

WENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of
Wentworth Parish Council which was held in The Mechanic's Institute
Main Street, Wentworth, at 6.30pm on Monday 19th January 2026

Apologies: Borough Cllr Rajmund Brent
Tracey White RMBC.
Parish Councillor Peace, Parish Councillor J. Annetts

Members of the Public: Three

Also In Attendance: Rebecca Maindonald, Parish Clerk.

PC/180/25 **Members present.**

Councillor Mr B. McNamara (Chairman)

Councillors Mr D. Booth, Mr T. Hill, Mr J. Knight, Mr P. Martin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs V Sykes.

PC/181/25 **Absence.**

a) To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr Steve Peace and Cllr Mrs Johanna Annetts.

b) To consider the reasons for absence given by Councillors.

RESOLVED to approve the reasons for absence.

PC/182/25 **Disclosures of Interest & Dispensations.**

To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 from Members or Officers and to consider any dispensation requests received by the Clerk under the Localism Act 2011 s33.

None were declared.

PC/183/25 **Public Participation.**

There were three members of the public.

MOP 1- discussed signage and cameras. The Chair agreed to check with RMBC.

Councillors agreed that residents were genuinely concerned for their own safety.

MOP2- The meeting discussed access to the fishing lake off Street Lane which had recently been closed off and a that a combination lock installed on the gate. Councillors thought fishing access may have been given to a different syndicate, which had promoted the closure. The Chair agreed to investigate.

MOP3- queried whether there was any action that could be taken about anti-social behaviour and it was queried whether RMBC had Anti-Social Behaviour Officers.

Following discussion, it was suggested that the MOPs also visit Borough Councillors at their surgery's which are held every first Saturday in the month at 09.30am at the Mechanics Hall Wentworth, and also at 11.00am at The Mission Rooms in Harley and raise it with them.

MOP 2 and 3 Went on to discuss parking on Street Lane. It had been suggested that consideration be given to creating parking, and installing a mirror directly across the road.

MOP 2- raised concerns about recent events that had caused road closures with very little communication.

The Chair advised that there was a plan of all events that the Parish Council are aware of on the Parish Council Website, and on the Parish Councils Facebook page, Cllr Peace (who had sent his apologies) arranges regular meetings with all affected parties. Cllr Peace liaises regularly with Wentworth Woodhouse and was advised of all events. The three members of the public withdrew from the meeting.

- PC/184/25 **To receive and consider matters raised for and by RMBC.**
Cllr Knight had been asked to raise issues concerning parking at bottom end of the village in Harley. He agreed to raise it with Borough Councillors at the next surgery.
- PC/185/25 **To receive and consider matters raised for and by Fitzwilliam Estate.**
Cllr Knight had received complaints from dog walkers from Back Lane in Harley, who were walking dogs on leads, where others were disregarding the signage. It was agreed that this matter should be reported to the Estate.
It was noted that there had been some new signs erected by the estates.
It was also noted that some fencing and a new kissing gate had been installed as well.
- PC/186/25 **Minutes of previous meetings.**
a) To consider any alterations to the minutes of the previous meeting
A number of minor alterations were requested.
b) To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and authorise the Chairperson to sign accordingly
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15th December 2025 were accepted as a true record and were authorised to be signed by the Chairman.
- PC/187/25 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**
168- discussed the stencils that had been painted on pavements.
Safeguarding- Paul has messaged the training organiser and some certificates will be obtained. There was discussion concerning payment.
It was requested that the Clerk obtain a draft Safeguarding Policy and forward it to Cllr Martin.
Wentworth Pavilion- The first invoice had been received from the contractor. The Council were awaiting the first payment from the Charity for £10,000.
Cllr Shaw informed the Parish Council that Freemasons did not financially assist Parish Council projects.
It was noted that there was a plan to produce a Parish Council newsletter for January.
Cllr Booth was arranging a meeting with the Cricket Club, but was experiencing difficulty contacting them as there had been no response. It was agreed that the Wentworth Pavilion refurbishment was due to be completed by the 20th March, so there was a need to have charges agreed as soon as possible. Following discussion, it was agreed that charge should be in the region of £3,000.
The Meeting discussed that the lease had increased as well as the electricity bill. It was agreed that £3,000 for the Cricket Club could be easily justified. Cllrs Booth and Knight agreed to itemise the £3,000 usage charge for the Cricket Club.
The meeting discussed whether to have Wi-Fi installed at the Pavilion, and agreed to wait for now.
The Chair confirmed that he had compiled all the necessary Construction Design & Management (CDM) documents for the Wentworth Pavilion refurbishment work and had forwarded to the Contractor.
It was noted that a formal letter should be produced for Audit purposes appointing Cllr McNamara as the Principal Designer under the CDM Regulations. Cllr Booth will liaise with the Clerk.
The Chair confirmed that he now had a list of all gov.uk email addresses, and the new website was up and running. The Chair will send out access instructions to all Councillors for the gov.uk email addresses, which he wanted Councillors to be using by no later than the 31st March. It was agreed to hold a training session for all those who were unable to set their email address up.

