

The Minutes of Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 6.30pm in Ravenfield Parish Hall, chaired by the Chairman, Councillor Rowley.

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

In attendance: Seven members of the public were present.

45/26	NON-ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS
(a)	To receive and note apologies from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.
	No apologies for absence were 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.
46/26	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.
47/26	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)).
	Agenda Item 8 (a)- Jubilee Field – To receive updates regarding potential land encroachment.
48/26	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (see attached report)
49/26	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
	To receive and confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on Thursday 12 February 2026 (attached).
	The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2026, be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
50/25	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	The Clerk confirmed that the necessary permissions have been obtained from Rotherham MBC Highways for the installation of a flagpole and flag adjacent to the war memorial stone on Moor Lane North.

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	<p>The Clerk asked the Council for their preference of flag, either the Union Flag or the St George's Flag. The Council RESOLVED to install a Union Flag.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to arrange the purchase and installation of the flagpole and Union Flag.</p>
51/26	CORRESPONDENCE – To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Moor Lane North – Condition of foot path.
	<p>A resident reported that the footpath is in poor condition, with overgrown hedges and debris reducing its width, making it difficult for pedestrians, particularly children. The Clerk confirmed the issue has been reported to Rotherham MBC, and Councillors noted that grubbing is required to restore the full width.</p>
52/26	MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS – To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Jubilee Field – To receive updates regarding potential land encroachment.
	<p>The Council received information provided by the solicitor, and requested that the Clerk first seek confirmation from the Council's insurance provider as to whether the associated legal costs would be covered, or whether the Council may proceed using the appointed solicitor.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED that, subject to the advice received from the insurance provider, the draft letter reviewed by the Council at the meeting, be issued.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to contact the insurance provider and proceed accordingly.</p>
(b)	Jubilee Field, Annual Tree Maintenance – Friday 6 March 2026.
	<p>The Clerk reported that the scheduled tree maintenance works had been carried out, with no issues reported.</p> <p>The Council was advised that the overgrown vegetation referenced under Minute 170/25 (e), along the boundary with the property on Kingsley Drive, has also been removed.</p>
(c)	Hollings Lane – Football Pitch Hire.
	<p>The Clerk reported a lot of interest in hiring the football pitch. The Council noted the previous agreement to permit only one team at a time, with evening bookings from April to October, and acknowledged limited parking in the area. The Council RESOLVED to advertise and accept bookings. Action: Clerk.</p>
53/26	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>Maintenance works commenced on 23 February 2026 by contractor Waste Clean. Approximately 20 tonnes of silt were removed over an 11-day period, and life buoys were recovered. Fencing was cut to allow access and has not yet been reinstated, including previously damaged sections. Tree and bush maintenance and litter clearance in undergrowth remain outstanding. It was noted the contractor kept both the Parish Council and residents well informed.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to follow up with Persimmon Homes and contact the contractor and Persimmon Homes to express thanks for the works undertaken.</p>

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(b)	Replacement Defibrillator – Old Ravenfield
	Due to the guidelines of the Ward Councillor Devolved Budget application, the new defibrillator will be installed at the Parish Hall, with the existing Parish Hall unit to be relocated to Old Ravenfield. The defibrillator has been ordered and will be installed in due course, with details updated on The Circuit. Action: Clerk.
(c)	Damaged Bus Shelter, Hollings Lane.
	The Council noted that the bus shelter was damaged in 2024. Communications from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority have stopped despite the Clerk following this up, no response has been received. Action: Clerk to escalate the matter.
(d)	Street Lighting Attachments – Hanging Baskets.
	Councillor Rowley reported that at a Rotherham MBC Network Meeting, information was shared regarding changes to street lighting regulations, including the requirement for structural testing prior to the installation of hanging baskets. The Clerk confirmed that no formal notification or guidance has yet been received from Rotherham MBC. Action: Await formal notification from Rotherham MBC.
(e)	Ravenfield Crossroads Planting.
	The Rotherham MBC Neighbourhood Network Co-ordinator has confirmed that the Borough Council is investigating the planting. Ward Councillor Reynolds, who was in attendance, advised that consideration is being given to installing an additional spotlight to illuminate the tree, as the existing light is currently too dim and not effective.
54/26	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Ravenfield Community Plan Group – Request to hold Pop-Up Café events at Ravenfield Parish Hall.
	The Council was advised that the Ravenfield Community Plan Group now has sufficient volunteers to resume monthly pop-up café events. Previous concerns relating to home baking and associated liabilities have been resolved with the involvement of Environmental Health. A request was made to hold the café on the first Sunday of each month, commencing on Sunday 19 April 2026, as part of a St George's Day celebration. The Clerk reported that funding of up to £250 has been successfully secured from Voluntary Action Rotherham towards the St George's Day event. This funding opportunity arose following the previous Council meeting and had a short application window. The Council RESOLVED to approve the request.

