

Dinnington St John's Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.00pm in The Lyric, Dinnington

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

Absent: None

Reasons for absence: Cllr K Smallwood

In attendance: A Wright (Town Council Clerk & RFO), L Warne (Assistant Clerk), C Radford (Town Council Administrator), 5 members of public plus Elizabeth Wright representing National Literacy Trust.

027/26 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;

The Chair agreed he would cover a question regarding the precept at the relevant part of the meeting.

A question was asked if given the current state of policing in Dinnington, the council would consider arranging a public meeting with the MP and Mayor along with the Police.

A discussion between Councillors and members of the public followed and concerns raised about the fact that the majority of reported crimes relate to violence and sexual offences with only a small amount of convictions.

CCTV cameras are installed along Laughton Road but it is believed that they are not monitored but can be viewed when necessary and some can be accessed to be re positioned during a 999 call if required.

It is felt that a plan does need to be in place following the regeneration of all the lovely new areas and buildings will be ruined by the continuation of anti social behaviour and crime.

Meetings did used to be held on a regular basis, organised by Dinnington St John's Town Council (DSJTC) and then later by local Borough Councillors along with the MP.

Resolved: Councillors resolved for the Clerk to arrange a public meeting inviting the local MP Jake Richards, Kilvinder Vigurs the South Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime where Town Councillors with members of the public can discuss their concerns and ask questions.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Ruff invited Elizabeth Wright to speak to members about the National Literacy Trust (NLT) and consider a pledge of support for the National Year of Reading as per agenda item: 037/26 D.

Following the presentation, Cllr N Ruff advised that the Council does have a Community Committee and that this may be something that the NLT could link in with too, so suggested that a further discussion takes place between Cllr L Clarke as Chair of that committee and Miss Wright.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to support Option A as a pledge of support for the National Year of Reading. Option A reads as follows:

Option A – Short/Ceremonial Version

That this Council:

1. Notes the designation of 2026 as the National Year of Reading and welcomes the aims of the national campaign to inspire reading for pleasure across all ages.
2. Pledges to support National Year of Reading activity in this Authority by promoting events and resources through the council's communication channels, and by encouraging partnership working with local libraries, schools and literacy organisations.

FORMAL MEETING

At this point, Cllr D Smith raised that Agenda item no: 039/26 states that the next council meeting will start at 6.30pm but it should be at 7.00pm. It was discussed that this is the time scheduled on the list of meetings but this appears to be a clerical error made back in May 2025. It was agreed that this should be a 7pm start and will be amended.

028/26 Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive and consider any reasons for absence

Councillors noted that Cllr K Smallwood had sent her apologies to the Clerk.

029/26 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

Cllr N Ruff declared a personal interest in Agenda item: 035/26 Planning RB2026/0061 due to living close to the property.

030/26 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))

No items identified

031/26 Chair's Report

The Chair confirmed that following a difficult period, the Council is now in a much better position due to great efforts made by the Clerk & RFO and the Town Council Administrator. Cllr J Hart and Cllr D Smith were also thanked for their additional input and work with preparing the precept, their commitment has been outstanding. Recent weeks have proved that when times are difficult, the council can pull together and work well.

Following last week's Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting, the Chair was delighted to update members that the remaining issues surrounding the sale of East Street have been resolved with contracts due to be signed soon.

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

- Lyric Committee on Monday 2nd February 2026

Copy attached Appendix A

- Community Committee on Monday 2nd February 2026

Copy attached Appendix B

- Neighbourhood Plan Committee on Thursday 5th February 2026

Copy attached Appendix C

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

- Full Council held on Monday 12th January 2026

Copy attached Appendix D

The Clerk advised members that an error was spotted earlier regarding reasons for absence for Cllr K Smallwood for the Community Committee on 02/02/2026, this will be changed before being presented to the committee for approval.

It was confirmed that incorrect advice was received by members in respect of item 011/26 B. It was confirmed by the Clerk that a new committee can be formed by member's at any point throughout the year as per the Standing Orders.