Skips are all organised. Unsure whether there will be funding available.
175- He skips had been organised for the 18th April. The Chair confirmed that a response concerning funding hadn't yet been received from Borough Cllr Brent.

Financial Matters**a) Approval of Payments for January**

Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
105	Utilities	06/01/2026	Current	Water- Wentworth Pavilion	Everflow	28.53	0.00	28.53
106	Utilities	06/01/2026	Current	Electricity- Wentworth	EDF	41.85	2.09	43.94
112	Open Spaces	08/01/2026	Current	Grass Cutting	AWS	828.02	165.61	993.63
115	Staff Costs	19/01/2026	Current	Tax Deductions	HMRC	269.99	0.00	269.99
109	Utilities	19/01/2026	Current	Electricity- Harley Pavillion	EON	24.10	1.20	25.30
116	Other/Miscellaneous	19/01/2026	Current	Defibrillator Pads	Johanna Annetts	133.32	26.66	159.98
111	Other/Miscellaneous	19/01/2026	Current	Defib- Glass Cleaning	J Torry	35.00	0.00	35.00
114	Other/Miscellaneous	19/01/2026	Current	Bank Charge	Lloyds Bank	4.75	0.00	4.75
107	Other/Miscellaneous	19/01/2026	Current	Cricknet Pavilion Refurbishment	GM Jones	9,400.00	1,880.00	11,280.00
108	Other/Miscellaneous	19/01/2026	Current	Scribe	Starboard Systems	12.00	2.40	14.40
110	Staff Costs	31/01/2026	Current	Salary	Rebecca Maindonald	348.82	0.00	348.82

RESOLVED that the Council approved payments to be processed.

b) Bank Reconciliation for December

Current Account - £12,005.11

32 day notice account £35,163.47

Trade account - £20,000

c) Financial Report for December

The Clerk ran through the financial report for December. There were no questions.

Receipts-£174.29

Payments-£2,795.97

d) To consider the 2026/27 Draft Budget

The Clerk presented the draft budget to the meeting for discussion and asked that members carefully consider whether they were of the opinion that any savings could be made.

Working through the figures line by line, the Parish Council agreed that there was little room for reduction. General increases in costs over the years, along with income that had been below requirements had resulted in the Parish Council being in a position where a large increase was required. It was agreed that reserves were not sufficient this year to be able to absorb costs. Income had reduced, in part, due to the Wentworth Pavilion being unavailable for use.

It was questioned whether Election costs were included in the budget. The Clerk replied that there was no budget line for this at the moment, however a portion of any year end surplus could be transferred to an earmarked reserve for future election costs, if agreed by the Council. Councillor Martin asked whether the budget included any allowance for Grants. After discussion, the Council unanimously agreed that it could not support a further increase in the Precept in order to be able to provide Grant funding.

