Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2019 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Present: Councillors B.Callear, D Finch, K Jay, J Jesson, R Jupp, N Pearson, D Rowley and Clerk, Gemma O'Carroll.

Eleven members of the public were present.

166/19 **APOLOGIES** – none received, all Councillors present.

167/19 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 October 2019 were approved as a true record.

168/19 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
No matters to report.

169/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillor Pearson declared an interest in item 14 (c), Donation to St James church.

170/19 **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
The meeting was adjourned for public participation, see separate report.

171/19 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Parliamentary Elections will take place on Thursday 12 December 2019. The Parish Hall is to be used as a voting station; therefore, the next Parish Council meeting must be rescheduled. It was resolved to hold Decembers Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at 6:30pm.

172/19 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS**

(a) The drainage team at Rotherham MBC have not replied to emails requesting the second drain on Jubilee field by surveyed. **Action:** Clerk to chase further.
(b) Complaint was received by email, from resident of Bridgewater Way, following the tree maintenance work on Jubilee Field it was reported that the weight of the overgrowth had collapsed a section of fence. Councillors examined photographs taken of the damage, and agreed that there are clear signs of age/rot. The fence is over 13 years old. It was resolved the Parish Council would not assist in the repair of the fence.
(c) Resident of property on Orbourn Close requested a Councillor visit, to view and discuss the trees at the rear of the property, situated on Jubilee Field. Although the trees have been cut back as part of the tree maintenance program, the resident is unhappy with the size and issues caused by the trees. Councillor Jesson and Councillor Pearson agreed to visit the resident. **Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting with the tree surgeon also being present. Information to be fed back at the next meeting.
(d) Ravenfield Rangers JFC have reported use of professional football coaching taking place on Hollings Lane playing field, particularly on the pitch marked out by RRJFC. The field is for public use, however unfair for a coaching/club to use the area in which RRJFC pay to hire. It was also reported that The Cavalier adult's team are using the field to train, leaving large divots on the pitch which are dangerous to younger children. Motorbikes have also drove over the marked pitch. Vandalism was reported to the storage cabin. When the weather is fine, vandalism grease will be painted onto the cabin to prevent further vandalism and

climbing onto the roof. **Action:** Councillor Rowley will speak with The Cavalier landlord and ask if the football team could look to train at the opposite end of Hollings Lane playing field. Clerk to seek advice from other bodies how to manage issues of non-paying teams using the marked-out pitch to host own training sessions.

173/19 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH**

(a) Community Plan. Councillor Jay and Councillor Jesson are still awaiting a reply from the doctor's surgery, requesting a meeting to discuss the noticeboard and information advertised.
An application for Charity status has been made.

(b) Parish Boundary – the community governance review request was listed as an agenda item at Rotherham MBC full council meeting on 30 October 2019. We are awaiting clarification from Stuart Fletcher of Rotherham MBC if the review was approved.

(c) Woodlaithes Balancing Pond – update. No further correspondence received from MP John Healey or Persimmon Homes. Recent flooding has resulted in the pond over flowing. Reeds merge in the middle of the pond, and the fish will die shortly if dredging does not take place. (The fish will need to be removed before dredging can take place). **Action:** Clerk to contact MP John Healey.

(d) It was confirmed that with the donations received from Ravenfield Art Group of £120 and Ravenfield Community Plan group of £600, provide sufficient funds to proceed with decorating the trees outside the Cavalier pub. Hire of a cherry picker is arranged for 22 November 2019. Thanks, was paid to the volunteer with a cherry picker license, able to assist with this. Councillor Jesson and Councillor Pearson, and parishioner Mrs Jacques, will manage the installation of the decoration.
Last year, lights for the shop fronts scratched the shop signs. Shop owners may plait the icicles lights to prevent further damage.
It was agreed that the Christmas light switch on will take place on Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 6:30pm – 7:00pm. Children from Ravenfield Primary Academy will sing Christmas carols, musicians from The Cavalier pub will provide the music. Parents have agreed to supply and serve mince pies. It was agreed to invite the vicar of St James Church, and ask he led the carols.
Mrs Jacques will design a poster for the event, and have distributed at school.
It was agreed that we should invite the pupil of Ravenfield Primary Academy who initially raised a petition to see a Christmas tree in Ravenfield, be invited to official switch on the lights. **Action:** Clerk to write a letter of invite.
Thanks, was paid to all involved.

(e) A local resident had enquired why Ravenfield Parish Council has no Facebook page. The resident volunteered to create and manage a Facebook page. Details were left with Councillor Jesson to discuss further.

174/19 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL**

(a) Parish Hall Extension. ROC Developments UK Ltd have submitted a fixed cost quotation of works, including additional items for a total amount of £90,775.20 exc VAT. The quotation was approved by all Councillors. It remains we finance the project by a PWLB loan of £60,000 and fund the remaining value with current reserves. The Clerk provided Councillors with a written business plan of the project to submit as supporting evidence in the application to The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. The business plan was approved and signed off by the Chair (Councillor Jay) and Vice Chair (Councillor Rowley) of the Parish Council. The application will be submitted 15 November 2019. It was resolved to seek approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £60,000 over the borrowing of 20 years, for the building works to the Ravenfield Parish Hall. The annual loan repayments will come to around £3762.06. It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments. Costs over £60,000 will be paid using current reserves.

Date of the building works were also discussed. The provisional dates to commence the building works were agreed as 20 January 2020, with the intention the Hall would be closed for internal works for three weeks, commencing 30 March 2020. **Action:** Clerk to discuss the dates with ROC Developments, and communicate with all users of the Hall.

(b) The Clerk sought consent to make an FCC Community Grant application, towards the developments and improvements of the Parish Hall. The details were circulated by email prior to the meeting. In order to proceed with the application, we require a third-party donation of 10.75% of each area. A table was presented of the required figures. Councillor Callear agreed to discuss this with local community groups. Councillor Napper agreed to discuss with ward Councillors. The Clerk advised the application has to be submitted by 11 December 2019. Consent was given for the application to be submitted, if a third-party donation was found.

175/19 **PLANNING**

(a) RB2019/1696 – Woodwind Pingle Lane, Demolition of utility room & garage and erection of two storey side/rear roof terrace. – No objection raised.
(b) RB2019/1693 – 10 St James View. Six weeks' notice of intent to prune 2No trees within Ravenfield Conservation Area. – No objection raised.
(c) RB2019/1614 – 4 Turton Road. Single storey side and rear extension linking to existing detached garage, to be converted into residential accommodation. No objection raised.
(d) RB2019/1617 – Land rear of 72 Moor Lane South, erection of 1 dwelling house & garage. No objection raised.
(e) RB2019/1557 – Land to rear of 8 The Dell, Application to fell various trees protected by RMBC tree preservation order (No.4) 1997. – Objection Raised.

176/19 **EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

The Clerk attended a training day hosted by YLCA on 22 October 2019, and attended a Rotherham MBC network meeting on 23 October 2019.
Councillor Jupp and Councillor Jay have arranged to attend the Rotherham MBC .

177/19 **YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS**

(a) Information circulated of YLCA VE Day 75th anniversary. The Parish Council would like to mark this day also, and discussed ideas. **Action:** Clerk to first discuss with the Old People Social Fund.
(b) YLCA have provided details of an internal audit service. The clerk and Councillors are all happy with our current internal auditor. It was resolved we continue to use our current internal auditor.

178/19 **MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

179/19 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Update on Council's finances. The information was noted.
(b) Payments in accordance with the budget were agreed.
(c) The Clerk became aware through a recent training session that under the S8 (1) (i) Local Government Act 1894, a Parish Council must not assist with funding of a place of worship. Referring back to minute 119/19 (d) the Parish Council have donated £1000 towards St James clock repair. On learning of this information, the Clerk consulted with YLCA. An email reply from YLCA acknowledges the error made, and advises that it is not necessary to take any action. It was resolved that no further donations will be made to St James Church.

180/19 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as 17 December 2019 at 6.30pm.

181/19 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was moved that under Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, information relates to finance and business affairs. It was moved that under Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

182/19 **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED**

183/19 **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 9:25pm.

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Parishioner enquired of the allotments in Ravenfield. The Parish Council explained that the area of land previously used as allotments is owned by Rotherham MBC, and at one time was leased to the Parish Council under the lease agreement of Hollings Lane playing field. The allotments have not been used in some time. It is also understood the area of land is for sale.
Public would like to see the allotments made available again. **Action:** Clerk to contact Rotherham MBC and enquire of the current status of this land.

A question was asked if there are any new business opportunities or premises available within Ravenfield. The Parish Council advised there are no new premises.

The volunteer who offered to set up a Facebook page for Ravenfield, added that we should be enhancing the community information and that circulation of this on Facebook would be an ideal setting.

Four parishioners asked why the Parish signs had been moved. The Parish Council explained that Rotherham MBC highways carried out this move, without the knowledge of Ravenfield Parish Council. It is understood the instruction came from Bramley Parish Council, ahead of the Community Governance Review, at our request to change the current Parish Boundary. Parishioners were unhappy at the misleading signs, and the height in which they have been positioned.

Recent flooding's were discussed, and several homes were reported to have been affected. The majority of the flooding came up through the floor as the water table rose. **Action:** Reported information to Rotherham MBC.