Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2020 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, G.O'Carroll.

Eight members of the public were present.

19/20 **APOLOGIES** – all Councillors present (Councillor Jubb arrived at 18:40pm).

20/20 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 January 2020 were approved as a true record.

21/20 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

22/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – no declarations of interest were raised.

23/20 **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

24/20 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Letter dated 10 February 2020 received from Bramley Parish Council, in regards the Ravenfield Community Governance Review. A copy of the cover note prepared by Ravenfield Parish Council asking support of local parishioners to select Option 2 was attached to a Bramley Parish Council prepared review vote form, and sent to Bramley Parish Council. Bramley asked if Ravenfield Parish Council were responsible for this. **Action:** Clerk to reply and confirm the note was prepared by Ravenfield, but only attached to Rotherham MBC prepared vote form, and only distributed to Ravenfield households.
(b) Email complaint received 12 February 2020 regarding fly tipping in the woods adjacent 144 Hollings Lane. The fly tipping had been reported to Rotherham MBC, Street Pride over three weeks ago and not yet collected. The Clerk had replied to the email to ask for a case reference number to follow this up with Rotherham MBC.
(c) Email received from parishioner, reporting a further traffic accident on the chevron bend within Old Ravenfield, and issues with traffic travelling from Hooton Lane onto Main Street crossing over the road lines. These issues are associated with a puddle which forms and with vehicles speeding. The parishioner suggested safety barriers are needed to prevent further accidents, and damage. Action: Clerk to follow this up with Rotherham MBC Highways.
(d) Email received from the newly appointment Resilience Office at Rotherham MBC, who would like to arrange to visit Ravenfield to look at the facilities that may be available in a time of need. **Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting once the Parish Hall building works are complete and facilities available to see.

25/20 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS**

(a) Rotherham MBC draining service have confirmed that the drainage survey is to take place week commencing 17 February 2020.

(b) The removal of 2 Silver Birch trees on Jubilee Field is scheduled to take place on 8 June 2020. Herbicide treatment will also be carried out on this day on those trees removed, in 2019 associated with the insurance claim on Barberry Way.
(c) Rotherham MBC have provided a quotation for necessary to the play area surface totalling £2276.00 plus VAT. It was resolved that the play area repairs should be discussed at the Ravenfield Youth Charity meeting.
(d) Rotherham MBC have confirmed that the old allotments could be re-established if incorporated under a lease agreement covering Hollings Lane playing field. Rotherham MBC are keen to resolve the issue of there being no current lease of the grounds in place, and propose a new lease be drafted to allow Ravenfield Parish Council to manage the grounds and allotments. The Parish Council resolved that there is insufficient interest to warrant re-opening the allotments, and a large amount of money would be required to make good this area of land, and provide necessary facilities. The legal fees to prepare the lease were last quoted at £1500.00. It was resolved that the fee was too expensive and having a lease would provide no benefit to the Parish Council at this time.
(e) Bramley Sunnyside JFC requested permission to host their annual presentation, Saturday 9 May 2020 on Hollings Lane playing field, commencing at 11:00am until 5:00pm (setup to commence at 9:00am, bouncy castles and marquees to leave at 6:00pm). The Parish Council consented to this hire, and requested the football pitch used and hired by Ravenfield Rangers JFC be fenced off, and not to be used as part of the event. No amplified music will be played.
(f) Ravenfield Rangers JFC informed the Parish Council that an unauthorised team continue to use the pitch which they hire. Ravenfield Rangers JFC have approached those using the pitch, resulting in bad language which was reported to the Police and the FA Safeguarding. Parish Councillors will keep an eye on usage of the pitch during February/March and agreed to revisit this matter at the next Parish Council meeting. Suggestion of signage to advise hire of the pitch is via the Parish Council was put forward.

