

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2025 at 6.30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall, chaired by the Chairman, Councillor Jones.

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

In attendance: Thirteen members of the public were present.

23/25	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.
	Apologies received from Councillor Whitworth.
(b)	To consider reasons for absence provided by councillors who cannot attend and resolve the council's acceptance of these if felt relevant.
	Councillor Whitworth was absent from the meeting due to being unwell. The Council RESOLVED to accept this explanation for the absence.
24/25	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.
	Councillor Jupp declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (e) Ravenfield Tennis Courts – To receive the results of the community survey. Councillor Jones and Councillor Jupp declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 (a) – Request for consideration of financial assistance to complete the purchase of perimeter fencing of the Ravenfield Allotments.
(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.
	Councillor Jupp would like to share information about personal interest in Ravenfield Tennis Courts. The Council RESOLVED that Councillor Jones and Councillor Jupp be excluded from voting in matters relating to Agenda Item 12 (a), as both Councillors hold an allotment plot.
25/25	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)).
	Agenda Item 11 (b) - Review Caretakers Contracted Hours.

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26/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
27/25	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 9 January 2025 (attached). The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2025 be a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The Council also approved the new layout of the minutes.
28/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting. Reference Minute 09/25 (b) – Christmas Light Switch On. The Clerk confirmed that The Cavalier, Ravenfield Primary Academy School Choir, and Bramley Brass Band have all confirmed their availability for the Ravenfield Christmas Light Switch-On, scheduled for Friday, 21 November 2025.
29/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Cedar Drive Access Issues - Restricted access due to double-parked vehicles, exacerbated by contractor activity at the Braithwell Road construction site. South Yorkshire Community Police confirmed at the Bramley and Ravenfield CAP Meeting (held on 7 February 2025) that they have also received this complaint, visited the reporting resident, assessed the situation, and determined that no further action is necessary.
(b)	CCTV Request – Consideration of residents' request for CCTV installation in Ravenfield following reports of burglary and car thefts. A request for CCTV was received from a parishioner following social media posts about an increase in theft and burglary in Ravenfield. Data from the CAP meeting reported 2 car thefts and 1 attempted burglary in Ravenfield during January 2025. Information was obtained from the CCTV Project Manager at Rotherham MBC. The estimated cost per camera ranged from £1,700 to £2,100, depending on the type, with an installation cost of £80 per camera. The monthly SIM card cost was estimated at £12 per camera, with four cameras anticipated. It was noted that South Yorkshire Neighbourhood Police and the Rotherham Council Community Protection Unit can access the footage, though the cameras are not monitored live. Action: The Clerk to investigate other locations where similar cameras are installed and obtain details on their effectiveness. South Yorkshire Community Police proposed holding an information day in Ravenfield but require a high-footfall indoor location due to the number of leaflets and display items. The Council needs to consider suitable dates and locations for this event.
30/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Hollings Lane Play Area – Installation of replacement play equipment parts.

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	HAGS Ltd has successfully replaced all identified parts requiring replacement due to safety and wear concerns. Ravenfield Youth Charity approved the payment for these costs at the meeting on 10 October 2024.
(b)	Review Hire Fee of Hollings Lane Recreational Grounds.
	The Council RESOLVED to increase hire fees by 5% commencing 1 April 2025.
(c)	Hire of Hollings Lane Recreational Grounds on Saturday 17 May 2025 – To receive an application for hire from Bramley Sunnyside JFC.
	The Council RESOLVED this hire subject to the following conditions: no amplified music is played (including from rides), event organisers place cones on the main road, an event license is obtained from Rotherham MBC, and copies of all relevant insurance certificates are submitted to the Council on or before the scheduled meeting on Thursday, 8 May 2025.
31/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Whitestone Solar Farm – Update from Parish Councillors on recent consultations and meetings.
	Councillors met with a representative from Whitestone Solar Farm and Wickersley Parish Council at Wickersley Community Centre on 20 January 2025. A statutory public consultation is scheduled for Autumn 2025. The scale of the proposal and its potential impact on Rotherham, including Ravenfield and surrounding villages, was noted. Proposals for smaller solar farms at Ulley and Hooton Roberts were also discussed. Concerns were raised that multiple smaller solar farms, alongside the large Whitestone proposal, could result in a greater overall impact on land use. Ward Councillor Liz Duncan acknowledged these concerns and is in discussion with Rotherham MBC. Action: The Clerk to list the solar farm as a standing agenda item for future meetings. An article informing parishioners of the proposal to be included in the annual parish newsletter.
(b)	Woodlathes Balancing Pond – Review resident provided information and photographs following recent maintenance work by contractors.
	The recent work carried out by contractors instructed by Persimmon Homes is deemed unsatisfactory. Photographs were circulated before the meeting. Issues noted include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond was not dredged. • Missing fence rails were not replaced. • A broken tree branch remains dangling into the pond. As per the maintenance agreement, if the developer fails to meet its obligations, Yorkshire Water should intervene. Action: The Clerk to contact MP John Healey to request his assistance in notifying Yorkshire Water of the situation.
32/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	PAT Testing – Invitation for Parish Hall Users (Tuesday 11 February 2025, 10:00am – 12:00pm)

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	All Parish Hall users were invited to attend PAT testing conducted by the Caretaker. Due to the number of appliances, a separate session was arranged for the Sewing Group on Friday, 14 February. The Parish Hall kitchen kettle failed the PAT test. Action: Clerk to purchase a replacement kettle.
(b)	Christmas Pantomime 2025 – to receive provisional booking details and associated costs of Red Riding Hood mini pantomime, scheduled to take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 13 December 2025.
	The cost of one pantomime is £962.00 excluding VAT, while the cost for two pantomimes on the same day is £1,731.60 excluding VAT. The Council RESOLVED to proceed with booking one pantomime, scheduled for Saturday, 13 December 2025, at 5:30pm. An application for funding from Ward Councillors will be submitted in the new financial year. The funding will be sourced from ticket sales at £4.00 each, with the remaining costs covered by Ward Councillors and the Parish Council. The Council RESOLVED that the Clerk secure the booking by payment of a £200.00 exc VAT deposit.
(c)	Review of Ravenfield Parish Hall Hire Fees.
	The Council RESOLVED all hire fees increase by 5%, to assist in the rise of ongoing running costs of the Hall. The new fees will take effect from 1 April 2025.
33/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting.
	The Council RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 6 March 2025 at 6:30pm, in Ravenfield Parish Hall.
(b)	Review Caretakers Contracted Hours.
	The Council RESOLVED to increase the Caretakers contracted hours by one hour per week.
(c)	Community Speed Watch Scheme.
	Information shared by South Yorkshire Police was reviewed. The Council considers it a good idea, but it is dependent on obtaining sufficient volunteers. It was suggested to have two volunteer groups, one for Old Ravenfield and one for Ravenfield. Action: The Clerk to register interest with the Community Watch Scheme and advertise for volunteers to come forward.
(d)	Christmas Pop-up Café, Sunday 21 December 2025. To approve the event and associated costs.
	The Council RESOLVED to approve a budget of £200 for the purchase of cakes, refreshments, and the brass band. A portion of this cost is expected to be recovered through the sale of cakes and refreshments.
(e)	Ravenfield Tennis Courts – To receive the results of the community survey.
	A total of 52 responses were received, with the majority from Ravenfield residents and a small number from neighbouring villages. Overall, parishioners view the tennis courts as a valuable community asset, with 26% offering to volunteer for the maintenance and operation of the courts.

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	Councillor Jupp reported that she has been in discussions with the trustees of Ravenfield Tennis Club and is in the process of taking over the management. Modernisation works are required to improve the facilities. Councillor Jupp will provide details of the proposed opening event.
34/25	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Request for consideration of financial assistance, to complete the purchase of perimeter fencing of the Ravenfield Allotments.
	The allotment society received a quote of £7,000 to complete the perimeter fencing of the site and is seeking £3,500 in funding to cover the project shortfall. The Council RESOLVED to fund the remaining £3,500, with the understanding that no further grants will be provided. Once the fencing is completed, the allotments will be self-sufficient.
35/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
	The Clerk reported making direct contact with the site manager and contacts at Redrow to request a site meeting, but no response has been received. Action: To contact Rotherham MBC Planning Department for assistance in addressing issues related to the rat infestation and the maintenance of vegetation between the development site and properties on Longfield Drive. Residents also reported that trimmed vegetation left on site is filtering into Hellaby Brook, raising concerns about potential flooding issues. It was noted that traffic entering the site is occurring earlier than expected.
36/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
37/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications: RB2024/1765 – The Longbar, Ravenfield Shopping Centre, Unit 2 Braithwell Road, Ravenfield. Retrospective planning application for a change of use to café/wine bar and the installation of a ventilation/extractor unit Plan Portal
	It was noted that the planning application indicates 9 parking spaces, which are shared by all businesses and not specifically allocated to The Longbar. Additionally, the fish and chip shop is advertising that orders be phoned in and delivered to cars due to parking issues. A parishioner in attendance commented that The Longbar is bringing the community together. The Council RESOLVED to raise concerns with planning regarding the parking issues, potential traffic problems, and access difficulties due to the close proximity to the crossroads. Action: The Clerk to submit these comments to the planning department.
	RB2025/0100 – 6 St James View, Ravenfield. Partial demolition of existing & erection of first floor extension. Plan Portal

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	The Council RESOLVED that no objection be raised. The property is within a conservation area, and it is trusted that Rotherham MBC Planning Department will review the application in accordance with the relevant regulations.
	RB2025/0052 – 144 Hollings Lane, Ravenfield. Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 4 (1997). Plan Portal
	The Council noted. No objections raised.
	RB2025/0182 - 4 The Paddocks, Ravenfield. Single storey side extension. Plan Portal
	The Council noted. No objections raised.
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
38/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
	Councillors attended the Whitestone Solar Farm meeting at Wickersley Community Centre on 20 January 2025. Councillor Jay and Councillor Rowley attended the Rotherham MBC Network meeting on 21 January 2025. Councillor Jay and Councillor Rowley attended a public meeting called by Ward Councillor Liz Duncan to discuss the Whitestone Solar Farm on 27 January 2025. Councillor Rowley met with Save Our Greenbelt campaigners and a Yorkshire Post photographer at Conisbrough Castle as part of a newspaper article on the Whitestone Solar Farm on 29 January 2025. The Clerk and Councillor Rowley attended the Bramley and Ravenfield Ward CAP meeting on 7 February 2025.
39/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
40/25	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.
41/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next meeting, Thursday 13 March 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be held on Thursday 13 March 2025 at 6:30pm.

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42/25	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.
43/25	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
44/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 9:05pm.

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Ravenfield Parish Council

Public Participation 13 February 2025

1. Councillor Liz Duncan shared following information:

Crime figures – remain low in comparison to other areas of Rotherham.
Speeding on Braithwell Road – information obtained confirms that this is above the threshold.
Currently investigating concerns raised by parishioners about the garage on Hollings Lane.

2. Parking outside Ravenfield Primary Academy.

Residents raised concerns about parking extending past the bend towards Old Ravenfield, forcing traffic to move onto the opposite side of the road, creating a hazard with oncoming traffic. Suggestions were made for a flashing sign and double yellow lines and for the school to contact parents about the danger posed by the parking situation. A comment was also made about how fortunate the area is to have a lollipop lady.

Ward Councillor Liz Duncan offered to follow up on the suggestion of a flashing traffic sign and double yellow lines with Marc Hill at Rotherham MBC.

3. Hooton Roberts – Solar Farm (Ilos).

Residents asked that Rotherham MBC give consideration to the proposals as an extension of the Whitestone Solar Farm proposals.

Ward Councillor Liz Duncan confirmed that is already involved in conversations with Planning at Rotherham MBC.

4. Thrybergh Lane – Fly Tipping and Grass Verge

Reports of increased fly tipping have been submitted to Rotherham MBC, as this remains an ongoing issue. A suggestion was made to widen the road by extending into the grass verge, as the narrow road makes it difficult to pass other vehicles.

Action: The Clerk to forward this suggestion to Marc Hill at Rotherham MBC.

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RAVENFIELD YOUTH CHARITY

Registered Charity No. 523806

Ravenfield Parish Council

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The Minutes of Ravenfield Youth Charity

Thursday 13 February 2025

Minutes of the Ravenfield Youth Charity meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2025 in Ravenfield Parish Hall, chaired by the Clerk, Gemma O'Carroll.

Commenced at: 9:05pm

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Whitworth.

2. HSBC – BANK ACCOUNT

- (a) The Council **RESOLVED** to sign a cheque for £998.40 to Ravenfield Parish Council for play equipment repairs at Hollings Lane by HAGS Ltd. The quotation for the works was approved at the Ravenfield Youth Charity meeting on 10 October 2024. The cheque is to reimburse the Parish Council for payment made to HAGS Ltd via internet bank transfer, as the HSBC Ravenfield Youth Charity bank account currently does not permit internet banking.

3. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was closed at 9:14pm

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