The Chair reiterated his previous support for setting up a Finance Committee to meet quarterly. Cllr Hart to request that this is discussed again at May's Town Council meeting in further detail.

A councillor queried if item 012/26 D had now been brought to a conclusion and was advised by the Clerk that the required meetings have taken place and the Locum Clerk will be writing to everyone concerned.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12th January, with the date amendment to December 2025 relating to the Staff Christmas bonus, not 2026, as true record and to be signed by the Chairman and kept on file.

At this point in the meeting the Chair read out the public question asking members of there was an overspend by the Council last year and what that was on? They also asked what project's the council have planned for the next year.

The Chair advised that as the bank reconciliation is still to be completed by Brearley's Accountants he was unsure of any overspend amounts due to incomplete data.

Once the bank reconciliation is complete, this will be distributed to all Councillors via email and in paper form.

With regards to future projects, the Chair explained that the Summer Carnival, Christmas Festival and support of the Bonfire event are confirmed within the budget. Other funds are available with more expected to come in that can be accessed if any Councillor has a suggestion for a project that they have researched, costed and then bring to a meeting for consideration.

A member of the public stated that wages costs for the council have increased significantly over the last 2 years, and asked if the increase in the precept was just to cover wages, The Chair explained that the increase in staff is justified by the increased work that the council now undertakes especially with the newly formed committees set up within the last 12 months and the supporting work carried out by staff.

It was mentioned that in previous years, Councillors would be approached in the months running up to the precept to be asked about any suggested projects and that this step was missed this year due to the circumstances. It was agreed that going forward, Councillors should be approached in advance.



Cllr Smith confirmed that any spend on projects funded by CIL money is separate to the precept. Funds are available and with more money due to come in from the land sale this can be used to fund community projects.

It was also confirmed that permission has been granted to DSJTC for CIL money to accrue so that larger community projects can be completed.

033/26

Precept

Members are asked to discuss and agree:

- a) the final budget for 2026/2027**
- b) set Precept for the next financial year**
- c) confirm the Band D equivalent**
- d) authorise the Clerk to write to RMBC to notify them of the Precept agreed**

It was confirmed that Councillors have received the precept documentation to review in advance of this meeting and were then given the opportunity to raise any questions.

Cllr S Scott requested a recorded vote:

Cllr D Adams: For

Cllr D Booth: For

Cllr L Clarke: For

Cllr G Cruickshanks: Abstained

Cllr J Hall: For

Cllr W Hall: For

Cllr J Hart: For

Cllr Z Lowe: For

Cllr T Mulholland: For

Cllr N Ruff: For

Cllr S Scott: Against

Cllr D Scriven: For

Cllr D Smith: For

Cllr F Walden: For

Resolved: That the Council agreed to a precept demand of £362,248.22 which represents a 8.06% increase and that this be approved and called for from RMBC, to meet the budget requirement for 2026/27, and that the Clerk should send the notification to RMBC. Band D equivalent for 2026/2027 is £131.51

034/26 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 E – to follow

Copy attached Appendix F – to follow

Members were emailed a copy of the Income and Expenditure report in advance of this meeting and assured that paper copies will continue to be sent out going forward.

Members were informed by the Clerk that Brearley's Accountants are still to complete the bank reconciliation and once complete this will be distributed to members.

Resolved: The Council approved the Income and Expenditure report.

035/26 Planning:

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;

As RB2025/1673 is out of date and the Clerk confirmed no objections were registered, members did not discuss further.

In respect of RB2026/0061, members discussed that the requested increase in car park spaces was always predicted from the initial planning application. Concerns were also raised that an increase in vehicles may also be a requirement for an increase in cared for children at this property and is this in the children's best interest. Members were reminded that the previous Clerk did object to the initial planning application on behalf of DSJTC and attended the Planning meeting at the Town Hall addressing the Councillors there as requested. It is a particularly busy road already and felt it is not a suitable location for this type of business in a residential area. Individuals can also object if they so wish.