26/20 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH**

(a) Community Plan are still awaiting charity status. No other updates.
(b) Councillors thanked the local businesses and staff who had helped collect Community Governance Review forms. The Clerk will arrange these be handed into Rotherham MBC Neighbourhood officers. The Clerk made the Parish Council aware that if they would like to complain of issues relating to untrue comments published on social media, leaflets or in newspapers, these should be submitted to Rotherham MBC before the closure of the Community Governance Review on 29 February 2020. The Parish Council agreed not to pursue any complaint. Parish Councillors asked if/when will there be an opportunity for the Parish Council to speak and explain our reasons for the request of a boundary change. **Action**: Clerk to contact Stuart Fletcher.
(c) Woodlaithes Balancing Pond – update. The Environmental Agency have confirmed that they will not visit or assist with this complaint because the pond is manmade. If, however the fish become distressed they will look to act. Persimmon Homes have provided a report which details dates the pond was maintained, which confirms no dredging has taken place. Persimmon Homes did provide a letter detailing the dredge was scheduled for 6 March 2019. The Clerk will discuss with MP John Healey at his surgery on 21 February 2020 and seek his advice how best to move forward with this.
(d) Councillor Rowley confirmed that The Cavalier pub are hosting VE Celebrations. The Events group have Union Jack buntings. Councillor Callear will speak with the Events group and if they are happy to loan the bunting to The Cavalier, Councillor Rowley will offer this loan to The Cavalier pub.
(e) Councillor Pearson and the Clerk visited the residents of the renovated barn on Moor Lane North, along with local stone mason, Steve Wilks. From the stone available Councillor Pearson designed and sketch of the proposed memorial, and Steve Wilks provided a quotation of £1566.00 including VAT. The Parish Council approved the design and quotation. Now that a drawing is available, the Clerk can consult with Planning at Rotherham MBC. The intention is to have a war memorial in place to mark the VE

Celebrations. It was resolved that the Clerk should move forward with any necessary planning fees within a budget of £200.00.

(f) Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals have organised a litter pick on 11 April 2020, to coincide with the Great Britain Spring Clean 2020 (runs between 20 March and 13 April 2020).

(g) The Clerk advised that we would be unable to proceed with a Severn Trent Community Fund application, as the main water supplier within Ravenfield is Yorkshire Water.

(h) Additional item – Ravenfield Parish Council Annual meeting date was set as Thursday 26 March 2020 at 7:00pm.

27/20 MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL

(a) Parish Hall Extension. Works commenced on Monday 10 February 2020. On the day works commenced a site meeting was held with ROC Developments, Councillor Pearson, Councillor Rowley, the Clerk and resident of the property at the rear of the Hall. The resident was concerned that the excavation of foundations would affect his Conifer/roots. The resident proposed that ROC remove the Conifers, and that Ravenfield Parish Council erect a fence to replace the Conifers. ROC estimated the removal of the Conifers to be up to 2 hours of the digger driver time, plus £450.00 for the conifers to be disposed of. The resident agreed to pay up to £300.00 towards the cost, but preference was no more than £250.00. No agreement was made to erect a fence, but that any area of boundary left exposed would be addressed once the build was complete.

On exposure of the drains, it came to light that the main sewer drain was blocked with what looked to be a nappy and wipes. The Parish Council agreed for the drains to be cleared and ROC provided a cost of £150.00. The Clerk will place notices in all toilet cubicles requesting no nappies or wipes be placed in the toilet. The Clerk sought consent to purchase a waste bin for the men's toilet as the Caretaker had reported nappies left on the windowsill. The Council agreed.

On Wednesday 12 February 2020 the building inspector visited to inspect the foundations. He has requested a further depth than the 900mm detail on the plans, due to the Spruce tree on the property to the right side of the boundary being less than 5m away from the extension build. The Clerk spoke with the Architect, John Box, and having checked with the building inspector provided four options:

1. Instruct a building engineer to prepare engineers drawings.
2. Consult with a tree surgeon and gain a report to confirm that the said tree will not cause any damage to the foundations.
3. Approach the neighbour and ask if they would remove the tree.
4. Dig deeper, an estimated cost of £2000.00.

The Parish Council resolved to go with option 4, and dig deeper.

Further discussions relating to the building works were held under public participation.

(b) The Clerk made the Parish Council aware that FCC Grant application is being assessed, and we are advised we may hear week commencing 4 March 2020 if shortlisted. If we are successfully shortlisted the grant would not be available until April 2020, and works associated with the grant cannot be started until in receipt of the grant. The third-party donation from Ward Councillor has to be paid before purdah, week commencing 16 March 2020. We should know more come the next Parish Council meeting.

(c) It was agreed to review a defibrillator for use of the Parish Hall at the next meeting.

(d) Additional item – Indoor bowls have trialled a bowls session on a Wednesday afternoon in addition to the usual evening session. The idea is to welcome those which may not like to go out in an evening. The trial was successful and future afternoon sessions look to follow.

28/20 PLANNING

No planning applications received as of 12 February 2020.

