Ravenfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.

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

Four members of the public were present.

37/20 **APOLOGIES** – received and accepted for Councillor Finch and Councillor Jupp.

38/20 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 February 2020 were approved as a true record.

39/20 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Reference minute 24/20 (c), reply received from Rotherham MBC Highways, there has been no recent reports of road traffic accidents within Old Ravenfield to investigate.
Rotherham MBC Highways confirmed that the associated traffic, access and parking issues reported by Springfield Farm on Moor Lane North, are being investigated, with yellow lines as a possible solution.

40/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – no declarations of interest were raised.

41/20 **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

42/20 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) The Mayors Parlour is seeking donations towards this years Easter Egg charity. The Parish Council agreed to donate £50.00 as per previous years.
(b) Bramley and Wickerlsey Lions will be hosting a charity event at the Ravenfield Arms on 18 July 2020. The event will be held on the premises of the Ravenfield Arms, and not on Hollings Lane recreational grounds. Permission was sought to advertise the event on Parish Council notice boards. The Council agreed, and asked that the event organisers consider parking in the area, and that loud music not disturb local residents. **Action:** Clerk to ask Councillor Jupp to make local residents aware of the event.

43/20 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS**

(a) Rotherham MBC draining service did attempt visit site (Jubilee field) but the drainage system was full of water and unable to undertake a CCTV survey. A request has been made for the JetVac team to investigate and arrange cleansing if necessary. Councillor Rowley added that Jubilee Field is particularly saturated, and the worst it has ever been. Whilst on the field he was also made aware of a Christmas tree dumped on the field. The Council may consider a notice to read "No Tipping" at a later time.
(b) No further reports have been received of unauthorised use of the football pitches. It was agreed to revisit again next month.
(c) The Clerk has received verbal notification from the manager of Rotherham MBC Green Spaces, that the associated legal fees to formalise the draft lease would be halved, to £750.00. The Parish Council felt a £750.00 spend is not warranted, was not budgeted for, and financial spend is currently concentrated on the

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Parish Hall building works at this time. The Parish Council currently pay the rates and maintain this area and are happy to continue. The lease would not provide anything more to the Parish. It was resolved not to proceed with the legal costs associated with drafting a lease, and that ownership should remain with Rotherham MBC.

(d) Additional Item – it was reported that the daffodils planted on the grass verge of Braithwell Road, have been beheaded outside one property only. It looks as though the occupiers have tended to the grass verge outside their property, and mowed the grass, destroying the daffodils. **Action:** Clerk to write to the occupier of the property and request the daffodils are not cut in future.

44/20 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH**

(a) Community Plan are still awaiting charity status. No other updates.

(b) The results of the Community Governance Review public consultation should be available in July 2020. It was indicated at the beginning of the consultation that the Parish Council would have the opportunity to see a draft report and also to be able to present our reasoning. No reply or confirmation of this has yet been received from Rotherham MBC.

(c) Woodlaithes Balancing Pond – update. The Clerk confirmed that she discussed the matter with MP John Healey at his surgery on 21 February 2020. Local resident who has assisted with this matter was present at the meeting and explained that he had contacted Yorkshire Water to request specification details of the balancing pond. The original maintenance agreement reads that the pond should be dredged every 10 years. The pond has not been dredged in more than 20 years.
MP John Healey will be contacting the CEO of Yorkshire Water for assistance also.
It was also reported that a tree has fallen near The Dell, on the inside of the perimeter fence. Ward Councillor Fenwick-Green was present and offered to take this up with Rotherham MBC.

(d) Rotherham MBC Planning, have confirmed that a planning application and fee of £234.00 is required in order to proceed with consent to place a war memorial on the grass verge, situated on Moor Lane North. The Parish Council agreed to this fee, although slightly over the initial budget of £200.00. Councillor Napper had verbally indicated in telephone conversation with the Clerk that the ward budget maybe able to assist towards associated costs. Ward Councillor Fenwick-Green also offered support, and added the Rotherham Military Community Veterans Centre (MCVC) may like to assist in the opening of the memorial.