Resolved: Councillors resolved for the Clerk to contact RMBC object to planning application RB2026/0061.

Planning Reference	Details	Date Valid
RB2025/1673	Discharge of conditions 05, 07 & 20 imposed by application RB2024/0992 land off Laughton Road Dinnington Application documents: http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2025/1673	28 th January 2026
RB2026/0061	Application to vary conditions 6 & 7 (remove wording relating to car parking spaces & new rota document amendments) imposed by RB2025/0610 Application documents: http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2026/0061	13 th February 2026

ii)

Chairman Signature:



- ii) **Applications granted**
There are no applications granted.
- iii) **Any other planning matter**
None

036/26 Ward Member Update

Cllr J Hall updated that Ward members continue their work to support the local community and held meetings with High Street groups regarding the regeneration and increasing footfall.

Ward members are supporting traders through the market relocation.

DSJTC Town Councillor T Mulholland was thanked for his time clearing rubbish from the markets area recently.

Local MP Jake Richards has agreed to sponsor ~~one of~~ the 2026 Christmas Trees.

Cllr J Hall confirmed that all three ward members look after their own area's within the ward, share information for updates and are in regular contact working together.

037/26 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) Request to use an area of the councils car park near the bus station to set up a hand car wash

Members discussed a request to have a car wash on the Council car park. Consideration was given to drainage, power supply and any damage that could be caused to the land.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to refuse the request for a car wash on the council owned land. Members requested that the Clerk inform the applicant of their decision.

(B) Request from Dowse's funfairs to hold a fair on the Constable Lane car park 5th-10th May 2026

Members discussed the request from Dowses Fair. Some members remember damage to the car park from last year's event and others felt that this should have been brought to everyone's attention following the event by the Clerk so that this could have been addressed at the time.

Additional toilets and security were provided by Dowses last year as per DSJTC's request so assurances of these will be needed again along with an instruction to ensure that any floor markings or diesel spills are dealt with too before their departure.

With the regeneration soon to be underway Cllr J Hall advised that RMBC may be using their section of the car park for storage units/machinery.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to allow Dowses to hold a fun fair on the Constable Lane car park. The Clerk is to ensure that they are aware that additional toilets and security are to be provided again and instruction given to ensure that any floor markings or diesel spills are dealt with too before their departure.

(C) Staff Christmas Bonus

The Clerk confirmed that minutes from previous meetings have been checked and that there is no resolution recorded to confirm a 5 year agreement for the staff bonus.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to pay the staff bonus of £120.00 to all qualifying staff covering Christmas 2025. Staff bonus for future years will be passed to the Staffing & Complaints committee for further discussion as part of the current staffing review.

(D) **National Year of Reading**

Previously discussed.

038/26

General Matters

(A) **RMBC Dinnington Regeneration update**

No update

(B) **Neighbourhood Plan Committee update**

Previously discussed in the Chair's update

(C) **Emergency Response Committee update**

No meetings, no update.

(D) **Staffing and Complaints Committee update**

A member asked for confirmation that the letters regarding the recent issue had been sent out. The Clerk confirmed that the Locum Clerk is still on with it but assured members that it will be done.

(E) **Lyric Committee update**

Cllr W Hall updated Councillors that the gas oven has now been removed from the kitchen and a new electric oven will be installed.

The committee will soon start looking at new colour schemes for the interior of the Lyric.

(F) **Community Committee update**

Cllr L Clarke updated councillors that the committee have resumed meetings and are looking at future events for the Community Club. Last weeks Community Club event was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

(G) **Working Group updates**

No update

(H) **Community Working update**

The Assistant Clerk updated councillors that Dinnington Primary School were due to visit today but this was cancelled due to school staff illness but will be rearranged for a future date.

039/26

Date of the next Full Council Meeting

Members and the public were asked to note that the next Town Council meeting is Monday 9th March 2026 at 7 p.m.

Meeting closed at 20.30 hours

Chairman Signature:



