

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Ravenfield Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 6.30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall. The meeting was opened by Councillor Jones and Chaired by the Chairman, Councillor Rowley.

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

In attendance: Eight members of the public were present.

91/25	ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON for the ensuring year.
	RESOLVED that Councillor Rowley be elected as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year. Councillor Rowley was elected unopposed and unanimously.
92/25	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON for the ensuring year.
	RESOLVED that Councillor Callear be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year. Councillor Callear was elected unopposed and unanimously. Councillor Callear was absent from the meeting; however, it had been resolved at the previous meeting (Minute 78/25(a)) that he would assume the role of Vice Chairman.
93/25	ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE YLCA
	RESOLVED the following nominations be made: Councillor Jubb and Councillor Rowley.
94/25	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Callear was absent, and no apologies for absence had been received.
(b)	To consider reasons for absence provided by councillors who cannot attend and resolve the council's acceptance of these if felt relevant. No reasons of absence had been received from Councillor Callear.
95/25	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 Jay and Councillor Jones both declared an interest in agenda item 13 (c) - Request from Rotherham Federation – Consideration of reduced hire rates for community 'Open Arms' information sessions, due to their employment with the organisation.
(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.

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	It was RESOLVED that Councillors Jay and Councillor Jones be permitted to provide information on the 'Open Arms' initiative but abstain from voting due to a declared interest.
96/25	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.
97/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
98/25	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
	To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 10 April 2025 (attached).
	The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 April 2025 be a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
99/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.
	Minute reference 75/25(b) – The Clerk reported that confirmation has not yet been received from the football teams regarding their acceptance of the pitch maintenance costs. No payments have yet been made to Rotherham MBC.
100/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Friends of Ravenfield PTA – Consideration of Sponsorship for Ravenfield Primary Summer Fair – Musical Equipment.
	The Council reviewed the grant application and RESOLVED to support the Friends of Ravenfield PTA with a donation of £495 towards the Ravenfield Primary School Summer Fair. Funds raised from the event will contribute to the purchase of new musical instruments for the children.
(b)	Additional Item: Request from Silverwood Colliery Heritage Group for free hall hire on Sunday 22 June 2025 to host a digital history exhibition.
	The Council RESOLVED to grant free hall hire to the Silverwood Heritage Colliery Group for the purpose of recording interviews with former Silverwood Colliery miners and their families, in order to capture and preserve their stories.
101/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Bramley Sunnyside JFC Presentation (Saturday 17 May 2025) – To receive final event details and Obtain Council approval of hire.
	The Council RESOLVED to permit the hire of Hollings Lane Recreational Grounds to Bramley Sunnyside JFC. However, it was noted that the risk assessment review dates were over 12 months old, and it was recommended that these be updated prior to the event. Concerns were also raised by local residents who

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	<p>had not yet received a leaflet regarding the event, which should have been distributed at least three weeks in advance.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to relay this information to the organisers and request that leaflets be distributed as soon as possible, including to residents of Wood Close.</p>
(b)	<p>Jubilee Field – To receive details of damaged fencing.</p> <p>Councillor Rowley, Councillor Whitworth, and the Clerk met on Jubilee Field to inspect the boundary fencing following a resident’s report that it was rotten and being supported only by surrounding vegetation. Upon inspection, it was confirmed that the fence posts are rotten and several sections require repair. The Council RESOLVED to obtain quotations for the necessary repairs and to review the matter upon receipt of the quotations.</p>
(c)	<p>Jubilee Field – All-Weather Trail: To receive information on alternative footpath materials.</p> <p>The Clerk has investigated the use of a plastic grid system (reference Minute 75/25(c)) as an alternative to a tarmac footpath. Due to the clay-based ground retaining water during wet months, a similar level of ground preparation would be required for both options. While the plastic grid system (Hexa-pave) may present a lower material cost, it would involve significant labour due to the need for cutting and fixing. The Council’s preferred contractor, Keystone Yorkshire Ltd, has recommended a site visit to explore alternative solutions. Councillor Rowley, Councillor Whitworth, and the Clerk will meet with Keystone Yorkshire on Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 10:00am on Jubilee Field.</p>
102/25	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:</p>
(a)	<p>Woodlathes Balancing Pond – To receive a maintenance update and any new information.</p> <p>No further information has been received.</p>
(b)	<p>Christmas Lights – To receive the outcome of the annual debrief meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Rowley, Councillor Whitworth, and the Clerk met with Christmas Plus on Tuesday, 29 April 2025. Christmas Plus acknowledged the feedback from last year’s Christmas lights and confirmed they will install red lights in the red sections of the bells. Last year, issues with lights not working were traced to water ingress in the power feed, which was temporarily repaired using silicone sealant. Christmas Plus recommended that the fixings be replaced to prevent a recurrence of this problem. The Clerk is to obtain a quote for replacing the power feed fixings. Additionally, the lights at the bottom of the conifer tree became difficult to see towards the end of the Christmas period, believed to be due to strong winds. Christmas Plus agreed to inspect and reposition these lights if necessary</p>
103/25	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:</p>
(a)	<p>Energy Supply – Gas and Electricity business plan, contract rate update.</p> <p>The Clerk contacted the current energy supplier, E.ON, to inform them of the Council’s intention to leave. In response, E.ON offered new rates that were more competitive than those from EDF (as detailed in Minute reference 77/25(a)). The Clerk agreed to a new 36-month contract with the following rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas standing charge: 30p per day; unit rate: 6.5p per kWh

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity standing charge: 48p per day; unit rate: 24.3p per kWh.
(b)	<p>Complaints Concerning Children Playing Football in the Car Park</p> <p>Residents near the Parish Hall have reported that children are regularly using the Parish Hall car park as a football pitch, with the ball frequently entering their gardens. There have also been reports of children climbing over the Parish Hall fence to retrieve the ball. Football marks have been observed on the front door and windows of the Parish Hall, and gravel from the car park border has been scattered across the parking area. During the meeting, children returned to play football in the car park despite parked cars. Councillor Jay spoke with the children, explaining that football should not be played in the car park and that a meeting was in progress.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to install two signs in the car park stating "No Ball Games Permitted in this Area." The Clerk presented a quotation from Brailsford Printers for an A2 sized sign - £42.00 (exc vat) The Council RESOLVED to accept this quotation and instructed the Clerk to place an order for two signs.</p>
(c)	<p>Request from Rotherham Federation (RotherFed)– Consideration of reduced hire rates for community 'Open Arms' information sessions.</p> <p>Councillors Jay and Jones provided an overview of the 'Open Arms' information sessions, organised by RotherFed, a community-led charity based in Rotherham. The free sessions offer support and advice on cost-of-living issues to the local public. RotherFed have sessions booked at Ravenfield Parish Hall on 14 and 15 July 2025.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to grant a 50% discount on the hire fees.</p>
104/25	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:</p>
(a)	<p>Staffing Committee – To appoint members of the committee and appoint a chairman for the next 12 months.</p> <p>The Council appointed Councillor Callear as Chairman of the Staffing Committee for the ensuing 12 months.</p> <p>Councillors Jay, Councillor Jones, and Councillor Rowley were appointed as members of the Staffing Committee for the ensuing 12 months.</p>
(b)	<p>Staffing Committee - To agree any changes to the terms of reference, and confirm receipt of the last meeting of the committee.</p> <p>The Council agreed that no changes were required to the Staffing Committee's Terms of Reference and confirmed receipt of the minutes from the last meeting held on 5 December 2024.</p>
(c)	<p>Ravenfield Allotments – To review representation and arrangements for reporting back.</p> <p>Councillors Jay and Councillor Lilley were appointed as representatives for Ravenfield Allotments and will attend the allotment AGM to report back to the Council.</p>
(d)	<p>Standing Orders – To review and consider adopting for further 12 months.</p>

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	NALC has issued an updated model Standing Orders template. Standing Orders have been revised accordingly. The Council RESOLVED to adopt the revised Standing Orders for a further 12 months.
(e)	Financial Regulations – To review and consider adopting for further 12 months.
	The Council RESOLVED to adopt Financial Regulations for a further 12 months.
(f)	Complaints Procedure – To review and approve for a further 12 months.
	The Council RESOLVED to adopt Complaints Procedure for a further 12 months.
(g)	Publication Scheme - To review and approve for a further 12 months.
	The Council RESOLVED to adopt Publication Scheme for a further 12 months.
(h)	Determine the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.
	The Council RESOLVED that ordinary meetings of the Council will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month (excluding August), commencing at 6:30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall. A schedule of meeting dates was circulated to all Parish Councillors and published on the parish noticeboards and website.
(i)	YLCA Annual Membership – To receive renewal costs for further 12 months.
	The Council received the renewal cost for YLCA annual membership at £831, an increase from £796 in the previous year. Council RESOLVED to renew the membership for a further 12 months.
105/25	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
106/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
107/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
	Councillor Rowley is aware of potential funding opportunities for the installation of solar panels on community buildings. He will obtain further details and forward the information to the Clerk.
108/25	MATTERS RELATING TO WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
	Members of the public shared detailed research and information concerning the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm. They invited Councillors to visit Firsby Reservoir for a guided tour to illustrate the scale and potential impact of the development on the local landscape. Members of the public also expressed frustration at being unable to obtain support from their local MP, John Healey, and Doncaster MP, Ed Miliband, both of whom they noted are Labour representatives and believed to support the Whitestone Solar Farm proposal. As a result, residents feel they have no government led support in opposing the development. It was agreed that the Clerk will register the Parish Council as an interested party with the Planning Inspectorate.

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109/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications:
	RB2025/0603. Whitestone Solar Farm various sites within Rotherham. Environmental Statement (ES) and the scoping process for the Whitestone Solar Farm. Plan Portal
	The Council instructed the Clerk to submit a formal response to the Environmental Statement and Scoping Process for the Whitestone Solar Farm, incorporating concerns raised by members of the public. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant visual and landscape impact on Ravenfield as a whole, not just Old Ravenfield. • Requests to broaden the scope of air quality, noise, vibration, and ground receptor assessments to include all of Ravenfield. • Concern over the exclusion of a viewpoint from Conisbrough Castle, a heritage site at risk, and its historical significance. • Inclusion of local flood-prone areas in assessments. • Strong objection to the limited consultation timeframe.
	RB2025/0602 - Land at Moor Lane South Ravenfield. Application to vary conditions 1 (house type substitutions on plots 1 - 69 & 215 - 258) 2,3, & 8 (associated revisions to materials, E V Charging and landscaping plans) imposed by RB2021/1532. Plan Portal
	The Council noted the planning application and raised no objections or comments, other than to highlight that Rotherham MBC continues to incorrectly reference the site as being located in Ravenfield, when it should correctly be identified as Bramley.
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
110/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
	Councillor Rowley and the Clerk attended the Rotherham MBC CAP Meeting on 6 May 2025. Councillor Rowley attended the Rotherham MBC Network Meeting on 6 May 2025. Councillor Rowley, Councillor Whitworth and the Clerk met with Christmas Plus on Tuesday 29 April 2025.
111/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	South Yorkshire Branch – Nomination paper for election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Representatives to the YLCA Joint Executive Board.
	The Council propose the following nominations for the election of officers to the YLCA Joint Executive Board: Councillor David Rowley (Ravenfield Parish Council) as Chair, Francis Johnson (Askern Town Council) as Vice-Chair, and Duncan Wright (Wadworth Parish Council) as Representative. Action: Clerk to submit to the YLCA.

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(b)	South Yorkshire Annual Branch Meeting – To raise topic suggestions for discussion.
	The Council proposed that the Whitestone Solar Farm would be a good topic for discussion. Action: Clerk to submit to the YLCA.
(c)	Rotherham MBC – Standards and Ethics Committee, Ballot Paper.
	The Council RESOLVED not to submit any nomination parish representatives to the Rotherham MBC Standards and Ethics Committee.
112/25	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.
113/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next Parish meeting, Thursday 12 June 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council held on Thursday 12 June 2025 at 6:30pm.
114/25	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.
115/25	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
116/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 8:45pm.

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Ravenfield Parish Council

Public Participation 8 May 2025

1. Footpath off Hollings Lane (adjacent Wood Close) - opposite the Ravenfield Arms Pub.

The footpath leads onto the Woodlathes estate and meets Greenbank Drive.

The Metal Gate has been sealed with silicone and tie wraps. Pedestrian access is still available but the gate is used for pushchair access (double buggies) and the question was asked why the gate has been sealed closed?

Action: Clerk to contact Rotherham MBC, Public Rights of Way Officer.

2. Pingle Lane (Old Ravenfield)

A member of the public raised concern regarding the newly installed pedestrian access point by the landowner, stating that the opening is too narrow to accommodate individuals with larger body frames, and is not accessible for those using pushchairs or mobility scooters.

Action: Clerk to contact Rotherham MBC, Public Rights of Way Officer.

3. Garden Lane (Old Ravenfield)

A member of the public reported ongoing issues on Garden Lane, including vehicles travelling at excessive speed. A horse rider was nearly hit the previous week. Concerns were raised about the road being a single-track, which creates difficulties when vehicles meet with no passing places nearby. A request was made for improved signage, including a "Single Track Road" sign and a "Sharp Bend" warning where Garden Lane meets Arbour Lane and a "Horse Ridden" sign. Reports were also made of off-road bikes using the area and suspected drug activity at Firsby Reservoir.

Actions:

- The Clerk confirmed that a "Single Track Road" sign is believed to be in progress (as noted at previous CAP meetings) and will follow up on this.
- The Clerk will submit a request for a "Sharp Bend" and "Horse Ridden" sign at the next CAP Meeting.
- The Council advised that any incidents involving off-road bikes or suspected drug activity should be reported to the police via 101 or the online reporting system.
- The Clerk will contact Ravenfield Ponds to request that anglers be reminded of the single-track nature of the road and the presence of horse riders.
- A post will be shared on the Parish Council's Facebook page to raise public awareness of these issues.

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