

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11 September 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, P Whitworth and G Needes (Clerk).

In attendance: Twelve members of the public were present.

163/25	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.
	No apologies received, all Councillors present.
(b)	To consider reasons for absence provided by councillors who cannot attend and resolve the council's acceptance of these if felt relevant.
164/25	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.
165/25	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.
166/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
167/25	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.
168/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.

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169/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Ravenfield Old Village Garden Society – Receipt of thank-you letter for grant contribution.
	The Council noted the letter of appreciation and commented on the attractive flower decorations in the Old Village.
(b)	The Long Bar – Christmas light switch-on proposals.
	<p>The Long Bar would like to build upon the annual Christmas Light Switch On event and suggested several ideas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decorating the shopping centre with Christmas lights. The Council explained that this had been done in previous years; however, the lights are believed to no longer function, and some shop owners had raised concerns that the fittings scratched their signage. The Council previously funded the installation of a power supply on the roof, which remains available for the shops to use. • Erecting a Christmas tree with lights outside the shops. The Council advised that this option had been considered previously, but costs were too expensive and no power supply was available at the proposed location on the grass verge outside the shopping centre. The conifer tree outside the Cavalier was instead selected as the main Christmas tree and is decorated annually by the Council. • Stalls. The Council confirmed it had no objection to The Long Bar, or any other local business, organising additional activities to complement the event, provided these were arranged independently and necessary permissions were sought. <p>The Council expressed its willingness to work with local businesses to enhance the popular village event but noted that most arrangements for Christmas are planned early in the year. It was also highlighted that necessary permissions (e.g. from Rotherham MBC Highways) can take time to obtain, and no additional budget has been allocated for extra event costs.</p> <p>In summary, The Long Bar requested to participate in the event, and the Council raised no objection. The Council confirmed the event will take place on Friday, 21 November 2025, with the school choir and brass band performing outside the Cavalier from 6:30pm, and the light switch-on at 7:00pm.</p>
(c)	Request to us the Parish Hall (Free of Charge) to hold a Whitestone Solar Farm Information Session.
	Residents of Firsby would like to hold an information event for the community to discuss the impact of the Whitestone Solar Farm proposals and, if required, assist residents in submitting their views. The Council RESOLVED to approve free use of the Hall for this purpose and to assist in publicising the event details.
170/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Jubilee Field – Removal of old bins and installation of new dual waste bins.
	<p>During the summer holidays, Rotherham MBC removed the red dog waste bins and general waste bins from Jubilee Field without prior notice to the Council. New dual waste bins have since been installed on the highway at the entrance points of Kingsley Drive and Barberry Way.</p> <p>No bin has been installed at the Osborne Close entrance, which has caused concern among residents and led to waste being left where the previous bin was located.</p>

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	<p>The Clerk contacted Rotherham MBC and was advised that bins located on private land cannot be emptied by the Borough Council, although a cost could be provided should the Council wish to retain bins on the field itself. Rotherham MBC are currently conducting a survey to determine whether a replacement bin at Osborne Close is warranted. Verbal confirmation has been received indicating that installation of a new bin is likely.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED not to obtain costs associated with the emptying of bins on Jubilee Field.</p>
(b)	Play Inspection Fees – To receive details of price increase.
	<p>Notification was received from Rotherham MBC advising that play inspection fees will increase from £27.70 to £28.90 per month, and the annual inspection fee from £53.95 to £55.90 (all excluding VAT). The Council noted the price increase and raised no objection.</p>
(c)	Jubilee Field – To receive updates from the insurance company regarding potential land encroachment.
	<p>An insurance claim has been submitted regarding the potential land encroachment at Jubilee Field. The Council is awaiting confirmation from the insurer as to whether the matter will be covered under the Council's policy. The Clerk has informed the property owner that a claim has been submitted.</p>
(d)	Jubilee Field – Boundry fence: Recommended repairs and quotation.
	<p>A quotation of approximately £3,000 was received for the replacement of all wooden fence posts and like for like slat fencing at Jubilee Field. A query was raised regarding whether the Council is responsible for the boundary fence.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to obtain the land deeds to confirm boundary responsibility.</p>
(e)	Additional Item: Jubilee Field – Tree Maintenance.
	<p>A Kingsley Drive resident, whose property adjoins Jubilee Field, initially requested that the vegetation at the back of the property remain for privacy. During the April 2025 inspection, the tree surgeon advised that creating a 2m clearance would likely cause the vegetation to collapse, and full removal would be advisable. The Clerk and tree surgeon were unable to speak with the resident at the time, but has since contacted the Council, reporting the vegetation is now pressing against the boundary fence and agrees that full removal is the best solution.</p> <p>The tree surgeon advised that carrying out the work now would cost £450 (exc VAT), or £250 (exc VAT) if completed during the next annual maintenance period (March–May, subject to nesting season). The Council RESOLVED to approve the work at a cost of £250 (exc VAT) to be undertaken during the next annual maintenance period. It was noted that the vegetation is expected to die back over the winter months.</p>
171/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Woodlathes Balancing Pond – To receive a maintenance update and any new information.
	<p>A local resident has submitted complaints regarding the condition of the Woodlathes Balancing Pond directly to Yorkshire Water, Persimmon Homes, and MP John Healey. The Clerk has followed up with Persimmon Homes and received confirmation that the matter has been referred to a company director. MP</p>

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	John Healey has also confirmed that he will pursue the issue. Photographs provided by the resident show that the pond area is now completely overgrown with reeds and is no longer visibly functioning as a pond.
(b)	Hollings Lane – Woodlathes Village, public footpath gate access.
	In July, complaints were received that the public footpath gate designed to allow access for bicycles, wheelchairs, and pushchairs had been secured with a padlock and chain, and smeared with grease. Rotherham MBC Public Rights of Way Officers inspected the site and held a meeting with Ravenfield Parish Council and members of the public on 18 August 2025. The padlock and chain were removed and replaced with a radar key padlock. It was noted that the gate may have been locked to deter motorbike access; however, this created difficulties for wheelchair and pushchair users. Rights of Way Officers agreed to provide radar keys to users who require access, and the situation will continue to be monitored.
(c)	Hanging Baskets – Placement on concrete columns (to be removed)
	Two hanging baskets on Moor Lane South were found to be attached to a concrete column and have been requested for removal by Rotherham MBC. Action: The Clerk has contacted the hanging basket contractor and is awaiting confirmation of the removal date. Members noted that hanging baskets have been observed on concrete columns in other villages and queried why this is permitted in some areas. Action: The Clerk to investigate and report back.
172/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Book Swap – Request for more storage capacity.
	The librarian of the Book Swap Library requested additional storage space to allow book rotation. The Council RESOLVED that no further storage areas could be made available, noting that the existing storage is already at full capacity and that providing extra space for one group could lead to similar requests from others.
(b)	Additional Item: Wasp Nest
	Pest control attended to remove a wasp nest located in the eaves above the entrance of the Hall, which posed a safety risk after reports that two neighbouring residents had been stung. The removal cost £65.00. It was noted that wasp nests are a recurring issue each year, and that re-pointing the eaves may help prevent future problems. Action: Councillor Lilley offered to inspect and carry out repairs to areas with missing mortar.
173/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Annual Parish Newsletter – To receive printed newsletter and agree arrangements for areas without volunteer coverage.
	Members of the public attending the meeting kindly offered to assist and took responsibility for these areas before leaving. The Council expressed its thanks to all volunteers for their help and support.
(b)	Community Governance Review – To note petition count and determine next actions.
	Not all petitions have yet been collected, but the estimated count meets the minimum threshold of 187.

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	<p>Rotherham MBC confirmed that the CIL monies for the entire Redrow development have already been paid in full to Bramley Parish Council. The Council expressed disappointment and queried why payment was made in full before the development was complete. Action: The Clerk to seek further information.</p> <p>The Council resolved to continue pursuing a Community Governance Review (CGR). The Clerk presented a draft survey specifically for residents of the Redrow development to gather their views on the Parish they identify with. Action: Councillor Rowley will prepare a covering letter for the survey.</p> <p>Both the survey and letter will be delivered to every household on the development, along with a copy of the Annual Parish Newsletter.</p> <p>Action: At the next Council meeting; review responses from the Redrow survey, count total signatories, and confirm preparation for submission of the CGR.</p>
(c)	Staffing Committee Meeting – To set the date and time of the next meeting.
	<p>Councillor Jay will conduct the Clerk's appraisal. The Clerk will arrange a Staffing Committee meeting following completion of all staff appraisals.</p> <p>This is expected to take place at the end of the November Parish Council meeting.</p>
(d)	NALC - National Joint Pay Scales 2025/2026.
	The Council noted the NALC - National Joint Pay Scales 2025/2026. Relevant backpay was awarded in August pay.
(e)	IT Policy – To receive and consider adoption.
	The Council RESOLVED to adopt the IT Policy.
(f)	Additional Item – Road Safety Outside Ravenfield Primary Academy – No School Crossing Warden.
	<p>Emails were received from parents of children attending Ravenfield Primary Academy expressing concern about safety on Braithwell Road outside the school. There is currently no school crossing warden, following a reported near miss incident which contributed to the previous warden not returning to work.</p> <p>The Clerk has liaised with Rotherham MBC, who confirmed that the position has been advertised and that they are actively seeking to appoint a replacement.</p>
174/25	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	The National Allotment Society – Annual membership renewal.
	The Council RESOLVED to renew the National Allotment Society annual membership fee, at a cost of £84.00.
175/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
	<p>The Council noted the following information received from Rotherham MBC Highways Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current road closure on Brook Lane has been extended until the end of Tuesday 2nd September due to incomplete works on the new retaining wall, kerbing, and associated utilities. • An application has been submitted for a new road closure during the October half-term to allow completion of road resurfacing, lining, and anti-skid treatments on Brook Lane and at the junction with the mini roundabout.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 2nd September, the site will revert to three-way traffic lights as originally planned. Rotherham MBC will provide further updates if the works are expected to extend beyond the original completion date of 5th October.
176/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
177/25	MATTERS RELATING TO WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
(a)	Whitestone Solar Farm – Public Consultation (Provisional), 8 October 2025, Ravenfield Parish Hall.
	The Council will discuss the findings from the public consultation and review them at the next Council meeting in order to prepare a formal submission.
178/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications:
	RB2025/0979 – Lane east of Moor Lane South, Bramley. Outline application for residential development of up to 349 dwellings including details of the access. Plan Portal
	The Council OBJECT to this planning application on the following grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The land is not identified in the current Local Plan. Road infrastructure is inadequate for the current traffic volume, noting that the Redrow development is not yet complete. Flooding is a known issue on the Gaunt Estate, which could be worsened due to loss of natural drainage fields. Local schools, medical facilities, and other services are already at capacity. Action: The Clerk to submit a formal OBJECTION .
	RB2025/1190 – 19 Braithwell Road, Ravenfield. Paid pre app enquiry for demolition of dwelling to provide access to a future development at the rear. Plan Portal
	The Council raised a query regarding the details of the proposed future development. Action: The Clerk to seek further information.
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
179/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
	8 August 2025 – Councillor Rowley and the Clerk attended the CAP meeting, held at The Lings, Bramley. 18 August 2025 – Councillor Rowley, Councillor Whitworth and the Clerk met in site with Rotherham MBC Public Rights of Way Officers and members of the public to discuss the issues around the pedestrian gate on the Woodlaithes to Hollings Lane footpath (see minute reference 171/25 (b)).

