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| **MINUTES** | | **MEETING:** | Parish Council Network Meeting | |
| **DATE:** | 08.11.23 | |
| **VENUE:** | The Lyric, Dinnington | |
| **CHAIR:** | Cllr Clive Jepson | |
| **MINUTE TAKER:** | Catherine Oxtoby (RMBC – Parish Council Liaison Officer) | |
| **In Attendance** | | | | |
| Cllr Clive Jepson | | Anston Parish Council | | |
| Martin Hughes | | RMBC, Head of Neighbourhoods | | |
| Catherine Oxtoby | | RMBC, Parish Council Liaison Officer | | |
| Lauren Roe | | RMBC, Senior Communications Officer | | |
| Nigel Hancock | | RMBC, Head of Planning and Building Control | | |
| Marc Hill | | RMBC, Senior Engagement and & Communication Officer | | |
| PC Sam Cooper | | South Yorkshire Police, Traffic | | |
| Inspector Rebecca Diaz | | South Yorkshire Police, Neighbourhoods | | |
| PCSO Natalie White | | South Yorkshire Police, Neighbourhoods | | |
| Malcolm Brown | | Bramley Parish Council | | |
| Joanne Holsey | | Dalton Parish Council | | |
| Kate Butler | | Aston Cum Aughton Parish Council | | |
| Terry Craven | | Thrybergh Parish Council | | |
| Dave Smith | | Dinnington Town Council | | |
| Andrew Woodhead | | Anston Parish Council | | |
| Peter Blanksby | | Wales Parish Council | | |
| Mick Elliott | | Aston Cum Aughton Parish Council | | |
| Rebecca Thompson | | Bramley, Hellaby, Letwell and Thorpe Salvin Parish Councils | | |
| Dave Rowley | | Ravenfield Parish Council | | |
| Max Collingwood | | Thorpe Salvin Parish Council | | |
| Marilyn Johnson | | Thorpe Salvin Parish Council | | |
| Richard Swann | | Woodsetts Parish Council | | |
| Chris Myers | | Ulley Parish Council | | |
| Kay Wright | | Anston Parish Council | | |
| Diane Graham | | Anston Parish Council | | |
| Monica Carroll | | Woodsetts Parish Council | | |
| **Apologies** | | | | |
| Cllr Sarah Allen (SA) | | RMBC, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods | | |
| Julie James | | Treeton Parish Council | | |
| Helen Armatage | | Brampton Bierlow Parish Council | | |
| Kay Hollis | | Brinsworth Parish Council | | |
| Jo Pittard | | Firbeck Parish Council | | |
| Rachel Chico | | Dalton Parish Council | | |
| Sarah Whitaker | | Ulley Parish Council | | |
| Richard Robson | | Ulley Parish Council | | |
| **Item** | **Subject / Discussion** | | | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome & Introductions**  Cllr Jepson welcomed all to the meeting. | | |  |
| **2.** | **Notes from Previous Meeting**  Thriving Neighbourhoods  Comments from the last meeting have fed into the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy and updates have been published on the Rotherham Council website.  Parish Council Webpages  Webpages on Rotherham Council Website are now updated. Can Clerks contact CO with any changes in future?  The minutes were approved. | | |  |
| **3.** | **Planning – Nigel Hancock**  A list of validated applications is sent out on a weekly basis. If you have heard that an an application has been submitted but it is not on list this is because the process isn’t complete. The list is separated into ward and parish. Anybody can comment on any application anywhere in the country, you do not have to live near somewhere with a planning application.  You can submit comments for applications you are against or for those that you are for. Parish Councils are encouraged to submit positive comments.  PC -Where do we submit an objection?  NH – Electronically is more efficient, however, on the list it states the Planning Officer so you can ring to speak to them, you can e-mail the Case Officer, send a letter or go through the planning portal.  PC - What can Parish Council’s do to raise concerns?  NH – Unfortunately not all developments go through pre application. We encourage developers to come as early as they can so we can offer advice and information but we cannot insist that they come to us prior to submitting an application. We also cannot insist they carry out community consultation, however, if a local developer does carry out consultation then use that as your opportunity to share your comments.  CIL  Rotherham Council have adopted CIL regulations, not all do as it is not mandatory. CIL is a bit like a development tax. If a builder wants to build houses, retail units etc they need to pay an amount based on the floor space. Part of CIL regulations is that some of this money is paid back to neighbourhoods, Parish Council’s with a Neighbourhood Plan get 20% those without get 15%.  Money is allocated twice a year, CIL regulations explain what you can spend that money on. Parish Councils have a wider definition to spend CIL money on.  CIL money is time limited, and it is expected to be spent within 5 years, if not the money can be reclaimed by the Local Authority, if this money is reclaimed then it does not have to be spent within the Parish it was originally allocated to.  An annual report including all receipts and what the money has been spent on must be produced and published on the Parish Council website.  Any specific questions on CIL can be directed to Scott Thurlby scott.thurlby@rotherham.gov.uk.  PC - Why are so many applications to build on green land being passed?  NH – This is an emotive question and one that needs clarification. We haven’t built on green land because in 2013 the Council adopted a Local Plan. All land allocated for building was identified. Some green land was changed from green land and moved into the allocation. Public consultation regarding this was held and everybody had their opportunity to discuss. When people talk about building on green belt I assume they mean it was green belt but has been changed to brown belt although it does look like it is green belt. We are not able to go back on those decisions.  Out of all the local authorities in the country over half of them haven’t got a Local Plan. If you don’t have one then builders can put in appeals to build on land and if you can’t prove that you have land allocated for the next 5 years this can cause issues. When you start getting development by appeal it is much harder to work on things such as road infrastructure etc. As a Local Authority we can understand why people are concerned that we are building on what they perceive as green belt rather than brown belt but the land in question has already been allocated as housing land. We cannot prioritise when sites are used, once it has been allocated the land is available for people to build on. We do not know what will happen after the next election but recently we have had the Levelling Up Bill get Royal Assent. There is now an act which will require new legislation but depending on what happens with Central Government there is the possibility that we may need to produce a new Local Plan sooner rather than later.  Planning statistics in July  A planning service is useless if you don’t have robust enforcement. Often people do things without permission, it is not illegal to do something without permission and we need to go through enforcement action to make something illegal. Enforcement is not a legal requirement. Guidance says that if somebody does something without permission we need to determine if it is harmful or does it need permission.  We will investigate and invite the person to apply for permission. If permission is not granted then the enforcement notice may state that the building should be demolished. It then goes though a process if not demolished. Bizarrely during lockdown we had a raft of complaints from residents complaining about neighbours building things without permission. Average 300 complaints a year 2020 went up to 454. At that time we only had 1 Enforcement Officer, this was increased to 3 and we started to be more proactive. More notices were served.  If you do want to report a breach the council does have an enforcement portal. Just because somebody does something without permission doesn’t necessarily mean action will be taken against it.  PC - What happens if somebody has permission but doesn’t stick to the conditions?  NH - Exactly the same process as somebody with no permission. We would need to go through the process of is it harmful, if it is how bad, can it be dealt with by submitting another application. Sometimes we will decide it is not expedient to serve a notice or request permission be applied for.  PC – If a specific development had conditions but then breached them what powers does RMBC have?  NH – As above. Each issue is treated on it’s own merit.  Mobile phone masts  The infrastructure that was required to deliver up to 4g was the same as older technology. 5g, however, is different and needs a different mast. 5g masts are bigger and wider than old masts, they look more obtrusive but if we don’t have them, we cannot use the 5g network.  The Government is committed to a fast high quality mobile network. When masts first came out they were 15 metres high, the government said you don’t need planning permission but you do need to let the local authority know who let community know.  When 5g came out permitted development rights were changed. Height has been increased so mobile phone operators can put them up without planning application. We can only consider siting and design. Another problem with 5g network is that the transmission area is much smaller so you have a much larger mast covering a smaller area. Phone operators have all signed up to a code of conduct which means operators should do pre consultation with interested parties, not necessarily Parish Council’s and residents though. Quite a lot of comments planning get are health comments but these cannot be included. As part of the code of conduct operators do have a set of health commitments.  One of the other problems we have had recently is overland broadband provider. Historically broadband has either been through Virgin Media or through another provider like Sky using underground cabling from BT. Many companies now want to use overhead lines to transmit broadband, they do this via a mast that they do not need to get planning permission for. They only need to get permission from Highways. There is nothing that planning can do about these.  Design Codes  Design codes are part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. We currently don’t have a Design Officer, we don’t need to do this yet.  We are hoping to get funding to put somebody in post and when they are we can help parish councils.  PC – The best option for us with CIL money is saving it for a large project. Will RMBC be enforcing the 5 year deadline?  NH – We can have a discussion about this, I don’t think we would invoke it if there was dialogue about saving it for a specific plan.  PC - Green Belt is just semantics, should only be building on brown belts. All PC’s are having issues with building on green belt.  CJ – I went to a planning meeting in 2015. It is an emotive issue but unfortunately government have legislated that land to accommodate certain amounts of houses be allocated. We did manage to get some of the green belt sites taken out but unfortunately with the targets set you have to meet them or be punished. You must remember that a lot of this is central government imposed.  PH - Dinnington have some safeguarded land that the council want to build social housing on, how do we avoid that?  NH - Safeguarded land was allocated in case we ran out of allocated land for building targeted number of houses. We have 10 years of housing land availability before we take the safeguarded land out. We have to use the allocated land before we use the safeguarded. No inspector will authorise the use of safeguarded land when allocated land is still available.  The Neighbourhood Plan is supposed to have policies to support the local area. It can’t deviate from the legal considerations it has to adhere to the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.  PC – You mentioned that you may have to write a new Neighbourhood Plan in the next 5 years, is there any point in Parish Councils writing their own at the moment?  NH – There is no harm in writing a Neighbourhood Plan because once they are written and adopted they will be added into any new Council Neighbourhood Plan.  There were no further questions. CJ thanked NH for his attendance. | | |  |
| **4.** | **Road safety/Neighbourhood Policing**  Road Safety  Marc Hill explained that Rotherham Council Road Safety Team are responsible for engagement with public and ward members re road safety. We cover things like yellow lines, speed limits etc not pot holes.  20mph speed limits are currently in the news, we have over 200 in the borough with more being introduced every year.  Sam Cooper explained that South Yorkshire Police are responsible for speeding, non wearing of seat belt and road collisions.  PC – Thorpe Salvin is becoming a rat run for those avoiding the A57, the speed at which people are travelling through the village is ridiculous. 70% of the village does not have any footpaths. Desperate for help as quoted £200,000 for traffic calming. Ward Cllrs have agreed that the roads are unsafe.  The surface of the speed bumps has also not been maintained. We are getting more and more lorries coming though which is having an impact on road and bumps.  MH - If we put in place a 20mph speed limit then the cost is £25-30,000 but that includes everything. However, it depends on what we are putting in place. If just signs and lines it is not an issue but to get speeds down we need to look at further traffic calming. We then need to look at other issues such as properties nearby.  The local road safety scheme can allocate £120,000 per ward. Ward Cllrs can consult with local residents to find out what traffic calming can be used. Can potentially get 2 different schemes in but some of the larger ones will use all of the money.  PC - We have spoken to Ward Cllr but nothing has been done so far.  MH – I am not aware of any issues in Thorpe Salvin so would suggest speaking to Ward Cllr again.  CJ - Issue with that area is that it covers 4 areas that all have needs. The amount of money available has increased significantly.  PC – I believe that Woodsetts are getting the whole amount.  MH - Woodsetts are getting some money. This money is separate from normal funding and is down to the Ward Cllrs to make that decision.  PC - Surely there should be a process.  MH – It is up to the ward members to decide where the money will be spent.  PC - We are having to buy our own speed flashing light.  MH - The council only have so many but we can move it around for you if you want us to. We can do the design work and put plans in place but the funding is separate.  PC - Woodsetts has been fortunate in being allocated £100,000 we have been working with Andrew Lee and his team for 4 years. We have been advised to speak to Ward Cllrs and have tried for several years. We have finally been successful.  PC – Has Thorpe Salvin worked with police to do speed watch? At Dalton we have done a few and the perception of what a vehicle is actually doing to what you think they are doing can be different.  SC – Community Speed Watch Enforcement historically always been done with a PCSO or Warranted Officer. A trial is currently being held where residents can carry them out themselves, I think this will become normal in the future. If members of the public are recording speeds then a letter or officer would go out to the driver. If a problem is identified in an area then targeted work will be done.  HGV’s on A57 have been reported, There are four Road Policing Teams during office hours solely dealing with road safety. Every 3 months each team has an area they are responsible for. Rotherham will have a team of officers working on road safety during office hours. If you feed these issues into this team they will investigate.  PC – There is a road in Wales that has had numerous accidents lately. There is a dog leg and people take it too quickly. There is a crossing at Morrisons, there was an incident lately where 3 children were using the crossing and a speeding car just avoided them. At what point do Traffic Police investigate these issues?  SC – In terms of individual officers we get a lot of agency about where we can do enforcement. If you have specific concerns about road layout or people’s behaviour then this would be fed into neighbourhoods who can then request support. In terms of fixed and mobile cameras it was previously based on personal injury claims. They have moved away from that as it’s too reactive. As well as personal collisions they are using speed compliant tools. Passive data is gathered from people travelling throughout the area. Enforcement have to have a specific reason to put a van in a place but officers do have a bit more leeway.  Speed cameras cost around £60,000 each.  Unadopted roads are covered under the highway act police can still enforce on those areas. Rotherham Council do not have any power or right to put down road lines of signs on these roads.  PC – I have never seen anybody doing 20mph on a 20mph zone.  MH - If putting signs and lines in we are looking at people doing around 24-25 mph. We are trialling data gathering system in Rotherham. Where some drivers might see the tubes in the roads and slow down this doesn’t work with the new system. We can also pull the data off immediately.  There is another pot of money for small schemes things like road signs, can get directly in touch with Marc and that can be put in place in a matter of weeks. Get in early though as funding goes quick.  RD – I am a temporary Inspector for the Rotherham South Team. If you have any question or concerns please let me know and I will take to relevant team. Natalie our PCSO has taken part in quite a few Speed Watch operations so if anybody is not aware of the process speak to us after the meeting or send an e-mail  At the min PCSO’s can identify the main culprits and advise drivers but we would like warranted officers to attend so enforcement can be carried out. So far 15-20 officers are trained and that will increase. These are not officers who work in Neighbourhoods so they work 24 hours a day which increases opportunities. I am taking the lead on this so looking at hotspot areas. We have recently done a community survey which was distributed throughout Rotherham. The South answered the most, common feedback included what the main concerns were and where. This has enabled us to identify what areas we need to be in and what time.  PC – What is the best way to get incidents reported to the village asap?  CJ – PCSO still attends CAP so I would suggest there.  Engagement is very important but the logistics of being able to share live crime or incidents could cause some issues. We do have the SYP alerts which anybody can access. In the south if areas are identified as suffering from active burglaries then we do try and make ourselves accessible to the public which we think is going well but we are happy to take feedback.  We try to attend every burglary in person. We look to visit not just the victim but neighbours to let them know what has happened and give them safety advice.  At the moment we are advising people to buy old fashioned steering locks. Many cars are now keyless, a steering lock is a visible deterrent. We do try to get out and give crime deterrent advice but it is not going to be in real time. The best way to get this information is SYP alerts and facebook.  Q - What are SYP alerts?  RC – SYP Alerts is a messaging systems so SYP can send out news, appeals, local crime information and/or prevention advice. The service is free and you can sign up at [www.sypalerts.co.uk](http://www.sypalerts.co.uk).  PC – Our Parish Council is concerned about electronic scooters being driven dangerously.  SC – Unfortunately legislation is not keeping up with manufacturers. You need to have insurance and a licence to drive one unless you are part of a scheme.  RD – I recently drove past somebody on a scooter. Couldn’t stop at the time but because we had seen them and had a statement we could go back and prosecute that person. Would encourage residents to forward any photo’s. Can get local officers contact details from the website  [www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/your-neighbourhood-policing-team](http://www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/your-neighbourhood-policing-team) and then clicking on the relevant areas.  SC - We do have an off road bike team so they can go off road and catch up with bikes. If we have evidence that somebody has committed an offence then we will prosecute them if can.  PC - Do you still have an officer who deals with design of crime?  RD - Design out crime officers have a couple stationed at Riverside they specialise in looking at crime prevention, making areas less vulnerable to crime. More than welcome to contact them if you need to, can go through myself.  PC – There is no longer a PCSO in Aston, trouble is that on the website it is still advertising police surgeries in Aston and I am getting people turning up still and having to deal with them and their complaints. Can this either be removed from the website or could somebody start attending?  RD - There have been a couple of PCSO’s who have left the team. As a team we need to establish ourselves and find out what the priorities are. I think those surgeries should be going ahead and will speak to colleagues to try and organise this.  RD – I am temporarily covering the south but permanently in the team so will always be there.  There were no further questions. CJ thanked MH, SC and RD for their attendance. | | |  |
| **5.** | **AOB**  There was no other business | | |  |
| **6.** | **Date and Time of next meeting**  TBC | | |  |