

Dinnington St John's Town Council

Minutes of the Community Committee Meeting held on 23rd February 2026 at 6.30pm in the Lyric Theatre, Laughton Road, Dinnington

Present: Cllr L Clarke (Chair), Cllr D Booth, Cllr J Hall, Cllr Z Lowe, Cllr D Smith, Cllr F Walden,

Apologies: Cllr K Smallwood

In attendance: A Wright (Clerk), L. Warne (Asst Clerk), C Radford (Town Council Administrator)
Cllr W Hall, Cllr T Mulholland.

- C13/26** Members are asked to answer questions from the last meeting: and 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; followed by the formal meeting

None received.

- C14/26** Members are asked to receive and consider any reasons for absence.

Resolved: That the Council received and accepted reasons for absence from Cllr K Smallwood.

- C15/26** 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

- C16/26** 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 were identified for the exclusion of the press and public.

- C17/26** Members are asked to approve the minutes from the Community Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026 be approved as true record and to be signed by the Chair and kept on file.

- C18/26** Members are asked to discuss Christmas Festival 2026 and consider any further action:

- After checking that there are no other available dates in the Lyric for 2026, Members to confirm the date for the Christmas Festival 2026 as Saturday 5th December 2026. 12 noon to 8pm.

Members noted that the Christmas Festival for 2026 is confirmed for Sat 5th Dec 12pm – 8pm.

Members discussed dates for 2027 and 2028 to ensure Lyric availability if wanting to move the festival into November.

Resolved:- Members resolved that the Christmas Festival will be held on Saturday 20th November 2027 and then going forward it will continue on the penultimate Saturday in November thereafter.

Chairman Signature:

- **Update from Assistant Town Clerk on the arrangements for the Christmas Festival and for Members to agree the Security Company provision**

The Assistant Clerk requested permission from members to book the same security company for the festival used in previous years. The charge is competitive and they are a local company familiar with the event and area.

Resolved:- Members resolved for the Asst Clerk to engage the services of the recommended security company for this year's Christmas Festival.

The Asst Clerk updated members that a consultation has been posted online and received some responses with support on continuing with Santa's Grotto, Santa's Sleigh Tour, Selfie Sleigh and the funfair. Some ideas given were:

- To use the whole of the high street including the area outside of Aldi
- Have a trailer for live music to be performed
- Setting up a ticket system for Father Christmas to reduce the queue time
- Set up an outdoor bar
- Shops to get involved in dressing their windows with a festive theme

Members discussed the possibility of running a design a Christmas Light competition but it was felt that the cost to produce the winning entry would be too high.

It was debated if more lights could be added to the current display as it does seem quite sparse compared to other local areas. The Asst Clerk confirmed that lights are currently positioned on all suitable lampposts along Laughton Road but the issue is that they are spaced quite far apart.

Consideration is to be given to the possibility of Christmas Trees being wall mounted all along Laughton Road with lights on to enhance the current display and if Blachere Lighting would be able to accommodate this and what the cost would be. Permission would be needed from the building owners. The Clerk is to bring this item back to a future meeting.

Cllr J Hall confirmed that MP Jake Richards has agreed to fund the cost of purchasing this year's Christmas Trees, she requested that the Clerk follow up this conversation on email.

The Maltby Lions are to be contacted ASAP to ensure that they can attend the light switch on event at Coronation Park.

C19/26 Members are asked to:

- **To agree the date and what will be provided for the March Community Club event**
- **To agree the date for the July Community Club event**
- **To discuss and agree Community Club events for the next 6 months at least, including additional dates for kids events in school holidays**
- **To discuss and agree a kids trip to a Zoo/Wildlife Park (Cllr Lowe)**

The Asst Clerk updated members that the Lyric is unavailable on the 4th March due to a booking so members agreed to hold an event on Thurs 19th March instead to allow extra time for promoting the event.

Options for future events were discussed, it was agreed that a singer is usually a popular choice and Cllr Smallwood is to check with Rochelle her availability for 19th March and future dates.

Cllr Smallwood has also passed information regarding a sing-a-long themed event, with a cost of £240.00 where the entertainer uses a piano and hands out folders with the lyrics.