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	2 September 2025 - Councillor Jay and Councillor Rowley attended the Parish Council Network Meeting, held at Aston Parish Hall.
180/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
181/25	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.
182/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next Parish meeting, Thursday 9 October 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be the Parish meeting held on Thursday 9 October 2025 at 6:30pm.
183/25	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.
184/25	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
185/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 8:34pm.

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Ravenfield Parish Council

Public Participation 11 September 2025

One of the stone boulders forming the boundary of Hollings Lane Playing Field is being used by motorbikes to gain access to the field. The boulder is low, allowing bikes to jump over it. A suggested solution is to turn the boulder upright to prevent this. On Sunday 7 September, more than eight motorbikes were reported accessing the field via this route.

Action: The Clerk to report the matter to Rotherham MBC.

Complaints were raised by residents regarding double parking on Hollings Lane, including concerns about safety and difficulty accessing or exiting driveways. The Council discussed whether the installation of yellow lines might help prevent this issue.

Action: The Clerk to consult with Marc Hill at Rotherham MBC.

A parishioner reported directly to Ward Councillor Duncan that the “Green Man” pedestrian light at Ravenfield Crossing on Braithwell Road is not functioning. It was also noted that the audible signals at all crossing points are not working. The issue does not appear to have been resolved.

Action: The Clerk to report the faults to Rotherham MBC.

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RAVENFIELD YOUTH CHARITY

Registered Charity No. 523806

Ravenfield Parish Council

Ravenfield Parish Hall

Birchwood Drive

Ravenfield

Rotherham

S65 4PT

Email: clerk@ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 07462 468050

The Minutes of Ravenfield Youth Charity

Thursday 11 September 2025

Minutes of the Ravenfield Youth Charity meeting held on Thursday 11 September 2025 in Ravenfield Parish Hall, chaired by the Clerk, Gemma Needes.

Commenced at: 8:35pm

Present: Councillors B Callear, K Jay, M Jones, R Jupp, S Lilley, D Rowley, P Whitworth and G Needes (Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES.** No apologies received, all Councillor present.

2. **VAT RECLAIM** – Information Received from HMRC (Financial Year 2024–2025).

The Council noted information received from HMRC regarding the VAT reclaim for the financial year 2024–2025. A claim of £7,515.56, relating to play area repairs and new floor surfacing works, was submitted but refused, as the charity does not appear to meet the eligibility criteria under the VAT126 scheme (Section 33a–d of VATA 1994).

Summary of HMRC's response:

- The charity's setup/structure does not classify it as a local authority or a sufficiently similar body.
- As a non-departmental body or similar, it would have needed to be established under the Local Government Act 1972 (Sections 101 and/or 102).
- In terms of charitable status under the scheme, the charity would need to be a palliative care, air ambulance, medical courier, or search & rescue type.

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The Council noted this information and suggested that, in future, the Youth Charity should consider providing grant funding directly to the Council.

3. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was closed at 8:47pm

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