Ravenfield Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 5 April 2018 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor N Pearson.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2017 were approved as a true record.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Accounts

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017; these had been audited and were unqualified. There were no questions on the accounts.

4 Chairman's Report

I took over the role of Chairman in May from Councillor Dave Finch, to whom I thank for what was a difficult year for him as Chairman and your Parish Council. This has been my second time as Chairman of Ravenfield Parish Council. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their hard work and support given freely in the past year. This year we welcomed Councillor. Brian Callear to our team. We also have a new Clerk in post Gemma O'Carroll, after taking over from Sue Finch, who came temporarily to our rescue. Gemma has worked tirelessly in the past year on behalf of the Council whilst finding her feet at the same time. It is quite daunting to take over as Parish Clerk, with new ways of working, procedures to be followed, and new people to engage with. Gemma is always available for enquiries and to take bookings for the Parish Hall. The hall is looked after by our Caretaker Sarah Walker, who I also thank.

The hall itself has had a little money spent on it this year, new door locks, central heating repair, and new hot water boiler. We are also in the early stages of drawing up plans to extend the hall at the rear, for better storage and perhaps an extra small multi use room. This will be a significant investment in the Parish hall and we are trying for grant funding to help with the costs.

We have put in two new pieces of play equipment in the Hollings Lane play area to replace the boat which was taken out due to it being unsafe.

A new children's football team Ravenfield Rangers, has been set up on the field who play on Sunday's, and welcome any new future stars to their teams. The Council will continue to support their efforts in this project and wish them every success as they continue to grow.

Jubilee field still holds potential for something other than just a grassed field, though we are mind full of the concerns of some of the residents near by.

5 Reports from Local Charities

The Ravenfield Charity
After 11 years of negotiations, (6 by J. Jesson), we have now managed to acquire possessory title and sell three parcels of land at Almholm Ings near Doncaster. After numerous delays on the part of DMBC they were finally sold, two plots by negotiation and one by auction. The total profit from the land sales after the legal fees were paid was just in excess of £17,500, and the trustees now have to decide how to use this money appropriately. We have had one request for a grant during the year 2016 /17 despite advertising in the Parish magazine, the Parish newsletter, on local notice boards and on the village web-site. The application was approved by the trustees and money sent to help a single working parent with ill health to buy a fridge freezer and help with repairs to a leaking roof.

The Invested Income is held in Ethical Investments with COIF Ethical Investment Fund – and is keeping pace with inflation.

The Ravenfield Educational Charity
There have been no application for grants despite advertising in the surgery, Parish hall, Parish noticeboard, at the 2 comprehensive schools, on our Parish web-site and in a newsletter sent to every house in the village. The newsletter was published earlier as requested to allow the adverts to be read just before, rather than just after, application time. The trustees voted to donate £100 to the primary school for books.

Uncashed cheques have been written off as they were out of date.

Invested Income is now in Ethical Investments with COIF Ethical Investment Fund – Income units. The funds are keeping pace with inflation.

The accounts of both charities are due to be audited by Kath Ward next week who refuses to take any fee for this service. *Jill Jesson*

6 Reports from Local Groups

"The Old Village Ravenfield Village Garden Society has had another successful year and held several fund-raising events to enabled the group to plant 70 wall troughs and hay-racks around the village with both Spring and afterwards Summer bedding. RGS is grateful to Ravenfield Parish Council for help with the cost of watering some of these. Our Christmas decorations cost nothing and are done by local residents. We went carol singing to pay for two Christmas trees which were on decorated and lit for a full month.

Teams of volunteers continue to keep the village looking attractive by holding with regular community gardening events. They weed, prune, tidy and plant where appropriate. More wild flowers have been planted in Ravenfield Parks". *Jill Jesson.*

"The Litter Pickers Group (Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals) are a team of more than 30 litter picker volunteers who each patrol an individual stretch of one of Ravenfield's roads. Car-parks, playgrounds, the turning circle and areas near the shops are also covered to try to keep them as litter-free as possible. One community litter pick was organised in 2017 and another is planned for April 7th. 2018". *Jill Jesson.*

"The Ravenfield Art Group is flourishing under the tutelage of Rachel Lewis. The group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Members have contributed to local art exhibitions with a number of them selling their work. We may hold our own exhibition later in the year". *Jill Jesson.*

"Bramley Townswomen's Guild – The Townswomen craft group does not have a committee, it is a self-help class, but as keyholder, on meeting days I would like to inform the council and parishioners of our activities. Gradually our membership has increased and it has become a sociable, friendly group. Ladies do not have to be a member of Townswomen Guild, anyone who lives in Ravenfield can come along.

Members are free to continue with their own projects or join in with anything we are doing as a group. The entrance fee is £1.00, which includes a cuppa and a biscuit. Surplus money is used to purchase materials we may need or pay for demonstrations. The ladies of the group have many talents and skills which they are willing to share.