Chairman Signature:

Future events and dates were then discussed:

- April – Easter event
- May – Cllr Clarke to discuss with Cllr Cruickshanks the possibility of hosting another quiz
- June – Line Dancing TBC
- July – Entertainer TBC

Due to a prior booking the July event will need to be held on Wednesday 8th July.

During the Easter holidays members would like to hold a family event for all the family to enjoy. Provide Easter crafts, decorate eggs and Easter Bonnet parade. Cost will be £2 per ticket to control numbers and open to adults and families with children to attend.

For Halloween, members would like to hold a family event on Sat 31st Oct if the Lyric is available. The Clerk will check availability and then further planning can be made at a future meeting.

Other ideas for future consideration are: An adults only event with a comedian, Psychic evening (Cllr Smallwood has been quoted £300.00).

Cllr Lowe addressed fellow members to ask the Community Committee to consider funding a day trip for some young children in Dinnington to the Zoo. In previous years the Community Committee have funded a coach trip to the seaside for older residents but she feels it would be nice for families that may struggle through the summer holidays to provide a day out for local families.

An estimated cost of a 52 seater coach to Yorkshire Wildlife Park would be £580.00. There could be a small price reduction on admission tickets as buying for a large party but admission charges vary between £18.00 - £30.00. A packed lunch could be provided so that the families have a day out that is paid for and does not require additional spending money unless they choose to do so.

Cllr D Smith offered to discuss with the Headteacher at Dinnington Primary the best way to identify the families most in need across Dinnington Primary and St Josephs.

Other options of Cannon Hall Farm or the Butterfly House were discussed but it was agreed that the best day out would be the Wildlife Park as some children will not have had previous opportunities to visit such places before and there is enough money still in the budget to cover such a trip.

Over winter months a day trip for older residents could be arranged where a coach and lunch is provided. This is to be discussed further at a future meeting.

Resolved:- Members resolved to fund a mid week day trip for families to visit the Yorkshire Wildlife Park during the Summer holidays 2026. Arrangements will be discussed at future Community Club meetings.

C20/26 Members are asked to discuss and consider the:

- **Summer Carnival Event**

Early discussions with the Rugby Club suggest that they are looking to bring in an events company to organise the event. Personnel has changed at the Rugby Club and things are different now so Councillors discussed using the money set aside for a Summer Carnival in the precept to fund a different community event at the Lyric. If holding such an event, preparations should have already been well under way by this stage.

Resolved:- Members resolved to not go ahead with a Summer Carnival in 2026 in partnership with Dinnington Rugby Club.

The possibility of holding different events was then discussed between members including evening events and the hope being that other Councillors may also get involved and attend.

The role and benefits of having volunteers in place to help at these events was discussed and it was noted that this issue should be resolved following the completion of the staffing review.

Chairman Signature:

Volunteers can then be utilised in helping to tidy up and improve the local area.

Cllr J Hall advised that she is looking to organise two Community Club evening events on Saturday 23rd May and Saturday 8th August which she would like other members to get onboard with and assist with ideas and decision making.

The suggestion of holding an 'open mic night' was warmly received with the possibility of hosting food trucks outside. It gives the opportunity for upcoming local artists to experience performing on a stage with all of the sound and lighting equipment.

Having a game of bingo, holding a raffle was mentioned and also the possibility of having a collection bucket to support the Air Cadets as Dinnington St John's Town Council charity of the year.

Resolved:- It was resolved to hold an Extraordinary meeting, open to all Councillors, to discuss the planning and preparation of an open mic night and see who would like to be involved.

C21/26 Members are asked to discuss and note any matters for inclusion on the next meeting.

As discussed for an Extraordinary meeting: Open Mic Night

For the next scheduled meeting: Confirmation of booked Community Club events up to and including July 2026, Easter event, Yorkshire Wildlife Park day trip, update on individual wall mounted Christmas trees on Laughton Road,

C22/26 Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held on Monday 23rd March 2026 at 6.30p.m but an Extraordinary meeting is to be scheduled.

Meeting Closed 19:44hrs



Chairman Signature: