

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2025 at 6.30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall, chaired by the Chairman, Councillor Jones.

Present: Councillors B Callear, K Jay, M Jones, S Lilley, D Rowley, P Whitworth and G O'Carroll (Clerk).

In attendance: Twenty-two members of the public were present.

01/25	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.
	Apologies received from Councillor Jupp.
(b)	To consider reasons for absence provided by councillors who cannot attend and resolve the council's acceptance of these if felt relevant.
	Councillor Jupp was absent from the meeting due to work commitments. The Council RESOLVED to accept this explanation for the absence.
02/25	DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS
(a)	To receive disclosures by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and any other relevant interests under the Members' Code of Conduct.
	No declarations were made.
(b)	To receive and decide upon request for dispensations to councillors to take part in discussions and votes where they have declared disclosable pecuniary interests.
	No declarations were made.
03/25	ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS - To identify any agenda items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public, Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2)).
	No items identified.
04/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
05/25	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
	To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 5 December 2024 (attached).
	The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2024 be a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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06/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.
	No matters identified.
07/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Consideration of Proposed Term Dates for 2026/27
	The Council noted the information received, and raised no comments or objections.
(b)	Review of Rotherham Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Council Tax Premiums for 2025/26.
	The Council noted the consultation information and had shared this information on the Council's Facebook page.
(c)	Additional Item: Letter of Thanks from the Royal British Legion for the £130.00 Donation.
	The Council acknowledged the receipt of the letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion for the £130.00 donation. It was noted that the funds were raised through sponsorship of the lamppost poppies.
08/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
	No matters raised.
09/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Whitestone Solar Farm – public meeting Monday 20 January 2025 - 6:00pm, Wickersley Community Centre.
	It was initially published that this meeting would be open to the public; however, it was later clarified that the meeting was only for Wickersley and Ravenfield Parish Councils and Whitestone Solar Farm representatives. Whitestone Solar Farm apologised for the miscommunication and recommended that the public attend the consultations held at the Lord Conyers Arms in Conisbrough on Monday 13 January 2025, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, or at the Consort Suite in Thurcroft on Tuesday 14 January 2025, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. Councillor Rowley agreed to chair the meeting at Wickersley Community Centre on Monday 20 January 2025. All Parish Councillors will attend this meeting. Parish Councillors Jay, Rowley and Whitworth will attend the public consultation in Conisbrough. The outcome of this meeting will be fed back to the Council at the February Council meeting.
(b)	Christmas Light Switch On – December 2025 – to consider arrangements and set a date and time of this event.
	The 2024 Christmas light switch on event was well attended, and thanks were expressed to Bramley Brass Band and the children from Ravenfield Primary Academy for their contributions. The Council discussed the possibility of holding the event slightly earlier this year to maximise the duration of the Christmas light display. The proposed date for the 2025 event is Friday 21 November. Action: Clerk to consult with the Cavalier pub, Ravenfield Primary Academy and Bramley Brass Band.

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	<p>Comments were received from parishioners praising the appearance of the lights. It was noted that during the last week of December, the lights at the bottom of the conifer tree were not visible, possibly due to weather conditions or strong winds.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to pass on the feedback to Christmas Plus.</p>
10/25	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:</p>
(a)	<p>PPR PLS Music Licence – to receive the renewal fees.</p> <p>The annual music usage includes one event of the Christmas Pantomime. The Council RESOLVED to renew the PPL PRS Music Licence for a further twelve months. Total cost £224.18 (exc VAT).</p>
(b)	<p>Christmas Pantomime 2024 – to receive feedback from the Beauty and the Beast mini panto held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 15 December 2024.</p> <p>The pantomime was a great success, with tickets selling out in less than two weeks. Feedback received indicated that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and the free refreshments and snacks was very well received.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to continue with this annual event, as interest appears to be growing. Due to the quick ticket sales last year, many people were unable to attend. The Council instructed the Clerk to proceed with booking this year's performance and to inquire about the possibility of holding two sessions on the same day to accommodate more attendees.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to contact Chaplin Pantos and report back with available options and costs at the next Council meeting.</p>
11/25	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:</p>
(a)	<p>Closure of Old Council Email Accounts – to obtain confirmation from Councillors that their email accounts held on the Yahoo.com platform can be closed.</p> <p>Councillors present confirmed that they have transferred all important emails to their new gov.uk accounts and authorised the Clerk to close the yahoo.com email account. Councillor Jupp had previously granted approval.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk will ensure the Unity Trust Bank have updated their contact details before closing the Yahoo.com accounts.</p>
12/25	<p>REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:</p>
(a)	<p>Request for consideration of financial assistance, to complete the purchase of perimeter fencing of the Ravenfield Allotments.</p> <p>Before the meeting began, Ward Councillor Gregory Reynolds informed the Council that the Ward Councillors were funding the remaining section of perimeter fencing for the Ravenfield Allotments. No allotment representative was present at the meeting, and it was assumed that the Allotment Committee no longer required financial assistance.</p>

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13/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
	Residents have reported directly to Councillors that the vegetation on the strip of land between the Redrow site and Longfield Drive has been cut back but not removed, leaving a pile of unsightly vegetation. Residents have requested a meeting with Councillors and Redrow representatives on-site to discuss the matter further, including the increase in rats. Action: Clerk to request a site meeting with Redrow.
14/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
15/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications: RB2024/1738 – 21 Braithwell Road, Ravenfield. Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Plan Portal
	No Comments or objections were raised.
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
16/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
17/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	South Yorkshire Branch – Bus Reform – Public Consultation
	The information was noted and has been shared on the Councils Facebook page.
18/25	FINANCIAL MATTERS – To receive and approve the following:
(a)	Update on the Council's finances
	The Council noted and approved.
(b)	Payments to be made
	The Council RESOLVED that the payments, as presented, be approved and made accordingly.
(c)	Budget 2025/2026 – to review the draft budget
	The draft budget for 2025/2026 was reviewed, and the Council RESOLVED that the shortfall in revenue and expenditure will be covered by the reserves.
(d)	Precept 2025/2026. To receive the Council Tax Base Rate and set the Parish Council Precept.
	The Council RESOLVED to increase the Parish Council Precept for the financial year 2025-2026 by 4.5%. This will result in a total precept of £53,496.69.

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19/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next meeting, Thursday 13 February 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be held on Thursday 13 February 2025 at 6:30pm.
20/25	ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING - To agree on items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.
21/25	DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM(S) FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED - To discuss and take decisions about any agenda item(s) for which the press and public have been excluded
22/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 8:10pm.

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Ravenfield Parish Council

Public Participation 9 January 2025

1. **Woodlathes Balancing Pond**

Residents asked why we have to keep chasing Persimmon Homes to fulfil their obligation to maintain the pond as outlined in the maintenance agreement? This should be done routinely.

Action: Clerk to contact MP John Healey to ask his intervention, and to look at involving Rotherham MBC for them to consider taking over this maintenance agreement.

2. **Snow Wardens / Gritting**

Residents reported a lack of gritting in the area during icy and snowy weather conditions, and complaints about insufficient number of grit bins, with some bins found to contain cigarette ends and frozen grit sand. A request was made for additional grit bins.

Residents were encouraged to report any complaints directly to Rotherham MBC via their website, including requests for new grit bins. It was noted that Snow Warden volunteers can contact Rotherham MBC to sign up

3. **White Stone Solar Farm**

One resident from Old Ravenfield shared a letter received regarding the consultation but reported only 19 out of 61 properties received this letter.

Whitestone Solar Farm had previously advised the Clerk that they were unable to leaflet drop in the area as it was too near the consultation end date.

4. **Pop-Up Café – Christmas**

Although the Pop-up Café and Ravenfield Community Plan Group have closed, a request was made by a volunteer to hold a pop-up café in December, with the Council organising the event. The event would include the supply of cakes for resale, along with refreshments and a brass band. Volunteers agreed to run the event. The Council **RESOLVED** to hold the pop-up café event and cover the associated costs:

- Brass Band: £100.00
- Budget for cakes and refreshments: £100.00

It is hoped that the costs will be recovered through the sale of cakes and beverages.

The proposed date for the event is Sunday 21 December 2025 10:30am - 12:30pm.

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