Recently we have been knitting blankets and children's jumpers for a hospital Townswomen's Guild supports in Africa. One of our ladies has knitted approximately 50 "Twiddle Muffs" to be given to dementia sufferers. It helps to keep their hands busy as well as warm. Another member knits toys to sell for charity. Handmade cards are still popular, several types of embroidery are much in evidence.

Anyone wishing to call in on the 2nd and 4th Thursday 1:30pm – 3:30pm, in this hall, will be made welcome." *Val Burgess*

"The Events Group – As Chair of the Events group, I have to say that 2017 was quite a difficult one for us. We struggled to find entertainment to suit our audience, and therefore had a disappointing year in response to some of the events we advertised. The ever popular Beetle Drive has become a twice yearly event, Spring and Autumn, which will continue. However, this year we have decided on a social games evening, to include several quizzes and bingo. For our two other events we are hoping to book professional acts.

At all events a pie and pea supper will be served. We also raise money for local charities, choosing one each year. 2018 is Rotherham Talking Newspaper, for the blind and partially sighted.

The difficulty we have now is publicity. We relied on the Post Office staff to advertise and sell tickets for us. We will be trying the village website, posters and word of mouth for the near future, but when the Parish noticeboard is re-sited, we will use that and hope the new site will generate new interest.

Please pass on the word when you hear of our events and we will make everyone very welcome. Come along and give us a try." *Val Burgess*

"The Friendship Group is a group of people who meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, in the Parish hall.

We are an informal group, who meet and enjoy crafts, knitting and sewing, or even just to sit and talk. Even if you don't have any interest in craft you are very welcome.

Please come and join us, you will be very welcome." *Margaret Johnson*

"The Sewing Group, held every Friday from 10:00am until 3:00pm. We have 14 members, and each user has their own table, to carry out sewing or crafts. We're a friendly group and like to do all types of crafts". Nina Parkin

"**St James Church** – 1917-1918 has been a roller coaster year for St James' Church. The Quinquennial Report for our Church ended in 1917 (this is a five-year maintenance plan) and on the 'to do' list was our clock face renovation and so began our fund raising. Added to it was our ambitious plan to electrify the winding mechanism rather than continue hand winding the clock. We have a continuing fund raising programme to achieve this. Again, the Parish Council have offered their financial support and we do most sincerely thank you for this.

We now have a regular bell ringer in our Church membership and hopefully some of you will have heard the bells ringing most Sunday mornings prior to the commencement of the service.

Clearing the Churchyard and chopping some high branches from trees is a continuing programme to keep our paths and the Church surroundings looking inviting to visitors.

Our monthly coffee mornings at Church on the first Saturday of the month continue (not in the winter months) as we welcome visitors from the community of Ravenfield to take the opportunity of looking around and getting to know this Gem of a Church.

For the National Heritage weekend in September our Church was open for the weekend to give people, particularly clock enthusiasts, an opportunity to see for themselves our unique One Handed Clock. What a Gem we have!!!! The clock is the only one in the whole of Yorkshire and possibly there are only six in the UK.

Church members had a stall at the event held in July at the Cavalier to support. Again, being part of the community is very important to our Church members.

Unfortunately, our efforts to revive the Community Carol Singing event at the Cavalier failed to attract people which was disappointing.

Christmas services at the Church were well attended and enjoyed and culminated with a good congregation for our Midnight Christmas Communion when we all – Church members and people from the Ravenfield Community - welcomed Christmas Day. I do hope that on Easter Sunday our Church members are able to welcome people from the Ravenfield Community to our Easter Day service as we continue to grow together.

We have a full programme of activities/events for the coming year, plus a Church Open Day. We hope with our plans to 'reach out' to the Ravenfield community by improved advertising and communication as we continue to grow together". *Pauline B Whitlam – Church Warden*

Ravenfield WI. We are the Ravenfield Women's Institute that meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at Ravenfield Parish Hall. Founded in January 2016.

We welcome women of all ages to come along to meet new people, have a little fun and learn new skills! We currently have 50 members and new members are always welcome. As each month progresses many new friendships are made by many ladies living in our parish.

Our programme of activities last year was created by the group and included talks on how to trace your ancestors, the conservation work at Ravenfield Ponds, hairstyling demonstration by Paul Freeman, a fashion show, truffle making, as well as interactive games night & quiz. We have also enjoyed days out, theatres trips, social nights out & a treasure hunt around Braithwell last summer.

Each month there is also a craft evening held on the first Tuesday of the month at which ladies can bring their own crafts. Some evenings are themed – jewellery making; origami; serviette folding; pipe cleaner animals, Easter wreath making to name a few.

A Christmas Fair was held at the parish hall in late November which was well received with many varied crafts on display by our ladies. It is hoped to hold another one in November 2018. The money raised from the tombola stall; refreshments and cake stall is to go towards a community event at which people will be able to meet and get to know other villagers, which we are currently working on. Many thanks to the Parish Council for allowing us the free use of the hall for this event.

Our WI entered two teams for the South Yorkshire WI Federation Quiz in October; one of our teams won the federation trophy. A presentation is to be given at the Federation Annual Meeting which will be held on 21 April 2018 at Barnsley.

At our Annual meeting in March 2018 it was agreed to donate 10% of our raffle income to the local charity Shiloh.

For the forthcoming year the monthly activities planned are the following:

Guests are welcome to our meetings, and able to attend up to 3 meetings before being required to join as a member - entry is £5 each & includes refreshments

For more information about our WI please email: ravenfieldwi@outlook.com
Or follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/RavenfieldWI/

"Indoor Bowling meet on Wednesday and Friday evenings, 7:00pm until 9:00pm, and have 22 members. Unfortunately, we have lost a couple of members this past year.
We play matches away, and have social nights out too, fish and chip restaurants etc. We're still thriving and looking for some youngsters to join us. New members would be very welcome". *Neil McKinnon*

"Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund. In 2017 the Social Fund embarked on 3 day trips. Llandudno in June, Skipton in August and Whitby in September.

Our July coffee morning also consisted of a very nice Strawberry Tea.

The Christmas Raffle for 59 prizes which were all donated by local residents, raised £447.00 Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The Christmas Party on the first Wednesday in December was a cracking success, with a 3 course meal from Rotherhams.' The Pantry Green ' and entertainment by Rachel Saunders from Angle Entertainments Ltd, a very good singer who engaged marvellously with her audience.

This year started off with a dinner at ' Ravenfield Arms ' 54 members attended, once again ' Angle Entertainments Ltd 'supplied us with another cracking singer named Roy O'Brian who also played several musical instruments to a very high standard. A very enjoyable night with many members dancing the night away. A highly recommended entertainer.

The A.G.M in April returned all members of the committee to serve another year.

Our Day Trips this year by popular request are as follows : Chester in May, Skipton in July and in August we will be going to the ' Pennine Garden Centre ' and then on to ' Dearne Lea Tea Rooms ' for a full ' Afternoon Tea '. We do like our food.

On Monday the 4th June 53 members attended a dinner at ' The Cavalier ' followed by entertainment. Another very good night. A big thank-you to Betty the landlady.

The Coffee & Cake morning on August the 1st was a celebration of ' Yorkshire Day '. The Parish Hall was decorated with Yorkshire bunting, 2 very large Yorkshire Rose flags and all the tables decorated with Yorkshire Rose place mats, along with Yorkshire flags and flowers. We all drank Yorkshire Tea and to most members surprise we all had a full ' Afternoon Tea ' with loads of sandwiches and cakes on very posh 3 tier cake stands. A Yorkshire Quiz took place followed later by a Yorkshire Poem read out by Maureen McKinnon. A very enjoyable celebration of ' Yorkshire Day '. We do like our food.

The November Coffee & Cake morning, we will be celebrating the centenary of the end of World War 1. Details to be announced at a later date.

The fund accounts for year ending March 2018 are complete and submitted to the Charity Commission. We are still in a healthy position.

The Members list was updated in May and we have a total of 133.

I would like to thank Mrs Muriel Monks our Secretary for many years who retired from the committee in November 2017. Muriel worked tirelessly on behalf of the committee and members. A big thank-you. your work was greatly appreciated.

The Christmas Party is on Wednesday 5th December. A 3 course meal followed by entertainment, the same format as last year. It works.

All members of the committee accept the fact that we all owe a huge dept of gratitude to the Co-op shop in Woodlaithes. Indeed the whole of the Co-op Group Ltd, for their very generous sponsorship to our Social Fund. We would not have been able to do many of the events that we have done in the last two years without their funds. The Co-op recognise that we make every attempt to alleviate loneliness in Ravenfield. Thank-you the Co-op group. Remember the more you spend at the Co-op in Woodlaithes the more funds we receive.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our Coffee & Cake mornings and if you like join us in a game or two of bingo.1st Wednesday in every month 10.00am to 12.00 noon in the Parish Hall.
You may enter a stranger but you will leave a friend". *Geoff. Outram - Chairman*

7 To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

Items of concern raised were:

- Events group – Kitchen crockery items damaged/missing. Kitchen tidy up.
  It was agreed to add this to the agenda of the Parish Council meeting on 12 April 2018.

- Parish Hall Fire Door – Bowls group requested for chain and padlock to add security.
  Clerk to discuss with current insurer, and follow-up at next Parish Council meeting 12 April 2018.

- Bowls group have written to all members requesting they park in the Doctors surgery car park to reduce parking issues outside the Parish Hall.

8 Close of meeting

Councillor Pearson closed the meeting at 7:20pm.