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| **MINUTES** | | **MEETING:** | Parish Council Network Meeting | |
| **DATE:** | 15.03.24 | |
| **VENUE:** | Sunnyside Community Centre | |
| **CHAIR:** | Cllr Sarah Allen | |
| **MINUTE TAKER:** | Catherine Oxtoby (RMBC – Parish Council Liaison Officer) | |
| **In Attendance** | | | | |
| Cllr Sarah Allen | | RMBC, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods | | |
| Martin Hughes | | RMBC, Head of Neighbourhoods | | |
| Catherine Oxtoby | | RMBC, Parish Council Liaison Officer | | |
| Mike Thomas | | RMBC, Electoral Services Manager | | |
| Joanne Holsey | | Dalton Parish Council | | |
| Thomas Collingham (TCo) | | Thurcroft Parish Council | | |
| Terry Craven (TCr) | | Thrybergh Parish Council | | |
| Dave Smith | | Dinnington Town Council | | |
| Terry Adair | | Treeton Parish Council | | |
| Clive Jepson | | Anston Parish Council | | |
| Dave Rowley | | Ravenfield Parish Council | | |
| Louise Ward | | Orgreave Parish Council | | |
| Martin Horn | | Letwell Parish Council | | |
| Richard Swann | | Woodsetts Parish Council | | |
| Pat Smith | | Dinnington Parish Council | | |
| **Apologies** | | | | |
| Richard Bramall | | RMBC | | |
| Chris Siddall | | RMBC | | |
| Julie James | | Treeton Parish Council | | |
| Al Evans | | Dinnington Town Council & Firbeck Parish Council | | |
| Caroline Havenhand | | Harthill with Woodall & Laughton en le Morthen Parish Councils | | |
| Peter Jenkinson | | Brinsworth Parish Council | | |
| Rebecca Thompson | | Hellaby & Thorpe Salvin Parish Councils | | |
| Ben Styring | | Maltby Town Council | | |
| Mick Elliott | | Aston Cum Aughton Parish Council | | |
| Rachel Chico | | Dalton Parish Council | | |
| Sarah Whitaker | | Ulley Parish Council | | |
| Chris Myers | | Ulley Parish Council | | |
| Carol Lavell | | Wickersley Parish Council | | |
| Jamie Baggaley | | Waverley Community Council | | |
| Trevor Stanway | | Laughton en le Morthen | | |
| Wendy Foers | | Treeton Parish Council | | |
| Brendan McNamara | | Wentworth Parish Council | | |
| Karen Jay | | Ravenfield Parish Council | | |
| Monica Carroll | | Woodsetts Parish Council | | |
| Gill Culverwell | | Brampton Bierlow Parish Council | | |
| Kay Hollis | | Brinsworth Parish Council | | |
| **Item** | **Subject / Discussion** | | | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome & Introductions**  Cllr Allen welcomed all to the meeting.  Apologies have been received from Richard Bramall and Chris Siddall, they will be rescheduled for a future meeting. | | |  |
| **2.** | **Notes from Previous Meeting**  No actions from previous meeting.  CJ – Inspector Diaz from South Yorkshire Police stated she would circulate contact details unsure if this has been done.  **ACTION: CO to send out contact details.** | | | **CO** |
| **3.** | **Elections – Mike Thomas**  Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager, Rotherham Council presented to the meeting information relating to Local Elections, slides attached.  Questions  TCo – I have 2 wards in my Parish do notices need to go up in each ward?  MT - No a notice needs to be displayed in the Parish not each ward.  DR - Can I just clarify Clerks have an electoral register, but they can’t give out electoral numbers?  MT - Yes that’s correct, the law is very clear about how that register can be used. It can only be used to check people are eligible to attend Parish Meetings.  The use of the Register is set out in Regulation 107(8) of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001:  *No parish or community councillor, person employed by or otherwise assisting (whether or not for reward) a parish or community council and to which a copy of the register has been supplied may—*  *(a)supply a copy of the full register to any person,*  *(b)disclose any information contained in it that is not included in the edited register, or*  *(c)make use of any such information,*  *otherwise than for the purpose of establishing whether any person is entitled to attend and participate in a meeting of, or take any action on behalf of, the parish or community, as the case may be****[****or for the purposes of a poll under section 116 (local polls) of the Local Government Act 2003****]****.****]***  DR – One of the qualifications for candidate was European, when did that come in?  MT – European electors have always been eligible to stand as candidates at local elections.  DR – When do people sign up to the standards?  MT – Councillors agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct standards as part of their Acceptance of Office.  DR – Why do Rotherham Council have all-out elections, rather than electing by-thirds?  SA – The thought was that after the Commissioners left Rotherham that an all-out election could be seen as a positive change.  MH – From an Officers perspective all out elections are better in terms of getting policies out as it’s a longer period without work having to grind to a halt.  JH – If you went through election process but weren’t quorate what happens?  MT – The normal process is that you would look towards the Borough Councillors in that area becoming part of the Parish Council but it can also be Borough Officers. They are only in place temporarily until the Council is able to become quorate. That power cannot be used until 35 days after an election. If that did happen then the Borough Council would look at where they can support Parish Councils. Quorate is either a third or a minimum of 3 Cllrs.  MH – Who picks up the bill for these recurring elections?  MT – Parish Councils are responsible for paying their share of the costs of an election. Where possible, costs are split equally between the number of polls taking place. If a parish is uncontested, the costs are reduced as they would not pay for poll costs such as polling stations, staffing and the count.  MH we have done a series of sessions promoting the role of a Borough Councillor. CO and MT have developed some slides on the role of a Parish Councillor. These will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. | | |  |
| **4.** | **AOB**  The e-mail recently sent out by Rotherham Council to Clerks re Lighting Columns has been discussed at the JWG. Cllr Alen has already contacted the team that sent the e-mail to discuss it. MH/CO to write on behalf of the JWG to express their disappointment about what has happened and ask for a discussion.  Once a response is received feedback will be sent out immediately.  This meeting was Cllr Allen’s last meeting in her role as Cabinet Member so the next meeting will have a new Chair. Cllr Allen was thanked for her support.  Cllr Allen thanked the group for their continuous attendance at these meetings and encouraged participants to attend future meetings. | | |  |