



Anston Parish Council Meeting – 21st September 2020

Briefing Paper – General

Agenda Item 3 – Hedgehog Friendly Communities

A local resident, Hannah Tingle, contacted us recently to ask for the opportunity to speak at a meeting of the Council about Hedgehog Friendly Communities and we are facilitating that with this agenda item. The Parish Council having a duty to consider the preservation of conserving biodiversity in carrying out its functions.

Agenda Item 7(a) – Casual Vacancy on Parish Council

The date for local electors to call for an election to fill the vacancy is 18th September and so by the time of the Parish Council meeting on 21st September we will know whether we will be able to co-opt now to fill the vacancy or whether it will be filled at the ordinary elections in May 2021.

Agenda Item 7(b) Membership of Finance & General Purposes Committee

In her internal audit report for the 2019/2020 financial year the internal auditor suggested that we increase the membership of the Committee from nine members in order to reduce the risk of the Committee being inquorate (its current quorum being five).

Agenda Item 7(c) Vacancy on the Allotments Committee

Following the resignation of Cllr Prendergast there remains a vacancy on the Committee which could usefully be filled.

Agenda Item 9(b) Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Draft Supplementary Planning Documents

RMBC is currently consulting with about a number of draft supplementary planning documents to form part of the planning framework for the district. The deadline for responses was 14th September but RMBC have given us permission to submit any comments we may have after our meeting. I forwarded an e-mail about the consultation on 17th August.

Agenda Items 9(e), (f) and (g) – Government Planning Consultations

On 17th August I circulated information from the National Association of Local Councils about three planning related consultations currently being carried out by the Government. More information about them can be found on the websites below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907215/200805_Changes_to_the_current_planning_system_FINAL_version.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907213/Call_for_evidence_on_Contractual_Controls.pdf

Agenda Item 10 – YLCA South Yorkshire Branch Meeting 28th October 2020

The date of the branch meeting has been changed from 7th October to Wednesday 28th October at 6.45pm. The meeting will take place remotely using the Go To Meetings system. Cllrs Bentley and Thornton are our representatives to branch meetings.

Agenda Item 11 – Annual Bonfire & Fireworks Display Thursday 5th November 2020

Over the summer I have liaised with the company who provide our annual fireworks display to see if the event could be run in Covid-19 secure way. Whilst theoretically possible it is hard to see how it could be done so in practice. This and factors beyond our control mean that I am recommending that the Council cancel the event this year. The fireworks company have indicated that the deposit for the event would carry over to the 2021 event. Specific matters to consider relating to the above include:

- Ours is an un-ticketed event and trying to take the contact details of those attending on the night for 'track and trace' purposes would be difficult, cause queues on to Ryton Road and possibly lead to frustration from those attempting to enter the venue.
- The event could be made a ticketed (if still free) event but even if it was it is possible that large numbers people would still attempt to enter the venue of the night.
- To create a one way system and maintain social distancing at the venue would require much more lighting, infrastructure and marshalling than we have at our disposal.
- The number of rides and refreshment facilities would have to be reduced if present at all.
- The Parish Hall needs to be kept Covid-19 secure and that would mean limiting the numbers of people accessing the building for toilets etc on the night which might cause additional queues and other problems.

- Many of those who marshal and volunteer at the event may not wish or be able to attend the event due to health & safety concerns.
- The NHS staff who provide our first aid cover may be deployed elsewhere.
- RMBC and other local authorities have already cancelled similar events.
- National restrictions on events relating to Covid-19 are likely to increase between now and 5th November.
- The authorities have the power to stop events taking place if they think they would spread Covid-19. Therefore even if we were to plan a Covid-19 secure event then it could be cancelled by others on the day.

Recommendation: That the Council cancel the 2020 Bonfire & Fireworks Night Display

Chris Pilkington
Clerk to Anston Parish Council
18th September 2020