Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Ravenfield Parish Council held on Thursday 14th January 2016, at 6.30pm, in the Parish Hall.

Present Cllrs. D. Rowley (Chairman), D. Finch, S. Hamshaw, J. Jesson, N. Pearson and J. Wilson. 2 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies.
An apology was received from B. Callear; moved N. Pearson, seconded J. Jesson.

2. Minutes.
After amending 9c) rubish to read rubbish, the minutes of the previous meeting, held 10th December 2015, were approved as a true record: moved Cllr J. Jesson, seconded Cllr N. Pearson.

3. Matters Arising.
a) Item 3b) Defibrillator Safe Cabinet – Even though a replacement floor (heater) had been supplied and fitted it was still not working. Due to worries about low temperatures, the defibrillator was at the home of the Chairman. It was agreed the defibrillator be kept inside the Cavalier. Well Medical were to supply a replacement mains cable with a modified male connector and a new transformer. Hopefully the cabinet will be working next week.
Cllr Wilson reported that British Heart Foundation were supplying up to 5 free defibrillators to parish councils, however demand had exceeded supply and none were available at the moment. It was agreed that when more were available we should try to get one for Old Ravenfield.
b) Item 9) Items raised with John Healey MP. The Chairman reported that John was still in contact with the Post Office regarding the potential closure of Ravenfield Post Office. John had spoken to BT about the lack of fast broadband and they had replied that it was planned to be done as part of phase 6, probably January to March 2017. John had been in touch with the Superintendent regarding the motorbikes and quadbikes nuisance and notices were being put up. Cllr Wilson reported that RMBC had put down loggers and these had shown only a few motorbikes, possibly due to the time of year and the inclement weather. RMBC had stated that if the situation got worse they could put barriers up but would need help from the landowners. The landowners have subsequently put barriers in.

4. Police Report.
The November report is on the Police website and shows 14 incidents.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation; see separate report.

5. Correspondence.
a) YLCA – Briefing Note, external audit. As part of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 the Audit Commission ceased to exist on the 1st April 2015 it has been replaced by a new company called the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The Council has to decide whether to accept an external auditor appointed by the Company or whether to appoint its' own. The Council decided to opt into the new Sector Led Body.
b) YLCA – Membership subscriptions 2016 / 2017. NALC has decided to increase the membership subscription that it levies on CALCs by 18%. The YLCA has held an extraordinary Joint Executive Board meeting and resolved to soften the blow to members by utilising some of its' reserves. YLCA will be increasing its' membership fees by 4.9%. The basis of the YLCA calculation is the number of parish electors and fluctuations in this number will affect the fee charged. Noted.
c) L. Connor – Accidents Hollings Lane. The contents of the email were noted. Whilst the Council is concerned and sympathetic the Council has repeatedly tried to have all the 40MPH speed limits in the Parish reduced to 30MPH. The Clerk to send a suitable reply.

d) RMBC, Financial Services – Parish Precepts. The Ravenfield Council Tax Base for 2016/17 is 1,008.45. A grant of £1,975 will be paid to Ravenfield Parish Council. Noted.
e) Radio Nightingale – Grant. Request for a grant towards the cost of a new broadcasting antenna. Resolved to give a grant of £50.
f) Mayor's Charity Committee – Grant. Agreed to award a grant of £50.
g) RMBC, Community Liaison Officer – Enforcement Littering/Dog Fouling. Exploring the possibility of representatives of parish councils issuing fixed penalty notices. The Parish Council determined that it had no interest in such a scheme.

6. Planning applications.
a) RB2015/ 1590 – Erection of dormer bungalow to rear of 12 Hollings Lane. Noted.

7. Risk Assessment.
The revised version on the Council's Risk Assessment was accepted and approved.

8. Budget and Precept 2016/17.
The basis of the budget was accepted but with possible projects such as Defibrillator for Old Ravenfield, trim trail and track Jubilee Field (funded over a minimum of 2 years) and reduction in support grant it was resolved that the precept be £38,025.
The Council was informed that the Church clock required repair and updating so that it was not wound up manually and the estimate for this work was £13k.
D. Rowley and the Clerk declared an interest with regards to the Clerk's salary and left the meeting whilst this was discussed.
It was agreed to increase wages and salary by 2% (rounded) and the Clerk's allowance by £50.

Hall charges were reviewed and the following increases agreed £3/session to £4/session, £5/session to £7/session, £10/session to £12/session use as polling station £20/hour, private hire – residents £10/hour with a minimum charge of £25 and private hire – non resident £14/hour with a minimum charge of £35. It was agreed to write off the balance owed by the Karate.
It was necessary to fix a fee for a new hirer Ravenfield W.I. Cllrs Finch and Jesson declared an interest and withdrew. It was agreed that the charge be the same as for Bowls etc.
All the above to take effect from 1st April 2016.

9. Reports.
a) The next YLCA South Yorkshire Branch meeting will be held on Saturday 6th February 2016 at 2.00pm in Dinnington's Lyric Theatre.
b) The Co-op Bank has stated that they will have to close our account if the paperwork for signatories is not completed. Cllr Finch agreed to complete his form but other members were not persuaded. Agreed matter is raised with YLCA.
c) The Parish Meeting will clash with the newly formed W.I. It was resolved to waive the Standing Order requiring the meeting to be held on the third Thursday in March and to hold the meeting on Tuesday 15th March 2016.

10. Payments.
The actual figure for Yorkshire Water was £70.63 and BT £45.47.
It was agreed that payments could be made.

11. Any Other Urgent Non Financial Business.
None.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.