

Ravenfield Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish meeting held on Thursday 6 March 2025 at 6:30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall.
Chaired by Councillor M Jones.

The Clerk and seven parishioners attended the meeting.

1 Welcome by the Chairman

Councillor Jones welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2024 were approved as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Accounts

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 were shared with parishioners. These had been audited and were unqualified. There were no questions on the accounts.

5 Chairman's Report – This has been my first year as Chair. I took over from Councillor Neil Pearson and would like to thank him and the other members of the Council for their ongoing help and support. I would also like to welcome new Councillor Lilley and Councillor Whitworth.

The Parish Council has worked hard all year for the benefit of our village and its residents. We have supported the community litter picks, the hanging flower baskets and the poppies on lampposts. This raised a total of amount of £130.00 in donations for the Royal British Legion.

Ravenfield Rangers Junior Football Club continue to use the pitch on Hollings Lane, and we support their activities.

The Parish Hall is still very well used by many groups throughout the week and weekends. We continue to keep up with the maintenance of this to ensure this is a safe and pleasant environment for everyone who frequents it. The hall is available to hire for groups and private parties. Should you wish to make enquiries please direct these to our Clerk, Gemma.

The Redrow development is progressing, and we continue to receive complaints, so our work continues raising these with the builders to try to bring about a resolution to issues raised. We will continue to deal with these going forward.

We have updated the Hollings Lane play area, which included a refit of a new surface area, repair to the perimeter fencing, repaint and repaired and replaced items of play equipment which included removal of one of the smaller swings for a swing suitable for older children.

We would still like an All-Weather-Trail around Jubilee field so it can be accessed and used more, especially in the winter months. The main challenge for us is that the drainage of the field is a huge problem as it is waterlogged for

much of the year. We have managed to move forward with this project in obtaining a plan, carrying out a consultation with residents and obtaining quotes. We continue with our efforts regarding this project.

The Council continue to fund the Christmas Lights which are popular. On 3 December 2024 at the Christmas Light switch on, Bramley Brass Band played whilst Ravenfield Primary Academy sang Christmas Carols. We are continuing with this and wanted to make this earlier this year with Christmas Light switch on being Friday 21 November 2025.

We also had our third Christmas panto, Beauty and the Beast, on 14 December 2024 which was a huge success. Within a few days of the tickets being available the 90 spaces were sold out. As it has proved so successful, we will continue to organise a Christmas panto in December.

A Remembrance Service was held on Moor Lane North, on 10 November 2024 and this was very well attended. Refreshments was provided in the Ravenfield Parish Hall following this service and this was also very well attended. We will continue with this service and to follow on with refreshments at the Parish Hall.

The Millennium Sign on Moor Lane North, was originally installed to commemorate the year 2000, was funded by contributions from the residents of Ravenfield and local businesses. Due to signs of weathering this was restored to its original condition.

Finances, reluctantly and after lengthy discussions we have increased the precept by 4.5%. This is because costs are constantly increasing and to keep the Parish Hall and projects on track, we have had no alternative but to take such measures to try to maintain a healthy budget.

We have also developed a brand-new website, and a great deal of work has gone into uploading all the information. This new website is user-friendly and simpler for residents to quickly find information. The website also provides useful information in relation to community groups that most residents may find useful.

Whilst we continue to use Parish Council noticeboards to make announcements, we also have our Facebook page which is regularly updated with useful information for residents. This has been a vital move forward in communication and the results of this can be seen from the ticket sales with the Christmas Pantomime being sold out in a few days.

I would like to say, a big thank you to Gemma our Clerk for the work she does in keeping the Councillors organised. Also, a mention to Sarah, the Caretaker for the work she does in looking after the hall.

As I step down as Chair, I would like to thank everyone for the support and guidance provided during my time as Chair. I hand you over to Dave, who will be the incoming Chair in May.

Councillor Maria Jones.

6 Reports from Local Charities

The Ravenfield Charity – no report received.

The Ravenfield Educational Charity – no report received.

7 Reports from Local Groups

Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund. – We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Ravenfield Parish Hall for a welcoming coffee morning—everyone is invited! In addition to our gatherings, we enjoy day trips to various destinations. Over the past year, we've had the pleasure of visiting places like Brigg Garden Centre, Pickering, and Whitby. We also celebrated Yorkshire Day with delicious jam and cream scones. Looking ahead, we have several exciting trips planned for this year:

- **June** – Oswaldtwistle Mills and Trentham Gardens
- **July** – Liverpool
- **August** – Skipton
- **September** – Whitby
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There will be plenty of additional activities along the way, as we continue our traditions from previous years. To round off the year, we will celebrate Christmas with a festive three-course meal and entertainment.

Geoff Outram - Chairman

Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals – This year our annual community litter pick will be on Saturday 8 April 2025, details will be posted on the notice boards around the village. We welcome anyone who has a spare couple of hours and would like to join us on that morning, we have some spare equipment and plenty of bags.

Our volunteers litter pick the streets, recreational areas and woods throughout the year. Any fly tipping is reported to Streetpride. As always, we welcome anyone who would like to join the team. So, if anyone has a bit of spare time as and when it suits, please contact me.

We think you may agree it makes such a difference to the village

Caz Evans

Ravenfield Community Plan Group. (RCPG) – the group has disbanded.

Ravenfield Old Village Garden Society -The Society has had another successful year in promoting a village community, where residents work together to maintain an attractive and sustainable environment. Four social events were held; in April, July, September and finally, the village bonfire in November. As well as raising money to pay for the spring and summer floral displays, throughout the village and the cost of cutting the grass verges, these organised events allow residents to spend convivial evenings, getting to know each other better.

Apart from these social events, the Society organised several tidying up sessions, throughout the year, and thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers, the garden areas along Main Street, Pingle Lane and Church Lane have been kept looking attractive for both residents and visitors. Thanks also to members of St James' congregation, who helped tidy up along the track leading to the church.

There are over fifty containers, of various descriptions, situated throughout the village, that are planted, twice a year, in spring and then in summer. Once the summer planting had been removed, not until late October last year, such was the quality of the displays provided by Hobson's Nursery, residents continued to enhance the village by decorating the hayracks and troughs with seasonal greenery, over the Christmas period. This left us with a short period to assess the state of our planters. As a result, we replaced three hayracks and two half barrels.

We are pleased to have welcomed three new members to our committee and recently we have created a volunteers' group, for those residents who would like to help but don't want to serve on the committee.

Despite all our efforts, sometimes things happen that are out of our control. Just before Christmas, Quickline contractors laid cable under the grass verge on Main Street, at the entrance to the village. Although the Society accepts that this had to be done and will be of benefit to the residents, many daffodils have been lost and poor reinstatement of the ground was carried out, leaving a stretch of pebbles and rubble, instead of grass. As the Society pays for this verge to be cut every three weeks, during the growing season, we feel that proper reinstatement of the verge should have been carried out. That aside, the Society is looking forward to filling our village with floral displays from March to October and we have three social events to look forward to, in the next six months.

Many thanks to the Parish Council, for its continued support.

Ian Henderson (Treasurer)

Ravenfield Book Swap - Everything is going well with the library. We still get the odd jigsaw in, which gets taken to the charity shop along with the duplicate/excess books. The week before I went away 2 very large boxes of books were brought in. I added as many to the shelves as I could and filled the overflow box but there were still too many in one of the boxes. When I return, I will have a good sort out but for now there is still an extra box in there. Any chance of an extension? Only joking! The library is still well used and popular so I am happy to keep going.

Deborah Stride

The Ravenfield Art Group - Ravenfield Art group has had another successful year with regular meetings which are well attended as was our Art Exhibition last May when we had over 300 visitors.

We will be hosting our annual art exhibition 2025 on the week-end of May 10/11, from 10:00am – 4:00pm each day in our Parish Hall, where 28 local artists will exhibit over 250 works of original art at affordable prices. Local crafts people exhibiting include a fused glass artist and a ceramicist who will both be displaying their wares. Visitors will be entertained by live music on saxophone and keyboard by two of our supporters, while local artist Paul Freeman will give demonstrations of his art. Last year, the exhibitors sold over 75 works of art which included some sculptures. As in previous years, two other local community groups will provide teas, coffees, juice and a selection of cakes and biscuits.

Ravenfield Art Group meets twice a month in the Parish Hall on Birchwood Drive. We currently have 28 members and a short waiting list due to lack of table space. Ages range from one member still at school, to those in their 80s. It is a group for anyone who wants to develop their creative skills. Experts and beginners are all welcome. On the first session, (second Tuesday, of each month) tuition is provided by visiting professional artists or members of the group who volunteer to help the rest of us. The second session, on the fourth Tuesday in the month, is free-choice and follow-up evening. Members use a wide range of many media: pencil drawing, water-colour, oils, pastel, acrylic, computer art, collage and more.

Jill Jesson

Ravenfield Ladies Friendship Circle (Ravenfield LFC) - Ravenfield Ladies Friendship Circle formed in 2024 after Ravenfield WI decided to close. It has over 20 members, the majority of who live in Ravenfield.

We enjoy a variety of activities, events, talks and social evenings which are all suggested and agreed by members. These are the sessions we held over the past year 2024-2025:

- April - Initial meeting of interest
- May – group social and quiz
- June – Physiotherapy talk and exercise
- July – Tropics skincare pamper evening
- August – Wentworth treasure hunt (cancelled due to rain)
- September – Jim Morton “I may be gone a while” talk
- October - Gift box making
- November – Wreath making
- December – Christmas social
- January - Games night
- February - Clay creations talk & FIMO mouse bookmark
- March - Women of steel talk

For Remembrance Day the group coordinated members and friends to make knitted and crocheted red poppies that were displayed at the crossroads flowerbed area. We hosted a Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday 1st December 2024 in the Parish Hall. There were 8 stalls selling a selection of crafts and sweet treats and we also had a tombola. A theatre trip is planned for members in March. We look forward to our second year as a group and in welcoming new members too.

Chair of Ravenfield LFC: Karen Jay March 2025.

Ravenfield Allotment Society - The past year has been a fantastic one for the Ravenfield Allotment Society, with a successful growing season, new members joining our community, and significant improvements to our facilities.

A Strong Growing Season - Thanks to favourable weather conditions and the dedication of our plot holders, we've enjoyed an excellent growing season. Many members reported bumper harvests of vegetables, fruits, and flowers, and it has been wonderful to see the site thriving with activity.

Welcoming New Plot Holders - This year, we welcomed several new plot holders to the allotments, bringing fresh enthusiasm and a shared passion for growing. It has been great to see new friendships forming, knowledge being shared, and plots transforming under their care.

Securing Funding for Improvements - A major highlight of the year was our successful funding application, which has allowed us to enhance security measures and improve water catchment across the site. The installation of additional rainwater collection points will help us become more sustainable, while upgraded fencing and security measures provide greater peace of mind for all members.

Looking Ahead - As we move into the next growing season, we look forward to continuing our efforts to maintain and improve the allotments. With a strong community spirit and ongoing support from our members, Ravenfield Allotment Society is in a great position to build on this year's successes.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and effort – here's to another fruitful year ahead!

Chairman – Ravenfield Allotment Society

Ravenfield Ponds - It's been 12 months since the last report but it seems like 12 minutes, so what's been happening?

I'll start with stock.

Last year we completed our new bream stock pond and added 100 fish supplied by our pals at Calverton. This summer these could be seen swimming and growing and generally looking happy feeding on Keith's pellets. Last year we had problems with the crucian stock pond, the one below the tip, being polluted by water from the Sewage Treatment Works near the church, and killing the fish. We resolved that by diverting water from the tip away from the pond and feeding water from the Gt. Pond into the stock pond. It worked a treat with the new inhabitants of the stock pond both growing and breeding. As a result, 100+ fish were transferred to the Gt. Pond during the summer.

However, the problem has only been disguised by feeding the STW effluent into the stream, where albeit diluted it runs into the Bridge and Bircliffe Ponds. I have to say that in 2025 such problems should not arise, and add that Hooten Roberts' STW is little if any better.

Early in the year we held another Angling Fair in the Sports Club at Brinsworth. Once a trial this is now a firm favourite with visitors coming from far and wide. It not only provides another income stream but is also a valuable advertising source for our club and facilities. Our next Fair is one week on Sunday and all are welcomed.

Speaking of advertising we also purchased a TV which is situated in the entrance to the Pavilion and allows us to show the NuFish video and other information continuously and especially when outside bodies book the 'dance' room at PSR for private functions.

Our efforts to gain sponsorship and raise monies from outside have continued throughout the year with funds being provided by WAC, John Allen, McDonalds and Fishing Republic and we were very fortunate to receive additional cash from Ravenfield Councillors for the vital repairs to the shed roof.

So, what about our most important asset, the fishing. In short Ravenfield fished brilliantly, probably the best ever.

Looking quickly at match weights Ravenfield was producing high double figure weights before the winter was out. There was a 30lbs net in April, a 41lbs in May and a record breaking 60lbs in July, not to mention a winning 37lbs in the Canebenders and a number of other 40's and 50's, and these were all accompanied by numerous excellent pleasure fishing catches featuring all manner of species, many of which are not found at other silver fisheries let alone carp puddles.

Carp wise respite attendances being low a number of low 20lbs fish and lots of high teens were caught.

A truly brilliant year.

I mentioned above our match results and am pleased to say that numbers at Ravenfield have improved and remained stable. This is without doubt due to the efforts of Dave and Alan who have worked tirelessly throughout the year building on what we have and developing the now popular Wednesday series.

Finally, a few words about the biggest change we as a club have made since we began accepting none BSC members years ago and that is the change to a digital membership system and new security locks at the Park. It took some time to get there but with Andy's persuasion we made it and while there are still a few tweaks being made it is without doubt a massive step forward. The changes have been readily accepted by our membership and perhaps most importantly our membership numbers have increased dramatically.

Looking forward we would like to persuade Yorkshire Water to improve the performance of their STW. We are also fully aware of the rising costs of maintaining and generally looking after the Park as a facility for all. In both aspects we may be seeking help from residents to do so.

Martin Read. Chairman.

St James Church – no report received.

8 To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

Comments were made regarding the recent parking charges at The Cavalier car park, with concerns that they are not very community-minded. The Council explained that the changes were introduced by the brewery and not the landlord.

As the land is privately owned, there is little the Council can do to assist, but they acknowledge and understand parishioners' concerns.

A parishioner inquired about the Pop-up Cafés. The Council explained that these were previously organised by members of the Ravenfield Community Plan group, which has since disbanded. As a result, the Pop-up Cafés are no longer held regularly. However, there will be one in December, with the possibility of others for special occasions.

One of the reasons for the group's disbanding was the liabilities associated with selling home-baked goods. While they considered purchasing cakes for resale, the costs ultimately made it unfeasible for the group to continue raising funds.

Close of meeting - Councillor Jones closed the meeting at 7:15pm.