

Dinnington St John's Town Council

Minutes of the Lyric Committee Meeting held on 27th April 2026 at 5:30pm in The Lyric

Present: Cllr W Hall (Chair), Cllr L Clarke, Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Hart, Cllr D Smith

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllr D Scriven

Absent: Cllr G Cruickshanks

In attendance: A Wright (Town Clerk), C Radford (Town Council Administrator), E Stanger (Lyric Manager)
6 members of the public

L45/26 **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**

No questions asked during the public session.

L46/26 **Members are asked to receive and consider any reasons for absence**

Resolved: That the Council received and accepted reasons for absence from Cllr D Scriven.

It was noted that Cllr G Cruickshanks was absent.

L47/26 **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**

None received.

L48/26 **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 considered with the exclusion of the press and public.

L49/26 **Members are asked to receive and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2026.**

No queries raised.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Lyric Committee 23rd March 2026 meeting be approved as a true record and to be signed by the Chair and kept on file.

L50/26 **Members are asked to:**

- **Receive and note upcoming events at The Lyric**
- **Consider any further action**

Members received and noted the schedule of confirmed Lyric bookings for the next 6 months which had been forwarded with the agenda.

Chairman Signature:



The Clerk confirmed that there have been no major changes to the schedule of events. It was agreed that there are not a lot of empty gaps in the diary, the Lyric is busy.

L51/26

Members are asked to:

- **Consider arrangements for New Year's Eve (NYE) 2026**

Members were informed that the Lyric Manager is still actively seeking acts to perform at the Lyric on New Year's Eve and has confirmed her availability to work.

Members of the public have been asked for their suggestions and the Lyric Manager is looking at this. Some feedback from previous years to take on board is the long gap during the evening whilst the act take their break – a Comedian or Master of Ceremonies providing some audience participation are options to be looked at but would affect ticket prices. It was confirmed that the event will be over 18's only.

L52/26

Members are asked to receive a breakdown for the profit and loss of events held in The Lyric within March 2026. An update to be given at the meeting.

The Clerk presented members with a breakdown of events held in March including income received and confirmed expenditure.

A Councillor queried why within the month of March there had only been one booking for a Friday night and only two Saturday's.

The Clerk confirmed that availability of staff for regular weekend events is forming part of the current Staffing review being undertaken by the Staffing and Complaints Committee and this does still require further discussion.

The Clerk confirmed that even with the costs of heating and lighting to be deducted, March was a profitable month and the figures are looking much better than previous months.

Cllr Clarke asked when the requested training on the new light and sound equipment would be provided to staff and members that need it. The Lyric Manager advised that 4Front Media have trained more of their staff members to operate the system and that the costs of hiring the sound & lighting engineers is being picked up by the hirer at £20 per hour. The Lyric Manager advised that the engineers are better equipped to cover any issues during a live event, especially with the dated wiring system within the Lyric than staff or members would be. The Clerk advised members that she has received a comprehensive report from 4Front Media on further recommendations for improvement.

Members requested that the Clerk look at the original contract with 4Front Media as it was understood that training for staff and interested members would be provided.

L53/26

Members are asked to receive and note the financial budgeting report for Income and Expenditure for March 2026. An update to be given at the meeting.

The Clerk provided a report showing income and expenditure relating to the Lyric Theatre for March 2026.

Members reviewed the budgeting report and queried numerous visits over consecutive days to the same supplier, and wanted to know what this was for and why not better planned. With increased fuel and staffing costs this is not a good use of public money and staff time. The Maintenance Team should be encouraged to shop locally. The Clerk confirmed that she believes that this was the guttering/drainage/roof project on the alleyway and will discuss the matter with the relevant members of staff.

Chairman Signature:



L54/26

Members are asked to consider:

- **An update on the decorating of the Lyric and making the entrance to the Lyric more inviting.**

Cllr J Hall delivered a presentation to members of suggestions and recommendations for improvements to the Lyric. The presentation included current photographs of existing fixtures and fittings alongside images of the projected improvements. The proposal moves away from existing cold Lilac and Purple colours to a warmer Charcoal Black, soft Antique Gold and Egyptian Cotton theme throughout the venue starting from the outside of the building and throughout.

Existing branding for the Lyric is outdated and the lighting and signage also requires improvement too. It is felt that a designated area for event promotion would be better than lots of posters all over.

It is expected that the recommended improvements to the venue with a neutral colour palette would increase bookings for numerous events.

It was suggested that the venue be closed while the refurbishment takes place with a big event organised for the re opening.

During the presentation Cllr L Clarke left the meeting at 18.05pm, returning at 18.06pm.

Members thanked Cllr Hall for her presentation and a discussion then took place between members. It was confirmed that a public consultation was carried out last Summer on suggested improvements to the Lyric. Regular hirers of the venue are still to be asked for their opinions.

The Clerk requested that committee members give their approval to the suggested colour palette in order for initial plans to start to take shape.

It was proposed and seconded that the recommended colour palette be adopted but insufficient votes were cast in favour to resolve this and it was therefore decided that this item is taken to full council at the next meeting for a decision.

L55/26

Members are asked to discuss any maintenance works and consider any further action.

The Clerk advised members that she felt that a deep clean of the Lyric was required as this has not been carried out for many years. Quotes have been obtained from two companies at £850 and £589 + VAT. Both have quoted that the work would take two full working days to complete.

Members discussed if it was necessary to bring in an outside company or if the three maintenance staff could carry out the required work.

It was proposed and seconded that a cleaning company be employed to carry out the required work.

Another member proposed that employed staff undertake and are taken off of other duties to complete the required deep clean.

Resolved: With the Chairs casting vote in use, members resolved for staff to carry out the required deep clean over 2 full working days.

It was suggested that councillors volunteer to support the maintenance team with the deep clean.

L56/26

Members are asked to note an update to a project to install solar panels.

The Clerk updated members that additional quotes are needed in order to apply for lottery funding so this is still ongoing.

Chairman Signature:



L57/26

Members are asked to note the update with regard to the provision of tills within The Lyric bar and consider the next steps.

The Clerk updated members that there is still an on going issue with the provider initially agreed to in November 2025. The Terms and Conditions when received were not as expected so were not accepted or signed. Delivery of the till equipment was refused and the till equipment was never installed but the company are refusing to refund the initial set up costs and want a £800.00 fee to terminate the contract. Members ask that the Clerk looks at the contract but she explained that this is with the Locum Clerk who signed up.

A new supplier for tills is currently drawing up terms and conditions ready for member approval.

L58/26

Members are asked to discuss and note any matters for inclusion on the next meeting

It was noted that most of the items discussed would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

L59/26

Members are asked to note the date and time of the next meeting

The next Lyric Committee meeting will be held Monday 18th May at 5.30pm.

Meeting Closed 18.40hrs

Chairman Signature:

