


WENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council Held in the Mechanic's Institute, Wentworth on Monday the 28th April 2025, commenced at 6.30pm.

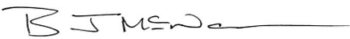
There were 70 members of the public present.

PC/001/25	Members Present. Councillor Mr B. McNamara (Chairman) Councillor Mr S Peace (Deputy Chairman) Councillors Mrs V Sykes, Mrs C Shaw, Mr J Knight, Mr T Hill, Mr D Booth, Mr P Martin. Mr Paul Martin left the meeting at 8.30pm.	
PC/002/25	To receive and approve apologies for absence. There were no apologies for absence received by Councillors	
PC/003/25	Public Participation. The Meeting had to be moved into the hall at the Mechanics Institute, due to the number of attendees. The Chair raised serious concerns that posters, which were advertising a meeting to discuss a planning matter had been circulated throughout the Village and had also been posted on Facebook. Although the posters looked to have been produced by the Parish Council, they had been produced and displayed by a third party, which was very misleading and had caused tension between the Fitzwilliam Estate and the Parish Council, until the situation had been fully explained. The Chair confirmed that the meeting was a Parish Council meeting, and was not a public meeting to discuss a specific planning matter, although there were 3 planning matters on the agenda for discussion by the Parish Council. The Chair welcomed The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates who had attended the meeting in order to answer any queries that arose. The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates confirmed that the Estates had been in discussion with the tenants for the last 6 years. They would be meeting again later in the week. The Fitzwilliam Estate was very aware that the Farm was a home and a livelihood for the family. The farm was one of many businesses that were tenants of the estate. The proposal to develop a hotel, spa and restaurant was intended to attract visitors, which would spend more time and money in the village. The Fitzwilliam Estates understood the concerns about traffic and was therefore proposing the development of a 300 space car park, which would be available for the entire village to use. The Fitzwilliam Estates had consulted with RMBC highways and following discussion, the car park would be developed first. The Fitzwilliam Estate had only received one person contacting them with concerns about the development and disappointingly, they had been very rude to a junior member of staff. The Fitzwilliam Estate were very proud of Wentworth and wanted nothing more than to see it thrive. A member of the public stated that they didn't think that there had been enough coverage about the plans. There were a number of unoccupied properties in the village. What were the estates thoughts about those? The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates replied that there were a number of properties	

