

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

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

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.

68/25	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.
	Apologies received from Councillor Jupp and Councillor Lilley.
(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 was absent from the meeting due to work commitments. Councillor Lilley was absent from the meeting due to being away on holiday. The Council RESOLVED to accept these reasons for absence.
69/25	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.
70/25	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.
71/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
72/25	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
	To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 13 March 2025 (attached).
	The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 March 2025 be a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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73/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	To note any matters arising from the minutes of the last Council meeting.
74/25	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Braithwell Road Shopping Centre Car Park – Request for Loading Bay: To receive feedback from Rotherham MBC.
	<p>The nearest location on the public highway for a loading/unloading bay would be directly in front of the grassed area where the village noticeboard is. However, there are double yellow lines present, which prevent parking. Any suitable area would be that far away from the shops that it is doubtful it would actually get used. The best option is for a bay to be located on the privately owned car park.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to share this information with the Coral Fish Bar.</p>
75/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Jubilee Field – Tree Height and Maintenance: Consideration of Draft Tree Policy.
	<p>The Council RESOLVED to adopt the Tree Policy and requested that it be distributed to all properties adjoining Jubilee Field.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to arrange distribution.</p>
(b)	Hollings Lane Football Pitch - Maintenance Costs. To discuss distributing maintenance costs among all football teams renting the pitch.
	<p>Ravenfield Rangers JFC currently cover pitch marking fees directly with Rotherham MBC but enquired whether the Council could assume responsibility for the payment and proportionally recharge all teams using the pitch. The Council had no objection to this arrangement, provided that all teams pay their share of the cost in full prior to the Council committing to payment.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to calculate the total cost for the three football teams requesting pitch hire, obtain agreement from each team, and collect full payment. Once all payments are received, the Clerk will arrange for the Council to pay Rotherham MBC directly.</p>
(c)	Jubilee Field – All-Weather Trail: To receive information on alternative footpath materials and associated costs.
	<p>A revised quotation of £89,890.00 (excl. VAT) was received from Key Stone Yorkshire (the preferred contractor at the tender stage). The updated quote replaced the originally proposed tarmac footpath with a self-binding gravel alternative to better align with potential grant funding.</p> <p>The Council expressed mixed views, with concerns raised about the gravel's cleanliness during winter, durability, and long-term maintenance. A member of the public suggested exploring a plastic grid system (e.g., "egg box" style) that allows grass to grow through while providing a stable walking surface. While similar concerns were noted regarding cleanliness, the Council requested that the Clerk investigate this alternative product, including cost and warranty comparisons. Action: Clerk.</p>
(d)	Additional Item: Jubilee Field – Findings from Tree Surgeon Site Meeting (8 April 2025)
	<p>Tree Maintenance Boundary with Property on Bridgewater Way:</p> <p>Vegetation and trees near the boundary of Bridgewater Way were highlighted by the property's new occupant as requiring attention. The previous occupant had signed a disclaimer indicating they did not wish</p>

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	<p>for any maintenance to be carried out and accepted full responsibility should any damage occur. The new resident, however, has requested removal of overgrowth and accepted the Council's standard 2m clearance policy. The tree surgeons inspected the area and identified a tree located less than 1m from the boundary wall. Due to the density of vegetation, a quotation of £450.00 (excluding VAT) was provided to carry out clearance work (in addition to the annual tree maintenance cost of £450.00 (excluding VAT)). Once completed, this area will fall under the Council's routine maintenance. The Council RESOLVED to accept the quotation and authorised the Clerk to proceed with the work, scheduled to commence on Friday, 11 April 2025.</p> <p>Tree Maintenance Boundary with Property on Kingsley Drive: In previous years, the resident of property on Kingsley Drive has requested that vegetation in this area be left intact, as creating the standard 2m clearance would remove all screening and impact their privacy. No trees are present in this section. The Council RESOLVED that the tree surgeon should approach the resident prior to carrying out any clearance work to discuss the proposed maintenance.</p> <p>Tree Maintenance Boundary with Property on Barberry Way: The resident requested the removal or height reduction of trees near their property. The tree surgeons reviewed the trees (believed to be Maple) and confirmed they are in good health. The trees are located more than 2m from the boundary and are not causing any structural issues. In accordance with the tree policy, the Council RESOLVED that no action be taken regarding these trees.</p> <p>Encroachment of Land: During an on-site inspection, it was noted that a property has encroached onto Council land by extending their boundary to enlarge their garden. The Council RESOLVED to arrange a site meeting to assess the situation and discuss the appropriate next steps.</p>
76/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Woodlathes Balancing Pond – Ongoing Maintenance: Discuss recent works and receive update on communications with Persimmon Homes and Rotherham MBC.
	<p>Week commencing 17 March 2025, an incident was reported regarding an individual organising their own pond cleaning (on Facebook). The Clerk contacted the organiser to explain the safety risks and clarify that the pond is on private land. Persimmon Homes and Rotherham MBC were informed of the potential safety concerns.</p> <p>Maintenance work on the pond began on Wednesday 26 March 2025. The contractor spoke with a resident and confirmed that, while an initial inspection for nesting birds was carried out, one was discovered after works had started. The area was left undisturbed to protect the nest. Due to compacted reeds, extensive work was required, and fish were disturbed. The fence remains unrepaired.</p> <p>A letter was received from the Chief Executive Officer of Rotherham MBC, confirming that a joint inspection with Yorkshire Water will be conducted now that maintenance has been completed. The Borough Council</p>

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	will also write to Persimmon Homes to address any maintenance deficiencies and remind them of their ongoing responsibilities.
(b)	Silverwood Woodland – reports of damage to footpaths, vandalism (including fire) and increase in litter.
	The Clerk has forwarded these reports to the Rotherham MBC Tree Officers, and if necessary, any damage will be reported to the landowners, Ogdens. A litter pick was carried out by Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals on Saturday 5 April 2025, and expected that most litter was collected. The Council suggested posting a message on Facebook encouraging parents to speak with their children to respect the woodland. Action: Clerk to prepare a notice; Councillor Jay to post it on the Facebook page.
(c)	Advertisements – to discuss request to place adverts for local businesses in the Parish Council noticeboards on Braithwell Road.
	The Council RESOLVED that only events within Ravenfield be advertised on the noticeboards, and that all business advertisements be excluded.
(d)	Christmas Lights – Annual debrief and review.
	Christmas Plus has requested a meeting on site to discuss feedback regarding last year's Christmas lights. Councillor Rowley and Councillor Whitworth confirmed their availability to meet with Christmas Plus during the week commencing 28 April 2025. Action: Clerk to arrange the date and time of the meeting.
77/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Energy Supply – Review of Gas and Electricity business plan and decision on contract term length.
	The Clerk presented a comparison of costs over 12, 24, 36, and 48 months from alternative suppliers (EDF, British Gas) against the rates currently offered by E.On. The Council RESOLVED to proceed with the most cost-effective option, which was a 36-month contract with EDF. The agreed rates are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas standing charge: 45p per day, unit rate: 7.6p per kWh • Electricity standing charge: 60p per day, unit rate: 24.9p per kWh.
(b)	Additional Item – Correspondence from E.On.Next Energy.
	A letter dated 2 April 2025 was received from E.On Next Energy, informing the Council that insufficient credit was received under the Energy Bill Relief Scheme for the 2022-23 period. The letter stated that the credit is being recalculated, and a revised bill and credit will be issued.
78/25	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Discuss the Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2025-2026 Term.
	The Council RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Rowley as Chairman and Councillor Callear as Vice Chairman at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Council.
(b)	Discuss the Members of the Staffing Committee Group for the 2025-2026 Term.

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	The Council RESOLVED to nominate Councillors Callear, Jay, Jones and Rowley, as members of the Staffing Committee at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Council.
79/25	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
80/25	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
(a)	Additional Item.
	The Council requested that the Clerk write to Redrow Homes to ask that the Council be notified once more than 50 dwellings are occupied. Action: Clerk.
81/25	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
82/25	MATTERS RELATING TO WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
(a)	Summary of Whitestone Solar Farm Online Parish Council Meeting, Revised Proposal.
	It was noted that the proposed area for the solar farm has been reduced by 25%. There was mention of potential future benefits for the local community, including the possibility of reduced energy costs for residents (previously rejected) and support for local community buildings, such as the installation of solar panels. A public consultation is expected to take place in Autumn 2025. It was also referenced that Doncaster City Council has not been involved in discussions to date, possibly due to the pre-election period. Local residents enquired about traffic implications in Ravenfield; however, no confirmed information is available as a transport report is still awaited from the Transport Agency.
83/25	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications:
	RB2025/0342. 1 The Bungalow Common Lane Ravenfield - Erection of front extension and raising of roof height to create rooms in roof space. <u>Plan Portal</u>
	The Council noted the application and raised no objection or comment.
	RB2025/0348 – Ravenfield Arms, 30 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 <u>Plan Portal</u>
	The Council noted the application and RESOLVED not to submit any objection or comment, as believe that Rotherham MBC Planning Department will refer to the recent Secretary of State appeal decision related to the earlier Ravenfield Arms planning application.

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	RB2025/0415 - Homestead House Common Lane Ravenfield. Discharge of conditions 04 & 05 imposed by RB2016/1208. 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.
84/25	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information.
	All Councillors and the Clerk joined the Whitestone Solar Farm online Parish Council meeting on Thursday 3 April 2025. Councillor Rowley attended the YLCA Regional Training Day on 21 March 2025, held at Drax Power Station.
85/25	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
86/25	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)	Year End, External Audit – Information on scheduled arrangements.
	The Council noted that the internal auditor is currently abroad and will return at the end of May 2025. The audit is scheduled to commence in early June and will be completed ahead of the Council meeting on Thursday 12 June 2025, to ensure submission of the AGAR by the 30 June 2025 deadline.
(d)	Data Protection Fee – Information on revised charges.
	The Clerk advised that the annual data protection fee payable to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is collected by direct debit. The fee has increased from £40 to £52 per year, with a £5 discount applied for payment by direct debit.
87/25	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next Annual Parish meeting, Thursday 8 May 2025 at 6:30pm.
	It was RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 6:30pm.
88/25	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.

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89/25	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
90/25	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING
	The meeting was closed at 8:25pm.

Chairman Signed: _____ **Date:** 10 April 2025

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Public Participation 10 April 2025

No items were raised by members of the public.

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