

Dinnington St John's Town Council

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

Present: Cllr W Hall (Vice Chair), Cllr D Adams, Cllr D Booth, Cllr L Clarke, Cllr G Cruickshanks, Cllr J Hall, 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 N Ruff, Cllr K Smallwood

In attendance: A Wright (Town Council Clerk & RFO), L Warne (Assistant Clerk), C Radford (Town Council Administrator), 7 members of public.

040//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 member of the public asked members to support residents living close to the glass recycle company on Rotherham Road. They have recently formed an action group against the Environmental Permit application for an expansion to operations at the site. Members of the public are concerned about the smell that regularly omits from the site but more importantly, the serious health concerns and issues that residents are reporting that they feel is connected to glass fibres that are airborne as well as when products are transported on/off site.

Members discussed the problems and concerns raised at length with some Councillors advising that they have visited the area, spoken to local residents and have seen/smelt the issues for themselves.

With the action group having collated over 100 impact statements from residents, the seriousness of the situation and a deadline for objection to the Environmental Permit application being 31st March it was agreed that no time should be wasted in making an objection to the application and to look to organise a public meeting at the Lyric where representatives from Environmental Health and RMBC's Planning Dept would be asked to attend.

Councillors and members of the public are encouraged to individually object to the application. Local Borough Councillor, Amanda Clarke advised that flyers are currently being produced with a QR code directing people to the correct website to record their objections. Local MP, Jake Richards is also holding a Street Surgery in the area on the 20th March and the public are invited to attend to raise their concerns.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to organise a public meeting to be held at the Lyric as soon as possible, that representatives from RMBC's Planning Dept and Environmental Health be invited to attend. The Clerk is to also object to the Environmental Permit application on behalf of Dinnington St John's Town Council.



FORMAL MEETING

041/26 Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive and consider any reasons for absence

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

042//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.

043/26 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

044/26 Chair's Report

No report was received from Cllr N Ruff to be read out to members.

045/26 Members are asked to receive and note the minutes of the meetings of:

- **Lyric Committee on Monday 23rd February 2026**
Copy attached Appendix A
- **Community Committee on Monday 23rd February 2026**
Copy attached Appendix B
- **Neighbourhood Plan Committee on Thursday 19th February 2026**
Copy attached Appendix C
- **Neighbourhood Plan Committee on Thursday 5th March 2026**
Appendix D to follow
- **Emergency Response Committee on Thursday 5th March 2026**
Appendix E to follow

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

- **Full Council held on Monday 9th February 2026**
Copy attached Appendix F

The Clerk advised members that an error was identified earlier regarding agenda item 032/26 which should read May and not March, this will be amended.

The Clerk was asked if any overspend had been identified since the last meeting and the Clerk confirmed that as the reconciliation is still not complete, this information is still not available. Once complete it was confirmed that this will be distributed to members.



Regarding agenda item 037/26 Cllr J Hall advised that Jake Richards MP has agreed to sponsor all of the Town Council's Christmas Trees, not just one as per the minutes. This will be amended for the minutes.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th February, with the before mentioned amendments as true record and to be signed by the Chairman and kept on file.

046/26 Monthly Accounts Schedule and relevant finance information:

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

- **Income and Expenditure Report**
- **Bank Reconciliation**
- **Appointment of an internal auditor**

Copy attached Appendix G – to follow

Copy attached Appendix H – to follow

- **To discuss a staff pay award for 2026/2027**

Copy attached Appendix I

At the meeting, members were passed a copy of the Bank reconciliation at 31/12/2025 and informed by the Clerk that the reconciliation is still not complete, work continues to be undertaken in order to resolve the discrepancy.

It was noted that the Income and Expenditure Report listed only the expenditure. The Clerk apologised for the oversight and confirmed that the full Income and Expenditure report will be issued to members.

As the bank reconciliation does not balance, councillors are unable to approve.

Members were updated that the previously used auditor is no longer able to offer their services so discussed the received quotations for internal auditing and the credentials of each provider.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to appoint CS Audit Services as the internal auditor.

Regarding staff pay awards, the Clerk advised that NALC have not yet announced the national pay award for 2026/2027 but she needed to know if councillors were willing to go ahead with the NALC decision or want to liaise with the unions to set their own pay award.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to accept the NALC pay award for 2026/2027.

047/26 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;**

Planning Reference	Details	Date Valid
RB2026/0213	Erection of detached annex outbuilding to the rear 100 Swinston Hill Road Dinnington	23rd March 2026
	Application to vary conditions 6 & 7 (remove wording relating to car parking spaces & new rota document amendments) imposed by RB2025/0610	
RB2026/0266	Change of use to Class F1 (f) Place of Worship & Class F2(b) Community Hall and erection of two storey detached building to rear 54 Rotherham Road Laughton Common	27 th March 2026

Chairman Signature:



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

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

048/26

Ward Member Update

Cllr Amanda Clarke explained to members that the three Borough Councillors do all regularly communicate and have an agreement where they address specific parishes with updates.

