

Ravensworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on
Monday, 13th April 2026

1. Present

Councillors: A Ayres [Chair], J Cooke, B Hird, A Pledge and C Robinson

2. Apologies

None.

3. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previously circulated Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2026 were received and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment: item RPC090226.5.4 'Clerk to Governors' should read 'Clerk to the Parish Council'.

5. Matters Arising

5.1. Digital and Data Compliance – the Chair reminded the meeting that he had circulated a draft Data Protection Policy, which was based on a template provided by the Local Councils Association. He also said that all correspondence to the Parish Clerk would now come via the new email address [clerk@ravensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk] which would ensure that data was handled in a secure and proper manner and in line with the policy.

The meeting discussed the likelihood of parish council data being insecure whilst parish councillors were using their own email addresses for parish council business. It was noted that it would cost £280 in total to provide each councillor with a secure .gov.uk address.

AGREED:

[a] that the Parish Council should purchase .gov.uk email addresses for each parish councillor.

[b] that the Chair will complete the AGAR and then progress the purchase.

5.2. Clerk to Parish Council - Councillor Pledge said that she had received no response to the recent advert in the Flyer.

AGREED: that RPC should approach neighbouring parish council chairs to ask whether any were able to either share a clerk, or recommend anybody to Ravensworth.

5.3 Village Activities – Councillor Robinson said that the Village Hall Committee had met and invited the resident interested in organising a range of activities to the meeting. Unfortunately, she had been unable to attend, and the Village Hall Committee was therefore writing to her, asking her to submit her proposals to them.

5.4. Bus Shelter – Councillor Robinson said that she had investigated the likely cost of installing a bus shelter on the village green which would be in excess of £10,000, plus the cost of any groundworks and installation costs.

The following was also noted:

- Planning permission would be required.
- The County Council could not offer financial support.
- There were clauses in the deeds of ownership that stopped structures being placed on the village green.
- All of the Hodgson buses now have trackers fitted, which members of the public can access. This enables passengers to see exactly when the bus is going to arrive so that they don't have to stand out in inclement weather'

AGREED: that in view of the above, this matter should not be progressed.

5.5 Methodist Chapel – concern had been expressed over the ownership of some of the land involved in the planning application for the development of the Chapel.

The Chair said that he was seeking advice in this matter.

6.0 Open Forum

Nothing was raised.

7.0 Finance and Payments

The Chair reported that the final invoice for the work carried out to the village tracks had not yet been submitted but he anticipated a reduction of approximately £1,000 because the work had not taken as long as had been predicted.

8.0 Planning Applications

The following was noted:

- 5 pods on Flatts Lane – planning permission has been granted, subject to various conditions, including the submission of a proposal for managing the facility and

ensuring no rowdiness, loud music, the establishment of a complaints procedure etc.

- 7 houses on land adjacent to Garden Centre – nothing yet decided,
- The successful application to build 40 holiday lodges on a part of the Nurseries site has now lapsed.
- Gayles Quarry – nothing yet decided

9. Highways

9.1 A66 Upgrade - Approval has now been confirmed and a timetable for the work is scheduled to be published by the end of April.

It was noted that the contractors were likely to have available funds to support local projects and that work to land at the rear of the Village Hall may well fall within their criteria.

Speed Cameras– the Chair referred to the recently circulated document which reported that North Yorkshire and York County Council would be prioritising the installation of speed cameras at the expense of some resurfacing work. Further details are awaited.

10. Village Hall

Councillor Robinson reported that:

- The PAT testing has now been done.
- The shed roof has been repaired.
- The Italian night made £894
- There is to be a craft fayre on 6th June 2026.
- When the radiator covers are removed, there may well have to be repairs to the floor.
- The next project will look at work to the space outside the Village Hall, including the removal of the quoits pitches.
- 700 litres of oil for the Village Hall has just cost £926!

11. Village Green

The Chair reported that RPC was still awaiting confirmation that the Village Green had been successfully registered with the Land Registry. He noted that a representative of the Land Registry had visited the Village to survey the Green.

12. Village Track

Those present felt that a good job had been done in repairing the track and it was now hoped that everybody would respect the speed limits and do everything possible to keep it in good condition. The Chair thanked those residents who had aided the process of the repair.

It was noted that a number of residents had asked that the fencing now fitted outside the Village Hall could also be installed outside their properties.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Information Document – it was noted that this document was due for review.

AGREED: that, once updated, a paper version of the document be circulated to all households in the Village, alongside the Flyer.

11.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be, to be held the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th May 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:16 pm