Signed as a true record: 
Cllr B. McNamara, Chair of Wentworth Parish Council

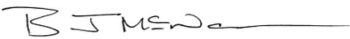
Date of signing: 19th May 2025

	<p>that required significant repairs which needed to be budgeted for. There were 2 vacant farms, which required significant work.</p> <p>The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates stated that Wentworth Woodhouse were also supportive of the plans.</p> <p>The tenant of the Property confirmed that she had found out about the development when she saw people measuring up outside. She had been very disturbed about this since 2018, when there had been a meeting. The Tenants had not been involved at all and she felt that the plans would spoil Wentworth.</p> <p>A member of the public noted that Wentworth Woodhouse had previously discussed a hotel and a spa. The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estate replied that there were no plans for a hotel and spa to be developed by the Woodhouse, they were seeking to develop visitors accommodation.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that they were appalled at how the family had been treated. They were also concerned about traffic, particularly with the proposals for the development of thousands of houses nearby.</p> <p>A member of the public raised that sadly, there had been fatalities on local roads.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that the land was zoned as agricultural land and changing it was a breach of contract. Wentworth had been a quiet village. She also stated that she had been threatened. The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates stated that he had never met the lady before and asked who she had been threatened by. She replied that she would not confirm for her own protection.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that they had concerns about traffic and asked whether the Parish Council would meet specifically to discuss them. They also asked how the new car park would resolve parking issues. Councillor Peace replied that he was a member of the traffic strategy group and traffic would always be an issue in Wentworth. A relationship had been developed with Rotherham Council and a number of meetings had been held. Issues were discussed with implementing traffic calming, but there was an effort to try and approach traffic issues with one voice. The Member of the public thanked Councillor Peace, but felt that this information should have been shared as few were aware that this was happening behind the scenes.</p> <p>A member of the public questioned timescales and statistics concerning damage to vehicles. The Chair replied that the Parish Council receive statistics from RMBC concerning accidents and incidents, and the Parish Council are working hard behind the scenes. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Councillor Rajmund Brent informed the meeting that Borough Councillors held surgeries once a month in Wentworth and Harley, as well as at other locations in order to discuss issues. He went on to say that there was a limit concerning the action that the Parish Council were able to take concerning planning issues. He suggested that all those with concerns should organise themselves, be focused and attend the planning meeting at</p>	
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	<p>Rotherham Council in order to speak and ask questions. He also suggested that everyone view the planning application on RMBC website.</p> <p>A member of the public felt that there had been significant miscommunications. Most of the people that attended the meeting were due to the message that had been placed on Facebook by a third party.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that he edited a magazine and most people of a certain age had no access to or knowledge of social media.</p> <p>A member of the public raised that there had been many valid points, which showed a strength of feeling about this development. Residents needed communication and reassurance.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council met every month and it was unusual to have attendance by members of the public. The Parish Council do listen to peoples concerns and people don't realise how much time the Parish Councillors put into their roles.</p> <p>A member of the public asked what new business this would bring to the Village and what benefits there would be for the community if this application was approved. They were concerned that there would be more traffic and parking issues.</p> <p>The meeting then discussed a traffic impact assessment. It was felt that the majority of users would arrive by car.</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether there would be any S106 or planning gain if the development was approved. They also felt that there should be restrictions concerning the routes that the construction traffic could use.</p> <p>The Chair stated that there was a traffic plan in place concerning the Royal Horticultural Society event, where construction traffic would not be going through the village.</p> <p>Borough Councillor Rajmund Brant suggested a drop in session to allow interested parties to view plans. He understood the strength of feeling within the Community. He went on to say that he attended the majority of Parish Council meetings and urged all present to attend the Borough Councillor Surgeries and go to the Planning meeting with questions and observations. The meeting discussed the statutory planning dates, which were imminent.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that there were inaccuracies in the planning documents, as they stated that no one would be affected by the proposed development.</p> <p>A member of the public raised the meeting between the family and the Estate and asked whether it could be delayed so that the family could have legal representation. The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates replied that it could be delayed.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that there had been a complete lack of communication. The Parish Council couldn't say that it was the public's fault as the public hadn't been aware.</p>	
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	<p>A member of the public asked where the consultation had been concerning Wentworth Woodhouse and the Royal Horticultural Society show. It was a huge event.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the Royal Horticultural Society have a drop in meeting to run through the traffic management plans. 3rd May 2025 at Wentworth Woodhouse. There had been posters sent to the village organisations such as the WVCA & WRA, and also on social media publicity. The member of the public replied that there hadn't been consultation.</p> <p>A member of the public noted that Fitzwilliam Estates was a massive landowner and that it was sad that they did not support farming.</p> <p>A member of the public felt that if this planning application went ahead, every tenant farmer with a 3 generational tenancy would be badly treated.</p> <p>The Chair felt that the Parish Council worked so hard for the community, so criticism hits hard. When inaccuracies were posted on social media, it caused significant issues, so the Parish Council needed to make sure that it got everything right. Social media had been discussed by the Parish Council in the last week or so.</p> <p>The tenant of the property raised concerns that they had not seen the planning notices posted up near the property. The Borough Councillor, Mr Rajmund Brant agreed to take the comments back to planning.</p> <p>There being no further comments or queries from the public, the public participation section of the Parish Council meeting was closed at 7.35pm, following a number of extensions, which had been voted upon by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Chair called for a brief pause, whilst the meeting was moved back into the usual meeting room.</p>	
PC/003/25	<p>Minutes of previous Meetings</p> <p>1 To consider any alteration to the minutes of previous meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Martin had not been present at the previous meeting.</p> <p>2 To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and authorise the chairperson to sign accordingly.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Dan Booth</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Jonathan Knight</p> <p>RESOLVED- the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 17th March 2025 were accepted as a true record and were authorised to be signed by the Chair.</p>	
PC/004/25	<p>To consider the matter of co-option of a Councillor for the Wentworth Ward.</p> <p>The Parish Council had only received one application for the vacancy of Parish Councillor. Mrs Johanna Annetts being the only applicant introduced herself to the Council.</p>	