Borough Councillors worked together on the recent incident where the water supply went off in the area and further discussions will be needed with representatives from Yorkshire Water and RMBC to learn from the mistakes that were made. Issues to be addressed are: the availability of call centre staff to answer calls, ability to identify vulnerable residents, the control of bottled water drop of points – some were a free for all and others had restricted numbers of bottles available to ensure there was enough to go round.

Another issue that Borough Councillors are working on is speeding vehicles. The Highways Dept say that they need recorded data in order to respond to issues raised. Borough Councillors have purchased a speed gun which they will ensure is calibrated to required standards. Volunteer Road Safety Champions will be needed to operate and lead the scheme working alongside PCSO's.

Councillors continue to fight against the proposed Whitestone Farm scheme and members of the public and Town Councillors were encouraged to attend the event hosted by South Yorkshire Mayor, Oliver Coppard at Aston Hall on 10/03/2026.

Cllr J Hall updated members regarding further anti-social incidences around the high street and market area. These incidents are reported to police and Cllr Hall urges everyone to report anything that they are witness to as well.

Market traders and shop traders continue to be supported by ward members throughout the regeneration process and future changes.

A discussion between Councillors followed the Ward Member update about local crime within Dinnington and the priorities and response times of South Yorkshire Police Officers

049/26

Dinnington Town Council grants, booking concessions and donation requests:

- i) **To consider a grant request from Dinnington Rugby Club**
Copy attached Appendix J
- ii) **To consider a booking request from SDK Dance crew**
Copy attached Appendix K
- iii) **To consider a grant request from Dinnington Youth Club – pending application**
- iv) **To consider a grant request from the Food Bank – pending application**

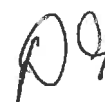
- i) Councillors have received the grant request from Dinnington Rugby Club but noted that the required bank statement information did not include any bank balance information which is a requirement. No detailed costings for kitting out the containers was provided either.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to refuse the grant application from Dinnington Rugby Club.

- ii) The Clerk advised members that she has received an email request from SDK Dance Crew requesting free use of the Lyric on three occasions so that the group can rehearse for upcoming competitions to be held in Spain.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to allow SDK Dance Crew their three requested rehearsals for free as they will be great representatives of Dinnington, and wish them good luck for the competition.

Grant applications from Dinnington Youth Club and the Food bank were not received so not discussed.



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 consider summons to attend committee meetings**

The Local Government Act 1972 provides no statutory obligation to summon members to attend meetings of cabinet or committees. However, a summons to attend a council meeting must be sent in accordance with Schedule 12

Cllr D Adams asked members to consider if they agree that Councillors are summoned to committee meetings, which is not a legal requirement or would prefer to be invited or asked to attend. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted SLCC for guidance and they confirmed that it is open to interpretation by individual councils and there is no defined legal requirement on councils to summon councillors to committee meetings.

Members debated the issue and whether being summoned to a meeting makes someone more likely to attend or send their reasons for absence more than if simply invited to attend.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Cruickshanks asked the Chair to confirm if Cllr J Hall was using her mobile phone to video record him at the meeting. Cllr J Hall confirmed that she was not.

Cllr D Smith proposed to drop the word summons from the letter to councillors for Committee meetings.

Cllr J Hall then proposed an amendment to keep the letters as they are and this was then voted on.

Resolved: Councillors voted on the amendment with 6 for, 6 against and 1 abstain so the Chairs casting vote was then used and members resolved to keep the phrase of summons to meetings in the committee meeting letters.

(B) **Request to consider the grant from RMBC for flags/flagpoles**

[Small grants scheme for flagpoles and flags – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Cllr Adams made members aware of the scheme and asked them to consider the Council applying for a flagpole and flag to be gifted to the Air Cadets.

Resolved: Members resolved to apply for a grant to purchase a flag and flagpole from RMBC for donation to the Air Cadets.

(C) **Members are asked to consider and confirm the Cemetery Rules and Regulations**

Copy attached Appendix L

The Clerk advised members that the council does not currently have up to date Cemetery rules and regulations. It is advisable that the council adopts new rules and regulations and that they are available on the website too. There have been issues in the cemetery recently where items are being placed beyond the boundary area and encroaching onto neighbouring plots. It is appreciated that this is a sensitive issue but that there should be defined rules surrounding this issue too. The Cemetery team have been supplied a copy for their consideration and will also be fully consulted and asked for their opinions too before a final document is brought to council for final approval. This marks the start of the discussion around the subject.

(D) **Members are asked to consider the date and arrangements for the Bonfire Night on Saturday 7th November 2026**

The Clerk advised that the Bonfire Night event is confirmed for 7th November 2026 at Dinnington Rugby Club.



(E) Members are asked to consider requests from RMBC:

- to use the Lyric temporarily for the market (or even use Constable Lane down the side of the Lyric for the fish stall or other 'high odour' stalls)
 - to consider the request from RMBC to use some of the Council's land for contractors
- Copy attached Appendix M**

Members discussed a request from RMBC to use the Lyric and Constable Lane as a venue for the market during the regeneration of the high street. A member of the public who is a market trader spoke to members and explained that as an outside market trader, their preference would be to be outside and ideally as previously discussed, be on the high street. Any road closure would only be required for half of one day per week (Fridays) and that Dinnington has had an outdoor market for 50+ years.