It was agreed that the budget would be placed on the Website, along with an explanation.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council unanimously agreed the budget for 2026/27.

e) To consider and agree the setting of the 2026/27 Precept.

The meeting requested the band D Calculation, as well as a schedule of increases for previous years. It was also requested that a document be sent to all Councillors detailing the increase.

The Chair proposed a precept demand in the sum of £32,000, a 26.48% increase from 2025/26 figure of £25,300. This was seconded by Cllr Shaw.

RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to submit the Precept Demand to Rotherham Borough Council in the sum of £32,000.

This was unanimously supported by the Council.

To consider Planning applications.

a) RB2025/1669- Way Side, Kirby Lane, Wentworth- Prior notification for an enlargement of a dwelling house for an additional storey to overall height of 9.4m.

There were no objections to the application.

b) RB2025/1662- Wentworth Park, Wentworth Woodhouse, Cortworth Lane, Wentworth.

Listed Building Consent for internal alterations/restorations and installation of air source heat to roof.

There were no objections to the application.

The meeting noted planning applications that had been submitted earlier in the day for Rockingham Cottage and Wentworth Woodhouse and had no comments to make.

Correspondence and emails received.

There were no matters raised

PC/191/25

Parish Councillors areas of Responsibilities and Parish Council Plan.

Cllr Peace had sent his apologies, but had submitted a report for the Chair of the Council to run through.

Cllr Sykes asked who owned the bench at bottom of Church Drive on the right hand side, it was confirmed that it is maintained by the Parish Council in which it is on the bench location plan. There had been an enquiry about who would be responsible for the maintenance of the bench, once the family had passed on. It was agreed that ultimately it would be the Parish Council who would maintain the bench.

Cllr Sykes had received a message from Ben Brown who uses the Harley Pavilion, requesting if he could store his Kettlebells there. Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that he could not store the kettlebells within the pavilion, also, that he would be able to have two sessions at the Pavilion with the thanks from the Parish Council for arranging the Safeguarding training.

The meeting discussed a consultation period that was opening concerning the Wentworth War Memorial.

Cllr Sykes discussed an article about Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), suggesting that an online public event be held instructing people in CPR. There are three associations who would do it. Parish Councillors agreed that training should be done in person, not via a you tube video, but agreed that this should be publicised through Facebook and the Website. Cllr Knight discussed noticeboards, he noted that the bus shelters had been cleaned and grit bins had been filled.

Cllr Martin mentioned Safeguarding Policy.

PC/192/25

To receive an update on the building progress, work a Wentworth Pavilion.

The Chair confirmed that there was nothing further to discuss.

PC/193/25

To receive an update concerning the Harley Pavilion

This matter had concluded.

PC/194/25

Additional Items Authorised by the Chairperson.

The Chair confirmed that he had sent an email to the Estate about the Wentworth Pavilion lease. He confirmed that the lease for field ends in 2028. The RMBC Taxation Officer had confirmed that the Parish Council don't own any non- domestic premises.

Cllr Knight confirmed that after looking into rules and regulations, as the tenant of the unit, if rates were payable on building and field, The Parish Council would be the responsible party, due to holding the lease. In his opinion, the Parish Council potentially do hold a rateable building, but it has been agreed that it is deemed not to be rateable.

It was agreed to review the lease in 2027. The Chair will continue to discuss with RMBC Rating department.

PC/195/25

To start discussions on new issues (Council members only) No decisions can be passed during this item.

No matters were raised.

PC/196/25

To note diary dates.

No dates were discussed.

PC/197/25

Date and time of the next meeting- Monday 16th February 2026

The Chair declared the Meeting closed at 21.00.

Signed as a true record *B J McNamara*

Cllr B. McNamara, Chair of Wentworth Parish Council

Date of Signing: 16th February 2026