

## **PENISTONE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY**

**7pm 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHURCH STREET, PENISTONE S36 6AR**

In the Mayors absence the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor of Penistone, Cllr. Jon Cutts; who delivered a brief overview and the Minutes were noted by the Town Clerk, Mr Nigel Bailey.

- DOCUMENTS SHARED; Previous meeting minutes from April 2024 / New bank hub flyer / latest Paramount brochure and the new community police speeding initiative.
- Welcome to all in attendance and approval of the minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were signed by the Deputy Mayor chairing the meeting and witnessed by the Clerk.
- The chair opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and councillors and Penistone Town Council office staff.
- The Chair made it clear that the Town Assembly is not a council meeting but a meeting for the towns people. Where the towns people can discuss any matter, they wish at the meeting. It was noted that attendees wishing to raise issues and worries about matters pertaining to the Penistone area were shared with Penistone Town Council whilst understand the Council's legal responsibilities and their limitations.
- The Speech was presented and shared and accepted by the people in attendance – five being from the local public alongside four councillors including the chair, the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk. It was also made clear in the town assembly meeting that another public meeting detailing the works of the council would be arranged and shared in late June 2025 in the newly refurbished Community Centre, where a more formal update would be delivered about changes that have been taking place across the councils' assets.
- It was raised that there were concerns about the capacity and the need for increased infrastructure for half hourly trains to be running on the Penistone Line either way how would it happen and is there any need? The Clerk made it clear it wasn't the Councils responsibility however had worked hard with Sarah Wells the new PLP lead who had been communicating about this especially since the latest press release. The 48 million gifted from the Government is still available but falls some 70% short of the required monies required to make this project work by adding extra passing places, loops and other upgrades to make this happen. As well as a serious bottle neck at Sheffield station. This is merely the very early stepping stones to get basic infrastructure in place and improve stations along the line, particularly in west Yorkshire. Clerk followed up and received information pertaining to this, see separate email.
- Concerns were raised around the landowner ship and interchange options at the side of the station owned by Yorkshire Land, again the Clerk was able to explain the situation regarding this matter and how it was being pushed by Sarah and the PLP & West Yorkshire Metro team. The hope for an interchange increased Parking a crossing bring access to Springvale to the station are all the grand plans but land ownership and the money to deliver the infrastructure remain a key issue. Adoption of the station is a key priority to get more support. Sarah aware of this issue and is following these matters up accordingly. Planning has now lapsed and although this is on the radar it requires a substantial number of official teams to come together and discuss a way forward as well as the fact the again the money required at the time to deliver this project falls significantly short considering recent significant increases. Clerk followed up with PLP.

- There continues to be issues around bad/ double parking in and around Penistone causing problems for the buses to reach Cubley which have already been significantly reduced and on an evening now only run two hourly from 6pm. This has been followed up by the Clerk after attending Several PACT meetings. Wardens have been increased in the area and parking has becoming challenging from the privatisation of the Tesco parking and the new ARMP system being fitted as well as the closure of the private car park at SJCC potentially exacerbating this further. The clerk in close communication with Damon Brown from BMBC and following these matters up accordingly. The Clerk explained the police are making drops when they can to look at parking in town centre and tackle double parking and new signs have been put up by the fire service in the areas that have been particularly affected. Damon brown has been in meetings with the police and Stagecoach about the issues and a focussed effort is taking place around this bottle neck area on Park Avenue and other identified areas. Regarding buses the deregulation of these may help people to interject nearer the time at looking at what the area needs and work alongside the MP to get the right outcome for the Town.`
- It was raised by a resident from Springvale about the issues of Knotweed in the area encroaching upon the upper Don water catchment area. This has been flagged with BMBC who are actioning the licensed poison to push this back, but it is growing rapidly probably due to warmer weather and more people accidentally spreading and accessing as it is close to public footpaths, as well as flood, extra warmth and houses being built in this area. The priority concern was around Springvale Garden area as well as areas in Oxspring and how it is rapidly spreading up the upper Don Catchment area. Oxspring has many patches of isolated private land that are owned by Thornley Taylors Estate and Yorkshire Land for example, and they are notoriously difficult to get hold of and seem very disinterested in doing anything about the matter. The Chair suggested contacting the Ward Alliance teams for BMBC both East and West and the Clerk would follow this up as a matter of urgency with the Penistone West team. The growth of the weed is exceedingly rapid and what you see above the ground is the tip of the iceberg compared with the root system which damages wildlife variety as well as rendering foundations on buildings unstable and therefore uninsurable. Clerk followed up with Elaine Equeall BMBC Ward Alliance West Team. 19/5/25

The meeting closed at 7:34pm.

Signed.....Chair, Penistone Annual Town Assembly  
09 March 2026