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(b)	Loss of Regular Parish Hall Booking.
	The Clerk reported that the regular Saturday Hall hire for dog obedience classes has been cancelled, resulting in a further reduction in income. The Clerk has advertised the availability of the Hall. The Council noted the information.
55/26	MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - To consider the following items and decide further action where necessary:
(a)	Community Governance Review – To receive and note any updates.
	On 6 March 2026, Councillor Rowley and Whitworth met with Stuart Fletcher (Legal Assistant) and Mike Thomas (Electoral Services Manager). Rotherham MBC intends to undertake a borough wide review of boundaries, with confirmation expected by April/May 2026. Consultation would form part of this process, with outcomes anticipated by April 2027 and any changes implemented from April 2028. It was suggested that the Council await this process rather than submit further petition signatures at this stage. The Council RESOLVED not to resubmit a Community Governance Review at this time, but to continue gathering petition signatures at community events.
56/26	REPORTS FROM RAVENFIELD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY - To receive the following items and decide further action where necessary:
57/26	MATTERS RELATING TO REDROW DEVELOPMENT
58/26	MATTERS RELATING TO GREEN ITEMS
(a)	Northern Powergrid Foundation Grants.
	The Council noted that this grant scheme may provide an opportunity to secure funding for solar panels at the Parish Hall. Action: Clerk to submit an expression of interest at the initial stage.
59/26	MATTERS RELATING TO WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
	The Mayor, Oliver Coppard, held a meeting on 10 March 2026 at Aston Hall Hotel, which was attended by Councillor Rowley. Positive support was noted from the Mayor. An invitation was received for the Chairman to attend a meeting of Parish Councils regarding the Whitestone Solar Farm on 23 March 2026 at Harthill Village Hall. Action: Councillor Rowley confirmed attendance. A Whitestone Solar Farm Zoom meeting was also arranged for 23 March 2026, with Councillors invited to register via the circulated link. Action: All Councillors The targeted consultation on proposed changes to the solar farm boundaries (4 March 2026 – 3 April 2026) was received. The Council RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a response focusing on locally affected areas identified on the maps. Action: Clerk.

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60/26	PLANNING
(a)	To consider the following planning applications: (No planning applications received at the time of publishing the agenda)
(b)	To receive information on any previous planning applications/issues and discuss further action.
61/26	EXTERNAL MEETINGS – To receive information. CAP Meeting (18 February 2026): Attended by the Clerk and Councillor Rowley. Community Governance Review Meeting (6 March 2026): Councillors Rowley and Whitworth met with Stuart Fletcher and Mike Thomas at Riverside House. Hollings Lane Site Meeting (6 March 2026): The Clerk met with the Neighbourhood Coordinator to review fencing requirements to prevent off-road bike access. Rotherham MBC Network Meeting (11 March 2026): Attended by Councillor Rowley. Rotherham MBC Joint Working Group (11 March 2026): Attended by Councillor Jay and Councillor Rowley.
62/26	YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS - To consider the following received items and decide further action where necessary:
63/26	FINANCIAL MATTERS – To receive and approve the following:
(a)	Update on the Council's finances The Council noted and approved the Council's finances.
(b)	Payments to be made The Council RESOLVED that the payments, as presented, be approved and made accordingly.
(c)	Internal Auditor – Appointment and arrangements for audit commencing April 2026. The Council RESOLVED to appoint Richard Bellamy to conduct the internal audit.
64/26	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
(a)	To confirm the date and time of the next Parish meeting, Thursday 9 April 2026 at 6:30pm. The Council RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9 April 2026 at 6:30pm.
65/26	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.
66/26	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
67/26	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING The meeting was closed at 8:56pm.

Chairman Signed: _____ **Date: 9 April 2026**

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Ravenfield Parish Council

Public Participation 12 March 2026

No matters were raised.

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