(e) Ravenfield Parish Council Annual meeting date was set as Thursday 26 March 2020, but following NALC guidance, in relation to local parish elections on 7 May 2020, the meeting must be held once elected Councillors are in seat. It was resolved to reschedule the Annual Parish Council meeting to Thursday 28 May 2020 at 7:00pm.

45/20 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH HALL**

(a) Parish Hall Extension. 19 February 2020 Councillor Callear and Councillor Rowley attended a site meeting with ROC Developments and the building inspector, the meeting was called quickly as the building inspector was requesting further works be carried out. The additional work was approved by Councillors present, in order for the job to move forward.
The resident of 12A Birchwood Drive asked that the Parish Council address the poor state of road outside his property. The road is not private land, and is owned and maintained by Rotherham MBC Highways, and as such should be reported to them. A drain on the road has also sunk. The Parish Council agreed to support the resident. Ward Councillor Fenwick-Green, present at the meeting, also offered to report this.

(b) It was hoped that the brickwork would be complete to enable Councillors and the resident of the property to the rear of the Hall (12A Birchwood Drive) to discuss the boundary marker. Due to poor weather conditions the build had been delayed. It was agreed that Parish Councillors should meet at 6:15pm of the next

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Parish Council meeting (Thursday 9 April 2020), to view the build and discuss the boundary marker at the meeting.

(c) We have received notification that our FCC Grant Application has been unsuccessful. No reasons were given other than there had been an exceptional number of applications.

(d) It was resolved to postpone the purchase of a defibrillator for use inside the Parish Hall until the building works are complete. Ward Councillor Fenwick-Green said that there may be assistance available from the ward budget.

46/20 **PLANNING**

No planning applications received as of 11 March 2020.

47/20 **EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

The Clerk, Councillor Jay, Councillor Jupp and Councillor Rowley attended election briefings hosted by Rotherham MBC. Parish Councillors agreed to meet privately on 26 March 2020 to complete the candidate applications together.

Councillor Rowley confirmed that the telephone meeting held with HSBC on 24 February 2020 was to discuss money laundering, and that HSBC confirmed that no further information is required.

48/20 **YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATIONS**

(a) YLCA Spring Conference 2020 has been re-scheduled to 6 June 2020. The Clerk confirmed Councillor Jupp has confirmed able to attend.

49/20 **MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

(a) Parish Hall boundary with 12A Birchwood Drive

50/20 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Update on Council's finances. The information was noted.

(b) Payments in accordance with the budget were agreed.

(c) HSBC Bank Account – the Clerk reported difficulties experienced with HSBC, when they cancelled the first payment cheque to ROC Developments UK Ltd. Contacting HSBC is very difficult and speaking with several agents, all provide different information. After two days it was proven that HSBC cancelled the cheque, because did not process in the time frame they set. It was an administrative error by HSBC. A second cheque was raised and processed successfully.
The Clerk has consulted with other local Clerks and the majority of local Parish Councils bank with Lloyds or Unity Trust. These banks charge a monthly fee, unlike HSBC, with no monthly fee. It was agreed that HSBC customer service is very poor, and worthwhile considering moving banks once all local elections have taken place.
The Clerk also came to find that the mandate returned to HSBC in July 2019 with amended signatories has not been processed. HSBC have advised we download a new mandate from their webpage and re-submit.
Action: The Clerk will arrange for a new mandate to be completed by Parish Councillors, and also to submit a formal complaint to HSBC at the issues experienced.

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(d) Additional Item – quote received from Hobson Nurseries for the supply and maintenance of the Parish hanging baskets and flower bed. The renewal quotation is the same as last year, £5028.40 exc VAT. The quotation was accepted.
Quote also received from Rotherham MBC, Grounds Maintenance, and increase of 1.7%. The quotation was accepted.

51/20 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as 9 April 2020 at 6.30pm.

52/20 **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.

53/20 **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED**

54/20 **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 8:30pm.

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Public Participation 12 March 2020

There was no public participation.

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