

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

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

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

In attendance: Twelve members of the public were present.

186/25	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 is unwell. The Council RESOLVED to accept reasons of absence.
187/25	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.
188/25	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.
189/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
190/25	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
	To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 11 September 2025 (attached).
	The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11 September 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
191/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

	Minute Reference 170/25 (a) It was confirmed that a new litter bin has been installed at the Osborne Close entrance to Jubilee Field. Minute Reference 170/25 (d) Regarding the boundary fence of Jubilee Field (alongside Kingsley Drive), ownership remains unclear and requires further investigation. The Clerk is in the process of obtaining the deeds to establish ownership. Minute Reference 171/25 (c) The Clerk was asked to enquire why hanging baskets were displayed on all concrete lighting columns on Vale Road, Thrybergh, following a previous request to remove those on two concrete columns on Moor Lane South. Thrybergh Parish Council confirmed that they had not been asked to remove their baskets and that no additional permissions were sought. It was noted that the hanging baskets have since been removed from the identified columns in Ravenfield. Minute Reference 178/25 (a) The Clerk was asked to obtain further information regarding planning application RB2025/1190 – 19 Braithwell Road. The Planning Department advised that all available information is currently on the Planning Portal, which does not include any additional specific details at this time.
192/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Rotherham Cancer Care – Proposal for a Ravenfield fete to raise funds.
	Representatives from Rotherham Cancer Care attended the meeting and provided a brief overview of their work. They proposed hosting a community fete on Hollings Lane Recreational Grounds, which would include stalls, food outlets, Rotherham United Trust, and live music. The Council raised no objection in principle to the event, except regarding live music. To prevent disturbance to local residents, live music is not permitted on the site. Action: The Clerk is to provide a list of dates on which events are scheduled in Ravenfield, so that the proposed fete can be planned to avoid conflicts. Representatives were advised that an events application must first be submitted to the Council for consideration at a meeting. If approved, the organisers would then be required to obtain an events licence from Rotherham MBC.
193/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Jubilee Field – To receive updates from the insurance company regarding potential land encroachment.
	The Council is awaiting the insurer's review of the submitted evidence and information to determine whether the matter is covered under the Council's policy.
194/25	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.
	No further information has been received from Persimmon Homes, and no response has been received to earlier correspondence submitted by MP John Healey. The Clerk has spoken with Persimmon Homes, who advised that a contractor is due to inspect the pond in the coming days to assess the silt levels. They indicated that this assessment will determine whether dredging is necessary.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

	Action: Ward Councillor Duncan was present and noted that parishioners are very concerned about the current state of the pond, which is not recognisable as a balancing pond.
(b)	Road Safety – Reports of near miss accident outside the Ravenfield Primary Academy. The Council received an email from a parent reporting a near-miss incident outside the school, in which a van narrowly missed her child while crossing the road. The Clerk shared information obtained from Marc Hill regarding a request for a zebra crossing. It was noted that the road is not currently considered dangerous in terms of safety, and no funding is available at present for a crossing. A vacancy for a school crossing patrol is currently being advertised and actively followed up by Rotherham MBC Facilities Management.
(c)	Road Safety Week – To discuss ways in which the Council can raise awareness. The Clerk has requested an activity pack from the relevant organisation. It is anticipated that the Council's primary method of support will be via its Facebook page. The activity is planned to run from 16–22 November 2025. Additional suggestions included asking the school to invite South Yorkshire Police mounted officers to attend and raise road safety awareness with pupils.
(d)	Lamppost Poppies – To discuss arrangements for display dates and volunteer support. The Council was uncertain regarding the formal dates for displaying Remembrance poppies. Action: Clerk to contact former Councillor Mr. Pearson for advice and to arrange for volunteers to meet at the Parish Hall on the Saturday closest to the recognised date to coordinate the display. Action: Clerk to check the supply of cable ties and seek volunteer assistance through the usual channels – notice boards, Facebook, and the Parish Council website.
(e)	Memorial Service – To discuss arrangements for the service and volunteer support. The Memorial Service has been arranged for Sunday, 9 November 2025, on Moor Lane North at the Memorial Stone, with attendees meeting at 10:45am. and observing a minute's silence at 11:00am. John Patterson of St James' Church has kindly agreed to lead the service. Councillor Callear will lay the wreath on behalf of the Council. Councillor Jay will coordinate the gathering at the Parish Hall afterwards, where refreshments will be served. The Council RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to spend up to £40.00 on refreshments, including biscuits and cakes.
(f)	Christmas Light Switch On – To discuss arrangements for the event and volunteer support. The Clerk explained, awaiting clarification from Ravenfield Primary Academy whether the school children will be singing at the event. It was noted that some confusion had arisen due to a separate event being arranged by the Long Bar, which is not part of the Council's arrangements. The usual Council event is scheduled to take place on Friday, 21 November 2025, commencing at 6:30pm, with the light switch on at approximately 7:00pm. Councillor Whitworth volunteered as this year's light switch on fob holder. The Clerk confirmed that, although the lights have been installed, they are not yet operational and the fob has not been handed over to the Council. Once received, Councillor Whitworth will conduct a trial run.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

195/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Christmas Decorations – to discuss dates and volunteer support.
	The Council RESOLVED to decorate the Parish Hall after the next meeting, on Thursday 13 November 2025.
(b)	PPL PRS Music Licence – Renewal and fees for 12 month period.
	The Council RESOLVED to approve the renewal of the PPL PRS Music Licence for a further 12 months at a cost of £234.93 (excluding VAT), representing an increase of £20.00 from the previous year.
(c)	Parish Hall Car Park – Replacement of damaged bollards.
	The plastic red and white bollards, which had been installed to prevent vehicles from hitting the stone bollards, have been damaged during recent winds. The internal elastic mechanism that allows the bollards to flex appears to have failed, resulting in them no longer standing upright. The Council RESOLVED not to replace the damaged plastic bollards. It was discussed whether to add reflective strips to the stone bollards, but as these are positioned at a low height, they are not easily visible in vehicle rear view mirrors.
196/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Community Governance Review – To receive a petition count, Redrow resident survey results, and determine next actions.
	The Clerk reported that the petition located at Ravenfield Stores had gained more than five pages of signatures. When attempting to collect it, the new shop owner was unable to locate the signed petition. If the petition cannot be found, a further 95 signatures will be required to meet the minimum threshold of 187 necessary to request a Community Governance Review (CGR). A separate resident survey was distributed to all Redrow estate households, with 58 surveys delivered and 28 responses received. • 100% of respondents believe they live within the Parish of Ravenfield. • 93% confirmed that their property was advertised as being in Ravenfield. • 96% stated that their preferred parish would be Ravenfield. Additional comments expressed residents' disappointment at discovering they are not currently within the Parish of Ravenfield, and some referenced that Rotherham MBC also identifies their homes as being in Ravenfield. The Council noted that the survey results further strengthen the case for pursuing a boundary change. Action: Clerk to arrange for new petitions to be displayed if the one missing from Ravenfield Stores cannot be located, and to provide an updated count of total signatures at the next Council meeting.
(b)	Staffing Committee Meeting – To confirm the schedule date of Thursday 13 November 2025.
	The Council RESOLVED that the Staffing Committee meeting will take place at the end of the Council meeting on Thursday, 13 November 2025.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

	The Council noted that the following members will attend the Staffing Committee meeting: Councillor Callear (Chairman), Councillor Jay, Councillor Jones, Councillor Rowley.
(c)	South Yorkshire Pension Authority - Notification of Provisional Valuation Results and Consultation on Funding Strategy Statement and Pension Admin Strategy.
	The Council noted the notification from the South Yorkshire Pension Authority regarding the provisional valuation results and the consultation on the Funding Strategy Statement and Pension Administration Strategy.
197/25	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
198/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
199/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
200/25	MATTERS RELATING TO WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
(a)	To receive feedback from online Parish meeting hosted by Whitestone Solar Farm (30 September 2025).
	Ward Councillor Duncan, who attended the meeting, has requested a meeting with officers and all Councillors from the affected areas to discuss the scale of the proposals.
(b)	Firsby Residents Drop In Meeting (7 October 2025).
	The Council noted that a drop in session was held on 7 October 2025 in the Parish Hall, and was well attended. Representatives from the Bridleway group also attended the session.
(c)	Whitestone Solar Farm – Review of public consultation (8 October 2025) and determine next actions.
	Feedback received from parishioners indicated that not all questions could be answered. Residents added that actual solar panels should have been displayed to show the public what they look like. See additional comments made under public participation. Action: The Council instructed the Clerk to submit a formal response highlighting concerns, including: heritage issues, viewpoints, cable corridors, Insufficient consultation, the excessive volume of documents (approximately 9,000), which is difficult for residents to review within the timescale provided.
201/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications:
	RB2025/1209 - 21 Braithwell Road, Ravenfield. Variation of condition 2 (extension to be constructed in brick) imposed by RB2024/1738. Plan Portal
	The Council noted receipt of the above planning application and raised no objections to the proposals.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