29/20 **EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

The Clerk attended a network meeting hosted by Rotherham MBC on 4 February 2020. There was no update available for the update of our webpage (hosted by Rotherham MBC).
Councillor Rowley had a telephone meeting with HSBC Relationship Manager on 16 January 2020 regards a loan application. HSBC did not reply to any emails or come back with any further help. Fortunately, we were able to proceed with a PWLB.

30/20 **YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS**

(a) It was agreed that Councillor Jupp should attend the Spring Conference 2020. **Action:** Clerk to arrange payment and booking.

31/20 **MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

(a) Defibrillator
(b) Parish Hall boundary with 12A Birchwood Drive

32/20 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Update on Council's finances. The information was noted.
(b) Payments in accordance with the budget were agreed.
(c) Additional item – the Clerk received information that the Baby Sensory group will hold their last session in the Hall on 23 March 2020. The revenue gained from this booking will significantly reduce the Hall's income by approximately 33%.
(d) On clearing the Parish Hall office, a money bag with £3.10 was found. This has been banked.

33/20 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as 12 March 2020 at 6.30pm.

34/20 **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.

35/20 **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED**

36/20 **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

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In addition to minute 27/20 (a) Resident of 12A Birchwood Drive added, that he had agreed towards contributing towards the removal of the conifer but did so reluctantly and would like to ask the Parish Council to reconsider this agreement, and the Parish Council look to cover all costs.
The resident would like a fence erecting to replace the conifers to act as a boundary marker and believes that the Parish Council should provide this.
The Parish Council agreed to revisit this at the next meeting in March, when it was anticipated that the new extension wall would be visible and provide an indication of what this would look like.

The resident also added that the road leading to his property and the Council owned garages, had not been tended to since it was laid approximately 30 years ago. The use of the road with wagons look to be worsening the holes and remedial works may be necessary. The Parish Council explained that the land is not owned by the Parish Council.

Photographs were presented of the view from the front of 12A Birchwood Drive looking out towards the Hall, detailing a mound of soil, excavated as part of the foundation dig. The removal of soil in addition with wet weather conditions had left sludge at the end of his driveway, which was being walked into his property.
The Clerk had received this complaint earlier in the day and had spoken with ROC. ROC had apologised and explained that the concrete wagon was organised for the foundation pour, but was cancelled due to the building inspector not approving the foundations. The concrete wagon comes with a hose which was to be used to wash the whole area down. ROC have arranged for a plumber to install an outside tap next week and will ensure the area is cleaned.

A resident also reported wagons reversing without a banksman. Councillor Pearson explained that many wagons now have cameras fitted to aid the driver, and this may be the reason why.

Resident of Springfield Farm, Moor Lane North, spoke of issues they are experiencing due to the irresponsible parking of parents attending Ravenfield Academy. The entrance to their farm is blocked, and the gaps left too narrow to allow access for the tractors and horse trailers etc. In October 2019 the fire brigade was called to the property and also experienced difficulties and advised the issue should be reported. The resident has approached the headteacher of Ravenfield Academy who has asked parents not to block access. At one time access tended to be an issue at school drop off and pick up in the morning and afternoon, but with two nursery sessions a day, the problem is apparent most of the day. Vehicles park on the bend and force vehicles approaching to drive on the grass verge. The driveway to Springfield Farm is used as a turning point and to empty ashtrays out on. The Parish Council suggested the resident contact Colin Knight, head of Rotherham MBC Highways directly, to raise personal complaint. **Action:** Clerk to also report the same complaint. The resident will also speak with MP John Healey at his surgery held in Ravenfield Parish Hall on 21 February 2020.

Residents of Birchwood Drive complained that parking on Monday 10 February 2020 was terrible, and worse than normal, added with wagons approaching the Hall. One resident is concerned that vehicles parking outside her home, half on the pavement and half on the road, are causing weakness to the garden wall. The resident is worried that the wall may collapse and injure a pedestrian. The Parish Council added that Baby Sensory sessions held in the Hall on Monday's are due to end on 23 March 2020.

RAVENFIELD YOUTH CHARITY

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

The Clerk confirmed that the annual accounts have been submitted to the charity commissioner with an income of £3851.44.

Councillors approved Hollings Lane play area; floor surface repair be paid for by Ravenfield Youth Charity.
Action: The Clerk to liaise with Rotherham MBC in arranging the works be carried out. Current quotation for works is: £2276.00 plus VAT.