested that members consider setting up a Finance Committee to meet on a monthly basis in order to assist the Responsible Finance Officer and address any issues.

The Locum Clerk informed members that a new committee can only be established at the Annual Town Council meeting that is due to be held in May. With any committee it is best practice that there be a minimum of 5 members. The Locum Clerks recommendation would be that all Councillors are on a rota to review the finances throughout the year.

Cllr Hart advised that she will bring this agenda item back to the Annual Town Council meeting in May for consideration if she feels there is still the need for this committee at that time.

Cllr Ruff said he is in support of establishing a Finance Committee and had discussed this with the previous Clerk, although he feels that quarterly meetings would be sufficient.

(C) 2027 Allotment rent review

The Assistant Clerk explained that the letters need to go out to allotment tenants regarding their renewals and also with the 12 month notice of rent increase with effect from 2027. In previous years, the rent has been increased by 5% but members are asked to consider if this is too low given the increased costs for metered water supply and maintenance costs.

2026 rent charges are: £36 per year for a full plot and £24 for half plots.

Resolved: Councillors resolved unanimously that the allotment rent will be increased by 10% for 2027.

(D) Staff Christmas Bonus

At the staff's request, the Assistant Clerk asked members to consider if a bonus is to be paid for 2025. In previous years, a bonus has been paid into December's pay but this was omitted for discussion from the November and December meeting agendas.

Members discussed that last year staff received a bonus of £120.00 and this was given to all permanent staff with 12 months service and not pro rata. A number of current councillors remembered that in 2023 it was agreed that staff would receive this amount for the following five years before being reviewed again.

Members asked that this be checked within the 2023 minutes and processed accordingly if this was agreed or brought back to council for further consideration.

(E) Role of the Chairman at meetings

Cllr Smith read out guidance and recommendations regarding the role of Chair and maintaining impartiality during meetings which members duly noted.

(F) Start time of the Community Committee meetings

Cllr Smith asked members to consider changing the start time of the Community Committee to 6.30pm from 7.00pm as some members attend the Lyric Committee meetings before and that can finish much earlier than 7.00pm leaving members sat around waiting for the 7.00pm committee meeting to start.

Resolved: Councillors resolved that the Community Committee meetings start at 6.30pm going forward.

012/26

General Matters

(A) RMBC Dinnington Regeneration update

Cllr J Hall updated members that the fire damaged property will be demolished by the end of January and planned regeneration works will start with effect from April 2026.

(B) Neighbourhood Plan Committee update

Cllr Ruff confirmed that the committee will be meeting again this week where they will go through all current projects for updates.

Cllr Smith updated members that he has been liaising with RMBC staff under the Playing Fields Strategy and is disappointed in their lack of knowledge about Section 106 money and the bidding process. This is a cause for concern as it could affect Dinnington residents getting what should be allocated for our use.

However, under the Playing Fields Strategy RMBC are reportedly nine 3G football pitches under provision which are funded at 65%. Members will be invited to attend meetings regarding this but at the moment there are no scheduled dates in the diary.

(C) Emergency Response Committee update

No meetings, no update.

(D) Staffing and Complaints Committee update

The Chair advised this item will be discussed in private session. The Locum Clerk was asked if the recent complaint had now been resolved and was assured that a discussion had taken place this morning between the Locum Clerk and Clerk and this is all in hand.

(E) Lyric Committee update

Cllr W Hall updated Councillors that there is a meeting scheduled for the beginning of February. Cllr W Hall and Cllr Mulholland are still looking at replacing the gas oven with an electric oven so that the venue has a fully operational kitchen available to hire.

The Locum Clerk requested that Cllr Mulholland provide a written report of the testing he has carried out so far for the records. Cllr Mulholland confirmed that he would do this.

(F) Community Committee update

Cllr L Clarke updated councillors that the committee will be meeting to start planning the Summer Carnival and Christmas Festival.

Cllr Ruff expressed that he is keen for the Community Committee to use their engagement with the public to find new opportunities for the council to support projects etc.

(G) Working Group updates

No meetings, no update although the Locum Clerk did advise that she will discuss the newsletter with the Clerk as one was near completion by the previous Clerk.

(H) Community Working update

The Assistant Clerk updated councillors that she is still waiting to hear from Dinnington Primary School with dates for members of the school council to visit Dinnington Council offices and the Lyric to look around and get a feel for how the council runs.

013/26

Date of the Precept meeting and next Full Council Meeting

Members and the public were asked to note that the date and time of the Precept meeting is Monday 26th January 2026 at 7pm and will be held at Middleton Hall. The next Town Council meeting is Monday 9th February 2026 at 7 p.m.

Members of the public were then thanked for their attendance and asked to leave the meeting by the Chair at this point to enable private session.

COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION

014/26

Staff resignation

Councillors were informed by the Clerk that the Assistant Clerk has decided to retire with effect from 31st March 2026. This period of notice gives plenty of time for councillors to consider how they would like to proceed with any re organisation or replacement.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Clerk for her support and wished her well in her retirement. This will now be picked up by the Staffing and Complaints Committee but they welcome any feedback and thoughts from other councillors regarding this issue.

The welfare of another member of staff was asked about and members were updated that this is being addressed by the Staffing and Complaints Committee.

Meeting closed at 20.20 hours

Chairman Signature:

