

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10 July 2025 at 6.30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall, chaired by the Chairman, Councillor Rowley.

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

In attendance: Two members of the public were present.

140/25	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.
	Apologies for absence were 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.
	The Council received apologies for absence from Councillor Whitworth, due to health reasons. The Council RESOLVED that the reason for absence be accepted.
141/25	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 pecuniary interests declared.
(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 pecuniary interests declared.
142/25	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.
143/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
144/25	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
	To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 10 July 2025 (attached).
	The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10 July 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
145/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.

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146/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
147/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Jubilee Field – To receive information regarding potential land encroachment.
	<p>The Council RESOLVED that the issue of potential land encroachment on Jubilee Field must be addressed through legal means, acknowledging that costs may be incurred. The Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) advised that formal legal advice should be obtained. The Clerk has sought free legal advice from the insurance provider; however, they were unable to advise whether the situation would be covered under the current policy.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to submit an insurance claim and update the residents of the affected property on the situation.</p>
(b)	Jubilee Field – All-Weather Trail: To receive an update on the grant application.
	<p>The Clerk provided an update on the grant application for the Jubilee Field All-Weather Trail. It was confirmed that the proposal to split the project into two phases and submit two separate applications would not be possible, as the FFC grant scheme allows a maximum of £100,000 per project, regardless of phasing. This would leave a minimum shortfall of £40,000, in addition to the required 10.75% contribution from the Council.</p> <p>Current options considered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a grant application for £100,000 and, if successful, fund the remaining shortfall and associated costs. • Wait and seek additional grant funding to cover the shortfall. • Redesign the project to bring costs closer to £100,000. <p>The Council RESOLVED that this is an appropriate time to progress the Community Governance Review (CGR) request to amend the parish boundary to include the Redrow development. It is believed that approximately 50 dwellings are now occupied, which had originally been the Council's threshold so to include the view of Redrow residents. If successful, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from the new Redrow development could contribute towards the project costs.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk was instructed to begin preparations for the CGR request, including drafting petitions and publicising the Council's intention. Information will be included in the Ravenfield Annual Newsletter to ensure all households in Ravenfield and all new Redrow properties are informed.</p>
(c)	Additional Item – Hire request for Hollings Lane Recreational Grounds (RMBC Early Help & Outreach and Engagement Service) on 22 August 2025.
	<p>A request was received on 8 July 2025 from Rotherham MBC Early Help & Outreach and Engagement Service to hire Hollings Lane Recreational Grounds on 22 August 2025 for a free 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' event aimed at families and children, to promote engagement with the service and provide information about the children's centre and other available services. The Council RESOLVED that the event is acceptable in principle, subject to the submission of a formal events application detailing arrangements for parking, child safety, and risk assessments.</p>

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148/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Woodlaithes Balancing Pond – To receive a maintenance update and any new information.
	<p>A representative from Persimmon Homes provided a maintenance update on Woodlaithes Balancing Pond. Key points included: reeds are not considered problematic; fish are not expected and may be removed; invasive Norwegian reeds were previously reported; fence repairs will be followed up; the pond's purpose is for water runoff management, not wildlife habitat; no dredging requirement is currently known; signage with contact details for public concerns will be arranged; the Parish Council declined responsibility for the pond and advised Persimmon to contact Rotherham MBC or Yorkshire Water.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to share the Service Level Agreement and local resident's information with Persimmon Homes.</p>
149/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Additional Item – Lost Chord: Request for an extension of free hall hire for six months starting 4 September 2025, pending funding application outcome.
	<p>The Council received a request from Rotherham MBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, on behalf of Lost Chord, for an additional six months of free Hall hire, commencing 4 September 2025, and to be held on the first Saturday of each month. Lost Chord have applied for funding from ward councillors and, if successful, will require continued use of the Parish Hall. The Council RESOLVED to grant the request.</p>
150/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Annual Parish Newsletter - to receive associated costs, discuss content and delivery arrangements.
	<p>A quotation of £985.00 was received from Brailsford Printers for the production of the Annual Parish Newsletter, representing an increase of £100.00 from last year. The Council RESOLVED to accept the quotation and agreed to request that Brailsford include additional copies for distribution to residents of the Redrow development, if possible - at no extra cost.</p> <p>The Council reviewed the proposed list of newsletter content circulated by the Clerk, and article responsibilities were assigned accordingly. The agreed schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content submission: Week commencing 11 August 2025 • Print readiness: By the end of August 2025 • Delivery: Newsletters to be received by 8 September 2025 and collected from the Parish Hall during the next Council meeting on Thursday, 11 September 2025. <p>Volunteers for delivery will be sought via the Council's Facebook page.</p>
(b)	Insurance Renewal – to receive renewal quotation.
	<p>The Council noted the insurance renewal quotation for year two of a three-year agreement at a cost of £1,591.56, compared to £1,565.64 in the previous year.</p>
151/25	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:

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152/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
	<p>The Council discussed concerns relating to the Redrow development. A question was raised regarding the planned road closure on Brook Lane (B6093) from 16 June to 5 October 2025 and the impact on bus service X3, specifically whether the route will be diverted during this period. The information is not yet available online.</p> <p>Further concerns were raised about increasing levels of dust, exacerbated by recent dry weather. Residents of Longfield Drive were reported to be most affected, unable to sit outside and having to keep windows and doors closed in the warm weather. Residents as far as Osborne Close also commented on visible dust.</p>
153/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
154/25	MATTERS RELATING TO WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
(a)	Whitestone Solar Farm – Invitation to Community Benefit Workshop Saturday 19 July 2025. To consider appointing a representative to attend a workshop.
	Councillor Jupp will attend the workshop, representing Ravenfield Parish Council
155/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications:
	RB2025/0854 – 3 Hall Mews, Ravenfield. Application to undertake work to a tree(s) within Ravenfield Conservation Area Plan Portal
	The Council noted the application and raised no objection or comment.
	RB2025/0856 – Woodlands, Moor Lane North, Ravenfield. Demolition of bungalow and erection of two storey detached dwelling with attached garage. Plan Portal
	The Council noted the application and raised no objection or comment.
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
	RB2025/0348 – Ravenfield Arms, Hollings Lane, Ravenfield. Application to vary conditions 01 (approved plans) to include installation of glazed screens and security gates to external seating areas, 02 (hours of opening for external areas) and 03 (use of TV screens externally) imposed by RB2023/1386 at Ravenfield Arms 30 Hollings Lane Ravenfield for Ravenfield Arms. Application Refused.
	The Council noted this information.
	RB2025/0684 – 24 The Dell, Ravenfield. Erection of boundary fence, gate and trellis (Retrospective). Application Granted.
	The Council noted this information.

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156/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
157/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Yorkshire Local Councils Association - Training Day, 16 October 2025.
	Councillor Rowley expressed an interest in attending. The Council RESOLVED to approve this request at a cost of £105.00.
158/25	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.
159/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next Parish meeting, Thursday 11 September 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be the Parish meeting held on Thursday 11 September 2025 at 6:30pm.
160/25	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.
	Community Governance Review
161/25	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
162/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 8:33pm.

Chairman Signed: _____ **Date:** 11 September 2025

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Public Participation 10 July 2025

A complaint was raised regarding The Long Bar placing tables and chairs outside and serving alcohol outdoors, which is not permitted under its current licence. Concerns were expressed about pedestrian safety, as footpaths are obstructed and access for wheelchairs and pushchairs is restricted. The use of cloth banners as a barrier was also highlighted as a potential safety hazard.

The Clerk reported that the matter had previously been referred to RMBC Planning and Enforcement in April and June, as the planning consent prohibits outdoor seating.

Action: Clerk to follow up with RMBC departments and escalate to Corporate Complaints if necessary.

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