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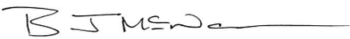
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	<p>Johanna has lived in the Village for five years. She had children and worked for a facilities management company. Johanna had previously served on the Council for two years.</p> <p>The meeting voted unanimously that Johanna be Co-Opted onto the Parish Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED- that Johanna Annetts be co-opted onto the Parish Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED-Johanna Annetts signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office along with the Clerk, and was issued with a Register of Members Interests, to be completed and returned to Rotherham Council.</p>	
PC/005/25	<p>Matters Raised by Parishioners.</p> <p>A pothole had been noted by the Harley car park.</p> <p>It had been noted that the speed humps that had been installed in Harley had resulted in an increase in road noise.</p> <p>It had been noted that some of the new speed signs in Harley were obscured by trees. Photographs would be taken and sent to RMBC.</p>	
PC/006/25	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes.</p> <p>a) GDPR</p> <p>Following on from the recent GDPR breach by the WRA, the Parish Council have still not received an apology for a letter containing personal details of the Chair being posted on Facebook and Notice boards.</p> <p>The Parish Council have concerns about the potential risks associated with this data breach and request immediate clarification regarding the steps that the WRA are taking to prevent a reoccurrence.</p> <p>The Parish Council would also like confirmation regarding the WRA's procedures in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations, especially on how the WRA control what is uploaded and displayed on their Social Media Account.</p> <p>b) To discuss and agree the termination of the football agreements for both Harley and Wentworth.</p> <p>It was agreed to give notice of a month. A letter would be drafted and circulated by Cllr Booth and the matter would be placed on the next agenda.</p> <p>c) To receive an application for funding for a defibrillator.</p> <p>The meeting discussed a request for funding from the Wentworth Residents Association in the sum of £465 for a defibrillator.</p> <p>It was agreed that there had been a lot of background concerning this application.</p> <p>The bank balance of the Wentworth Resident Association was discussed.</p> <p>The cost for the Parish Council to purchase one would be £1,000.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that they were supportive of the application.</p> <p>Following discussion, the following was noted-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The bank balance ● No evidence of active fundraising. ● The Wentworth Residents Association would need to fund the consumables thereafter. <p>RESOLVED that the Parish Council would donate the sum of £250 to the Wentworth Residents Association, subject to proof of purchase being provided.</p>	
PC/007/25	<p>a) Matters raised for and by RMBC</p> <p>To discuss the contents of an email from RMBC concerning Road Safety, and to</p>	

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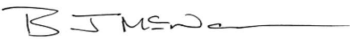
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	agree how to proceed. It was noted that road safety had already been covered.																																																																																						
PC/009/25	<div><div>Financial Matters</div><div>a) Approval of Payments.</div><table><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>422.53</td><td>March Salary</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>105.60</td><td>HMRC</td></tr><tr><td>Everflow</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>31.59</td><td>Everflow Water</td></tr><tr><td>Clerk Expenses</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>29.19</td><td>Stationary</td></tr><tr><td>AWS</td><td>DD</td><td>£</td><td>993.63</td><td>Grounds maintenance</td></tr><tr><td>J Torry</td><td>DD</td><td>£</td><td>35.00</td><td>Window cleaning</td></tr><tr><td>Business Stream</td><td>DD</td><td>£</td><td>0.00</td><td>Water for Pavillion</td></tr><tr><td>EON</td><td>DD</td><td>£</td><td>26.17</td><td>Electricity charges</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr B McNamara</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>500.00</td><td>Chairs Allowance</td></tr><tr><td>RMBC</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>215.28</td><td>Emptying Bin</td></tr><tr><td>Hot Metal Press</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>48.60</td><td>Newsletter Design Charge- PAID</td></tr><tr><td>TKL Skip Hire</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>1,440.00</td><td>2 Skips</td></tr><tr><td>WVCA</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>90.00</td><td>Bunting for VE day event</td></tr><tr><td>BRM</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>33.40</td><td>Photocopying Dispersement</td></tr><tr><td>Clare Smith Internal Audit</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>125.00</td><td>Internal Audit Charge for 2024/25</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr S Peace</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>17.93</td><td>Ink cartridge</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr V Sykes</td><td>BACS</td><td>£</td><td>25.62</td><td>Padlocks</td></tr></table><div><div><div></div><div>The meeting noted the inclusion of the Chairs Allowance, which had been approved by the Parish Council previously.</div></div><div><div></div><div>The Skips had been popular.</div></div><div><div></div><div>BRM was for photocopying charges.</div></div></div><div>RESOLVED- the Parish Council approved the payments to be processed.</div><div><div>b) To receive an update from the Clerk concerning the end of Financial Year and a Budget Report.</div><div>It was noted that there had been a reduction of £11,039.45 in reserves during the Financial Year 2024/25. The Clerk ran through the end of year financial report.</div><div><div>c) To receive an update concerning the 2024/25 Audit.</div><div>The Clerk informed the meeting that the Internal Audit had been completed. The report would be available for the next Parish Council meeting.</div></div></div></div>	Clerk	BACS	£	422.53	March Salary	HMRC	BACS	£	105.60	HMRC	Everflow	BACS	£	31.59	Everflow Water	Clerk Expenses	BACS	£	29.19	Stationary	AWS	DD	£	993.63	Grounds maintenance	J Torry	DD	£	35.00	Window cleaning	Business Stream	DD	£	0.00	Water for Pavillion	EON	DD	£	26.17	Electricity charges	Cllr B McNamara	BACS	£	500.00	Chairs Allowance	RMBC	BACS	£	215.28	Emptying Bin	Hot Metal Press	BACS	£	48.60	Newsletter Design Charge- PAID	TKL Skip Hire	BACS	£	1,440.00	2 Skips	WVCA	BACS	£	90.00	Bunting for VE day event	BRM	BACS	£	33.40	Photocopying Dispersement	Clare Smith Internal Audit	BACS	£	125.00	Internal Audit Charge for 2024/25	Cllr S Peace	BACS	£	17.93	Ink cartridge	Cllr V Sykes	BACS	£	25.62	Padlocks	
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PC/010/25	<div><div>Consideration of Planning Applications.</div><div><div>a) Planning Application RB2025/0324- land & buildings at Home Farm, Gun Park and Granny Clarkes Wood Cortworth Lane, Wentworth- Construction of new building and conversion of existing heritage buildings to hotel, spa, venue space and holiday cottages at Home Farm following demolition of modern agricultural structures.</div><div><div>b) Planning application RB2025/0335- land & buildings at Home Farm, Gun Park</div></div></div></div>																																																																																						

