

Ravenfield Annual Parish Meeting 2021

Minutes of the Ravenfield Parish virtual meeting held on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom video conference, and Chaired by Councillor K Jay.

The Clerk and 3 x Parishioners attended the meeting.

1 Welcome by the Chairman

Councillor Jay welcomed parishioners to the meeting, and requested a minute silence in memory of the passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2019 were approved as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Accounts

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020; these had been audited and were unqualified. There were no questions on the accounts.

5 Chairman's Report

I took over the role as Chairman in May 2019 from Councillor Jesson and would like to thank her and the other members of the Parish Council for their continued help and support they provide to both the parish council and local community too. I would also like to thank our clerk Gemma and caretaker Sarah for their ongoing help and support too. Usually, the role of chairman is rotated on an annual basis, but due to the pandemic and the postponement of the local elections last year, I have remained in the position for a further year. Before last year none of us had even heard of Zoom, so to have to move and run all our monthly meetings this way for the past year has been such a great achievement for everyone involved and we are grateful to the members of the public who have been able to join us on these meetings. This year has seen Councillor Jesson and Councillor Finch step down from their roles for personal reasons. I would like to thank them both for their time, commitment and energy they have provided, it is appreciated by all. A Council vacancy was declared, and Councillor Richard O'Nion was co-opted onto the Council. We currently have one position still available, which we hope to fill shortly, when permitted. I don't think any of us imagined the scale and impact this past year would have on the world and to our everyday lives. I want to take a moment to pay tribute to those who have died, and our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones. I also want to use this opportunity to give thanks to our amazing key workers, businesses and volunteers who have rallied round and supported our community, we are so grateful for everything you have done and continue to do. This year the Parish Council agreed to make no increase in the precept for 2021/22 paid via your council tax. Despite no regular income from the hall last year, the precept and grants we have received have kept the finances healthy. During my time in the role we made plans to extend the hall. The work was due to start early 2020 by ROC and groups were informed of the disruption to the use of the hall during the works being done. Just as the work began the first lockdown happened, and so it had to stop. Thankfully, and in line with guidance, the work was able to resume again quite quickly and the extension was completed over the summer, and we are really pleased with the results. The hall now has storage space for groups using the hall, and a small meeting room, and a book swap library that the community can use. The hall has also been painted and had new furniture as part of the makeover inside and ready to welcome people back once guidance allows. Our petition in seeking a boundary change between the parishes of Ravenfield and Bramley due to changes in use from green belt land to residential was taken to a full RMBC council meeting last July. Since these homes are yet to be built and those

residents unable to be consulted about which parish they felt they belong to, the decision was taken to leave the boundary as it currently is. We have been working with public bodies to address ongoing issues of concern to residents, including off-road vehicles being ridden illegally through the local woods and countryside, traffic speed through the village, and helping to address parking and crime issues. We have seen a reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph around stretches of roads leading to the crossroads, and have had several speed watch visits by South Yorkshire Police. The lighting and a hard footpath laid in the woods between Hollings Lane and Woodlaithes has provided better access to people and been well received. At the request of parishioners, we have sited a war memorial stone near the millennium stone on Moor Lane North. We have continued to organise the hanging baskets in the village, arranged for the Christmas lights to be on at the shops and tree at the Cavalier, and booked Maltby Miners Brass band to play at various locations around the village in the lead up to Christmas. The spaces around the village that we are responsible for, Hollings Lane field and play area and the Jubilee field have had regular & routine maintenance carried out throughout the year and repairs and recommendations have been made where necessary. Our annual newsletter and distributed it to every household in the Parish in September. My thanks go to Jill Jesson for collating, editing and coordinating the newsletter. We have recently asked parishioners about whether they would like to re-open the allotment area in the village and have received a very positive response to see this happen. We are currently working on a project to enable this. As restrictions begin to ease, we are looking forward to groups and activities being able to resume face to face again and our community returning to normal. If you have any comments or suggestions about what we do please get in touch via our clerk or come along to our monthly meeting held on the second Thursday of each month at 6.30pm.

6 Reports from Local Charities

The Ravenfield Charity - Due to the covid-19 pandemic we have been unable to organise any meeting this year, but I have kept people up to date with any information via email and we have had two requests for a grant this year.

Rebecca Jupp

The Ravenfield Educational Charity - There's been hardly any activity due to the pandemic. We've had one application for a grant, which we have agreed to award. *David Finch*

7 Reports from Local Groups

The Ravenfield Community Plan Group. (RCPG) - Due to the Covid19 crisis and the time it has taken to obtain charity status for the group, the RCPG has had only one meeting since the one on 18 July 2019. This year we managed a Zoomed meeting in February 2021.

It was reported that the last achievement of the group was to help finance Christmas lights at the Cavalier. All funding donated went on this project and our balance has been zero ever since.

We began the process of applying for charity status in July /2019 . After much revision and suggestions from the Charity Commission we became a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which is good for tax purposes. We were awarded charity status 16 March 2020. The RCPG is Charity no 1188553.

THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS: SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF RAVENFIELD, ROTHERHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

We now have a constitution with 30+ pages of rules and regulations.

The Trustees are Mike Ward, (chair) Kath Ward (treasurer) Jill Jesson (secretary), Neil Pearson, Karen Jay & Jenny Jaques.

JJ offered to resign as secretary as she has now relocated to Wickersley, but no one else has yet been found for the job.

Interest and support was forthcoming for the following projects:

1. Jubilee field development (we are waiting for RMBC to discover the source of the drainage problem).
2. Lap-tops for kids (we have put out posts for this on social media).
3. Decorations to commemorate the World Wars (After the May elections, we plan to apply to local councillors to get funds for this).

Once we are allowed out of lockdown, the group plans to use car-boot and craft fairs on alternate months to raise funds for good causes.

Next meeting by zoom, 14 April 2021, 7pm.

The Old Village Ravenfield Village Garden Society - This has been an unusual year for the village garden Society with no socialising events at all. These are normally held several times a year to raise money for the village planting. Even the carol singing was cancelled along with several large and small events. Family groups and individuals have however continued to look after and care for different areas of the village, especially at the southern village entrance and the area at the bottom of Church lane. Local residents have managed to keep the village looking bright, tidy and full of flowers thanks to financial help from local councillor, Alan Napper as well as donations from many villagers. The chair and secretary for the group have had to resign due to relocation. The new chair is Paul Marsden and his wife Tracy is acting secretary while the group is still looking for a new permanent one.

The Litter Pickers Group (Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals) - This group had to cancel their 2020 community litter pick due to Covid19 regulations. However there has been a community litter pick this year, 2021, with revised socially distanced rules. 20 people turned up on Saturday March 27 and we collected over 30 bags of rubbish as well as car tyres, shattered road signs and pieces of scrap iron used to make impromptu fires in Silverwood. The group is now using WhatsApp to liaise with each other about fly-tipping incidents. Members of the group have continued to patrol their individual roadside and recreational areas and to collect litter on a regular basis throughout this difficult year. *Carol Evans* has volunteered to be the new leader of this group due to the relocation of Jill Jesson.

Ravenfield Book Swap - Following the refurbishment and extension of the Parish Hall, room has been found for a village book-swap. Following generous donations from villagers and funding from the Parish Council, there are now several hundred books, both fact and fiction organised onto the shelves. There are even sections for children's books, videos and a few jigsaws. Once the hall is open for use, members of the village or users of the Parish Hall are welcome to swap books they have read for ones they would like to read. The book swap will also be open on Monday afternoons. Notices about opening times will be displayed at the hall and on parish notice boards. Donations of good quality books and jigsaws are welcome. Please try to place them on the appropriate shelves and let Jill Jesson know if the shelves need tidying. (07415186188). Thank you. *Jill Jesson*

The Ravenfield Art Group - As with other groups the Art Group has had to cancel all face-to-face meetings due to Covid 19. For the first few months we kept in touch with fortnightly newsletters suggesting various art activities and on-line venues, which could be enjoyed legally. From September we have shared on-line zoom meetings with practical demonstrations and art activities led by different members of the group. We have now re-booked artists cancelled due to the pandemic and plan to carry on with normal activities from June 2021. There are no plans for an art exhibition for this year. *Jill Jesson*