The possibility of moving the stalls into different areas of the high street depending on which stage the regeneration is at was also discussed. There are concerns around a proposed road closure already in place for repairs to the church cemetery walls but it is hoped that this work will soon be completed as it is listed as an emergency.

Resolved: Councillors resolved to refuse permission for the market to be placed inside the Lyric or along Constable Lane.

(F) Members are asked to consider the request from RMBC to maintain planters to be sited on Laughton Road

Copy attached Appendix N

The Clerk advised members that RMBC propose to install four new planters strategically placed on Laughton Road to deter vehicles mounting pavements and parking but are asking that Dinnington St Johns Town Council will plant them up and maintain them.

Cllr J Hall confirmed that the planters are already purchased by RMBC and ready for installation.

Members discussed if it would be better to install the planters after the regeneration and the cost implication of supplying plants to them when they are not currently budgeted for. It was suggested that RMBC should be approached to help cover this initial cost for the first three years.

Resolved: Councillors voted on the item with 6 for, 6 against and 1 abstain so the Chairs casting vote was then used and members resolved to take on the responsibility of maintaining planters but for the Clerk to request some financial support for the first three years.

(G) Request to change the venue for Dowse's funfairs to the Rugby Club on 5th-10th May 2026

The Clerk advised members that following on from the discussions at the last meeting she had explored the possibility of the venue for the funfair moving to the Rugby Club. The Rugby Club have confirmed that this would be acceptable to them.

At this point (20.55pm) the meeting was suspended due to The Chair of the meeting leaving the room.

At 20.59pm the meeting resumed.

Cllr D Smith explained to members that this item cannot be discussed or changed as it has been resolved within the last 6 months. It can only be brought back for discussion if 8 Councillors write directly to the Clerk to request that it is added to the agenda.

If Dowses' fair have any issues with getting the relevant permissions and permits from RMBC to use part of their land for the fair then that is something they will need to take up with them directly and not something that DSJTC can get involved in.



(A) RMBC Dinnington Regeneration update

The derelict building destroyed by fire has finally been demolished. Secure fencing has been installed around the area due to safety concerns. The tender process has started with RMBC to secure contractors to demolish the indoor and outdoor markets along with the vacated shops in the South building. It is now agreed that the North building will also be demolished as too costly to improve. RMBC have had a Design Team out on site and information will be placed on new noticeboards.

(B) Neighbourhood Plan Committee update

The East Street project is at the final stages and almost complete. Representatives from a building company recently attended a meeting to update the committee on their plans for building many new homes in the Throapham area. The need to increase provisions for medical centres, Dentists and children's play area's was discussed and it is hoped that this would be taken on board.

The next project that the committee is looking at is on Lodge Lane. Cllr D Smith updated members that he is still working with Empty Homes Officers at RMBC to bring empty properties back into use at a liveable standard. Cllr Smith explained that DSJTC will be able to use CIL money to fund the project and once it has been fully costed he will be coming back to Councillors for their approval. Full discussions will also then take place regarding the management of the scheme and where the benefits are.

(C) Emergency Response Committee update

Cllr Smith updated members that it appears RMBC forget that DSJTC have an Emergency Response Committee and so everyone was in the dark when the water went off in Dinnington for many hours recently. The Emergency Response Committee is not just for flood related issues and could have been used to service the residents of Dinnington better. Yorkshire Water also need to be made aware that we could have been of assistance.

(D) Staffing and Complaints Committee update

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 10am.

It was confirmed that letters have been given out completing the recent complaint procedure so that matter is now brought to a close.

(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 has been purchased.

An Interior Designer is due to visit the Lyric soon to give their advice on a new colour scheme and other improvements for the interior.

(F) Community Committee update

Cllr L Clarke updated councillors that early discussions held with the Rugby Club showed that they were looking to engage the services of an events company so the committee has decided to not support a Summer Carnival this year.

An Extraordinary meeting of the committee is to be held in order to organise an 'Open Mic Night' and the committee would like other councillors to get involved and support the event.

(G) Working Group updates

No update

(H) Community Working update

The Assistant Clerk updated councillors that Dinnington Primary School are still to rearrange their visit.



052/26 Date of the next Full Council Meeting

Members are asked to note that the date and time of the next Town Council meeting is Monday 11th May 2026 at 7 pm.

Members are asked to note that the date and time of the next Annual Parish meeting is Monday 13th April 2026 at 7pm.

As this meeting was the Assistant Clerk's last meeting, she was thanked by the Chair of the meeting on behalf of all members for all of her help and support.

It was noted that an Extraordinary meeting is to be scheduled for the residents of the Rotherham Road area affected by the Glass recycling factory.

Meeting closed at 21.20 hours