	RB2025/1279 - 19 Green Bank Drive, Sunnyside. Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 4 (1997) Plan Portal
	The Council noted receipt of the above planning application and raised no objections to the proposals.
	RB2025/1303 – The Longbar, Unit 2 Ravenfield Shopping Centre, Braithwell Road, Ravenfield. Application to remove condition 04 (no external seating) imposed by RB2024/1765 to allow external seating. Plan Portal
	The Council RESOLVED to object to the above planning application due to the following concerns: • Barrier Safety: Cloth barrier insufficient to protect the public; risk of vehicles rolling forward. • Pedestrian Safety & Access: Shared walkway with other businesses; seating restricts access and forces pedestrians into the car park; discrepancies in plan measurements (2m stated, with an open walkway of 1.8m – tables and chairs assumed 0.2m). • Impact on Surrounding Businesses: Seating limits customer access and reduces potential footfall. • Noise and Public Nuisance: Potential for increased disturbance to residents and businesses. Action: Clerk to submit objection.
	ADDITIONAL ITEM: Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence - The Longbar, Unit 2 Braithwell Road, Rotherham S65 4LH. The application seeks consent to vary the Premises Licence so as to: 1. Extend the latest permitted hours for the sale of alcohol, for consumption on and off the premises, on Sundays from 17:30 hours (5.30pm); and 2. Amend condition 18 of Annex 2 of the Premises Licence, which currently says: <i>“There shall be no outdoor consumption of alcohol. Alcohol shall only be permitted to be taken off the premises in sealed containers”</i> To read as follows: <i>“The consumption of alcohol is permitted by customers in the designated seating area and permitted to be taken off the premises in sealed containers”</i>
	The Council noted receipt of the above application by email on 7 October 2025 (after the agenda was published). Representations must be submitted by 4 November 2025. The Council specifically objects to the second variation, which seeks to amend Condition 18 regarding outdoor consumption of alcohol. No objections were raised concerning the first variation to extend Sunday hours, provided alcohol is served only within the premises. The Council RESOLVED to object to the second variation part of the application due to the following concerns: • Prevention of Public Nuisance: Allowing alcohol outdoors may increase noise and disturbance for local residents and businesses.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

	- Public Safety: Serving alcohol in a confined area where pedestrians must pass through patrons creates significant safety risks, including collisions, spillages, and potential conflicts. - Protection of Children from Harm: Children visiting neighbouring businesses may be exposed to inappropriate behaviour associated with alcohol consumption. Action: Clerk to submit objection.
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
202/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
203/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
204/25	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)	Annual Governance & Accountability Return - External auditors report and certificate.
	The Council noted the External Auditor's report and certificate.
(d)	Annual Governance & Accountability Return - Notice of conclusion of audit.
	The Council noted the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, which was displayed on 22 September 2025.
205/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next Parish meeting, Thursday 13 November 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be the Parish meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2025 at 6:30pm.
206/25	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.
	Budget – to consider any projects/items to be included in the budget for the forthcoming financial year 2025-2026. CIL – to consider any projects/items of which CIL monies should be spent.
207/25	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
208/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 8:43pm.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

Chairman Signed: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025

Ravenfield Parish Council

Public Participation 9 October 2025

Members of the public raised the Whitestone Solar Farm consultation and the information they had gathered. Key points raised included:

- Concerns regarding the proposed access point at Clifton (A630) and discrepancies relating to access arrangements.
- Viewpoints being obscured by trees and vegetation, with seasonal changes not adequately considered.
- The impact on views of Conisbrough Castle from Braithwell Road gardens, noting that the significance of the monument was understated in the consultation reports.
- It was unclear which areas were arable land and which were to be used for grazing.

The Council noted these comments and agreed that they should be included in the formal response to the public consultation.

Chairman Initial: _____ Date: 13 November 2025