The Events Group – As chairman of Ravenfield Events Group, I have kept in touch by phone with members of the committee from time to time during the pandemic but as we are unable to meet face to face no arrangements have been made about forthcoming events or even meetings. Until restrictions allow this is how the situation will remain. *Valerie Burgess*

Bramley Townswomen's Guild – As stated above the same situation applies to this group. We would however want to retain our second Thursday afternoon each month as before. *Valerie Burgess*

St James Church – This year as we all know has been a very testing time for us all. The church had to close its doors during the 1st lockdown on instructions from the government and the diocese. Services could be accessed via the zoom platform with St Albans at Wickersley. The new memorial stone at the crossroads was dedicated with a short service by the Rev Peter Hughes. This was followed by the first ever outdoor service on Remembrance Sunday.

We were allowed to hold the midnight Christmas service, and more recently the Easter Sunday service. The church opens on Sundays at 10.30am for one hour, with communion given once a month. All services adhere to government covid 19 guidelines. No weddings or baptisms have taken place this year, only funerals.

The church has held a weekly zoom quiz, and we have done a socially distanced graveyard clear up, with tree maintenance at the same time. We continue to accept donations for our ongoing food bank charity. The church and congregation pray for an end to the pandemic and a return to normality. *Sandra Pearson.*

Ravenfield WI - Ravenfield WI is now in its fifth year and currently has around 34 members, the majority of who live in Ravenfield. We are still welcoming new members too for anyone interested in joining us.

Last year there was a good turnout to our January and February meetings at the hall, and then Covid struck. As with everyone else, lots of our planned events were then cancelled. Our WI has continued from May 2020 holding online Zoom meetings.

Below is an overview of our meetings for 2020:

January - Imagination Gaming

February - Howard Middleton from The Great British Bake Off

March & April - meetings were cancelled

May – Online general knowledge quiz

June – Milly Johnson talk (author).

July – Chris Wood-Foot talk (brother of Victoria Wood)

August – Foraging talk

September – Receiving an MBE talk.

October - Online quiz about UK citizenship

November – Cookalong curry session with Raheel Mirza (Masterchef contestant)

December – Online Christmas social

Our programme for 2021 has been planned on a month to month basis. The committee felt that this would be more appropriate until we can get back to meeting in the hall. Many of our speakers have been rescheduled for later in the year.

We are looking forward to resuming our face to face group meetings, once the restrictions are lifted. We recognise that people may feel anxious about meeting in groups again so our first priority will be to ensure that we provide the support so we all feel confident and safe to do this again.

Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund. - The A.G.M which normally takes place in April was postponed once again due to Covid-19. The Committee as only had two meetings in the last 12 months to discuss present conditions and restrictions. The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 19th May 2021, at the Parish Hall.

I am not optimistic that a return to normality is imminent. I fear we have a long journey to travel yet. Government restrictions will dictate. So by the time of our next meeting in May we should be better informed of what we can and cannot do. At present we do not have any long term plans.

As soon as we feel we can operate with a strong degree of safety, the Committee will draft a note to inform every member and deliver it to each household.

Look after yourselves and keep safe.

Any queries give me a ring on 01709 547167 or 07724 874304

Geoff Outram (Chairman)

Yappy Ever After - I'm looking forward to helping all the puppies that have been homed during lockdown and helping them socialise finally, I've noticed that so many people have been having trouble socialising their pups and have been uneasy approaching other owners so it will be nice to finally introduce this important aspect of puppyhood to them. *Sarah Mitchell.*

Baby Group - My first two weeks have gone really well and have had a lot of interest. I have a long waiting list again. I've got lots of exciting classes planned...pirates, zoo, seaside, dinosaur week the list goes on! *Keeley Brookes*

8 To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

The Old peoples Social Fund have mentioned that the Parish Council should not arrange public access to the Book Swap library on Wednesdays. The Hall is for the use of the OPSF fund only. Parish Councillors present agreed that the Parish Council had unintentionally overlooked this, and will formally approach the OPSF to apologise and seek consent.

Close of meeting

Councillor Jay closed the meeting at 7:45pm.