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	<p>and Granny Clarkes Wood Cortworth Lane, Wentworth-Listed Building Consent for conversion of existing Grade II listed buildings to hotel, spa, venue space and holiday cottages.</p> <p>The meeting discussed items a and b together. Following extensive discussion, the following was agreed: A response should be structured in a professional manner. There should be engagement with the Fitzwilliam Estate concerning the applications. All present agreed that they had been elected by the residents of the Village and therefore the Parish Council should act accordingly. The meeting were concerned about the Closure of Public Consultation deadline.</p> <p>RESOLVED that professional advice from a Planning professional be sought. A Budget of up to £2,000 was agreed. RESOLVED- Councillor Booth would check the timings for the Parish Council to be able to submit comments to RMBC Planning Department. RESOLVED- Cllrs McNamara, Peace and Booth to meet with The Head of the Fitzwilliam Estates to ensure engagement with them.</p> <p>c) Planning application RB2025/0396- 39 Harley Road, Harley- Erection of a single storey side and two story rear extension and open porch to front. The meeting agreed that they had no comments. RESOLVED- the Clerk to respond stating that the Parish Council had no comments.</p>	
PC/011/25	<p>Correspondence Received.</p> <p>a) To receive and discuss an application for a memorial bench. The meeting acknowledged receipt of an application for a memorial bench. Local connections were discussed and it was unanimously agreed that this application should be considered. RESOLVED- the Clerk to forward the application to the Church to enquire whether a bench could be installed on Church land.</p> <p>b) To receive and discuss an email enquiring about booking the football pitch. RESOLVED- that the Clerk respond to the email. Unfortunately, the Parish Council were unable to assist due to various issues, including parking.</p>	
PC/012/25	<p>Parish Councillors area of responsibilities and plan. It was agreed that individual Parish Councillors be given the chance to sit down and discuss who would like to take on which areas of responsibilities. It was agreed that bus shelters needed to be looked at. The meeting also agreed that there needed to be consideration of how much time individual Parish Councillors had.</p>	
PC/013/25	<p>Additional Items Authorised by the Chairperson. It was noted that an individual had been caught on camera flytipping on Hoover Lane and would be fined accordingly by Rotherham Metropolitan Brough Council.</p>	
PC/014/25	<p>To start discussions on new issues. Cllr Sykes discussed a variety of kits that could be stored in Defibrillators, including a bleed kit. It was agreed that further research was required. Cllr Peace confirmed that the Insurance was up for renewal on the 14th May.</p>	

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PC/015/25	<p>Diary Dates.</p> <p>The Following dates were noted-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RHS Drop In- Saturday 3rd May 11am-3pm at Wentworth Woodhouse. ● VE Day Events- Thursday 8th May, 8pm – 10pm in Wentworth Village Car Park ● Annual Meeting of the Parish Council- Monday 19th May 6.30pm, The Mechanics Village Hall, Wentworth. ● Plant Sale- Friday the 16th and Saturday the 17th May, 10.30-5.30, Harley Mission. <p>VE Day events-</p> <p>Unfortunately, the catering van would not be attending the VE day event. The Chair was organising the traffic cones to be out for the car park. Also, that the Chair will be assisting the beacon to be filled with wood for the lighting of Beacon on the VE evening</p> <p>Cllr Annett will put the event on Facebook. The Chair will send a poster through to her.</p>	
PC/016/25	<p>Date and time of next meeting- the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday the 19th May 2025 at 6.30pm</p>	

The Meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.

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