

DINNINGTON ST. JOHN'S TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th April 2025 in The Lyric, Laughton Road, Dinnington

Present: Cllr N Ruff (Chair of DSJTC), 29 parishioners attended, T Collingham (Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for DSJTC – note taker)

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr N Ruff (Chair) addressed the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting – 8th April 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting be approved as true record and to be signed by the Chairman and kept on file.

3. To consider any matters arising from the minutes

The Clerk provided the following updates:

Eel Myres Dyke flooding: This matter is ongoing and still under investigation.

Funfair presence: This has now been dealt with and resolved.

Community Infrastructure Levi (CIL) money: This is still ongoing and is being chased up by the Council.

4. Chair's Annual Report 2024/25

An update was provided on the current Council's progress and workstreams covering the last 11 months and broken down into three stages.

1. Our initial work:

Understanding the agenda of the previous Council and establishing resources needed to meet that agenda e.g Financial, people or plan.

Many incoming Councillors were new to the role so time was spent embracing new responsibilities, colleagues and understanding the rules and regulations that sit around Parish Councils.

The previous Council had success in several areas, not least of which was the Neighbourhood Plan, which was one of the first locally.

Time spent looking at Council policies and procedures. Reviewed Accountancy and IT contracts.

As Chair, familiarised with other groups/businesses and organisations to understand the relationship and see the way forward to build on and improve on this.

2. The here and now:

Changes made so far:

- New Clerk & RFO
- New Administrator
- New website
- Strategically aligned sub-committee's
- Improved access for the public to see the work of these committees via minutes of the agendas and the workstreams being adopted
- New focus on operations and maintenance
- Improved financial procedures
- Rigorous approach to utilities contracts

The additional resources now available in our Clerks office has already proven to be invaluable and will do going forward as the Councils agenda expands.

It will give the opportunity for the Clerk to review our policies and procedures to ensure our compliance.

Our Assistant Clerk will have the chance to not only support the Clerk, but to engage with the 'inward investment' agenda that historically we have little coverage of.

Additionally, we have retained all our additional staff and through the Clerk we look to maintain and improve their work lives wherever possible.

The relationship with RMBC has been refreshed and meetings have been held with the Leader and looking to meet with the Chief Executive.

We are very aligned to the basic requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan, in that,

- Need to build quality social housing using some of the assets we own
- We must consider local challenges such as healthcare, later life living, obesity mitigation and poverty, as critically important to do whatever is possible to help with providing acceptable and affordable solutions.
- We all want to see our regeneration opportunity come to fruition and have a diverse, safe, clean and accessible shopping experience for all.
- We want to see the borough council help us more and spend more of its resources here.

3. The future

There is no doubt that we need to keep our focus on the 'art of the possible' and be bold in what we want for our community. Our Council has ambitions that it intends to meet.

We have already signed a deal with a local business for the sale of land that will allow them to build the first social housing development for a while in our community. Crucially this includes an agreement for local tradesman and apprentices to be included.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Councillors both past and present that have built the platform upon which we are adding, and to all our staff for their encouragement and support.

5. Open Session – Cllr N Ruff (Chair) Questions raised by the public

Cllr N Ruff (Chair) confirmed that he has spoken with the Leader of RMBC and our local MP to share our community's concerns regarding the proposed windfarm.

The Clerk confirmed that there are no financial anomalies that are outstanding or have not been addressed at a previous Town Council Meeting.

A representative from the 1325 (Dinnington) Squadron Air Cadets was invited to contact the Council through proper process regarding the support of their anniversary celebrations.

Cllr N Ruff confirmed that he has had conversations with local police regarding the anti social behaviour around the market stalls and local shops. It was agreed that this is a nuisance and affecting local shopkeepers livelihoods.

Litter picking was raised in regards to the land adjacent to Tesco. This issue has been picked up by RMBC.

A resident raised how can the public have confidence in the Council regarding the trustworthiness of some current Council members. It was explained that due to the confidentiality of the specific case this refers to this is not able to be discussed further within the public domain of the annual parish meeting. There are procedures for complaints that have to be followed and this was dealt with at the time.

A discussion was had around the £11 million investment for the regeneration of Dinnington High Street and where this money is held and if access to the interest on this amount will be available to benefit residents by being added to the allocated amount. The money is secured for this project and being held by central government and if there was any possibility of accessing additional interest monies then this would be acted on. The regeneration project is still planned to go ahead and all plans and any issues are being worked through. The compulsory purchase order is underway but this is a RMBC issue and not for further comment at this meeting.

It was highlighted as a reminder that RMBC should stand by their offer of an additional £1 million towards the regeneration scheme.

A resident highlighted that a local GP practice was recently awarded just £50,000.00 of funding by RMBC from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) whilst the Trans Pennine Trail at Wath upon Dearne was set to receive £787,000.00 and this seemed very disproportionate.

Previous plans by RMBC to build a new Doctors surgery seem to have fallen away was raised as an issue. Dinnington St Johns Council are now looking to help with this and get any improvements as there is a real lack of parking, disabled parking, the pharmacy is small too.

As no further questions were asked, Cllr N Ruff (Chair) thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 19.28pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

