Ravensworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on
Monday 26h September 2026

1. Present
Councillors: A Ayres [Chair], J Cooke, A Pledge and C Robinson

2. Apologies
Barbara Hird's apologies were received and accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest
None were received.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The previously circulated Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2026 were received and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- 5.3 – Village Activities to read: Because the villager making suggestions about future village activities had been unable to attend their meeting, the Village Hall Committee had asked her to submit her suggestions in writing.
- 10 – Village Hall to read: It was noted that 700ltr of oil would cost £926 and this increase would double the heating costs for the Village Hall.

5. Matters Arising
5.1. Digital and Data Compliance – the Chair said that he had not yet been able to progress the purchase of '.gov.uk ' email addresses for individual councillors. The meeting discussed the format of such email addresses and it was felt that they should include the councillor's name i.e. 'asmith@ravensworthpc.gov.uk'

AGREED: that the Chair should proceed.

5.2. Clerk to Parish Council – RPC had been unable to find someone willing to act as clerk, via other parish councils.

5.3 Methodist Chapel – the Chair said that he had now received background documents from the Land Registry which showed that letters and testimonials had been submitted to confirm that the land in question was owned by the Methodist Chapel. It was noted however that the Parish Council deeds indicated that this was not so and that some of the land was owned by the Village Hall.

AGREED: that the Chair should seek legal advice with a view to the Parish Council challenging ownership of the land in question.

6. OPEN FORUM

Attendance at Parish Council Meetings by Residents – Councillors expressed their concern that very few villagers attended the meetings. It was also noted that re-election of parish councillors was due to take place next May, with at least two councillors from the current cohort intending to stand down. Councillors recognised the importance of encouraging residents from within the village to get involved in parish council business and, hopefully seek election.

AGREED:

1. to send out a reminder by email of the time and date of the Parish Council meeting soon to take place.

2. that Julie Cooke would draft a poster aimed at recruiting new members to the Parish Council.

7.0 Finance and Payments

The following was noted:

- The cost of the email addresses would amount to £260 plus VAT.
- Cost of track repairs - £7,200 + VAT
- Bank balance at 1st September - £8,802.80
- Reclaimed VAT - £1,991.88
- Precept due - £2,700
- Total income - £11,500 [likely balance at end of September 2026]

It was noted that the Parish Council was required to set an amount for next financial year's Precept, letting North Yorkshire Council know its decision by December 2026.

The Chair reminded the meeting that arrangements would need to be made for someone to take over the handling of the accounts prior to his termination of office in May 2027. In addition, it will be necessary to organise the appointment of new signatories to RPC's bank account, given the election of a new council.

8.0 Planning Applications & Updates

The following was noted:

- **Gayles Quarry** – nothing further to report since the time extension deadline has passed.
- Proposal to build **7 houses on land adjacent to Garden Centre** – nothing yet decided.
- Proposal to build 7**5 houses on land at Garden Centre** – numerous residents have responded to the proposal. Also, of particular note are contributions made by:

[a] Environmental Agency – 'in the absence of an adequate flood risk assessment [FRA] we object to this application and recommend that planning permission is refused. Reasons: The submitted FRA does not comply with the requirement for site-specific flood risk assessments.'
[b] 'Local Highways have many requirements, including the following schemes of off-site mitigation measures:
- implementation of a new footway with appropriate tactile crossings linking the site to Mill Close in the centre of the village, together with appropriate street lighting and drainage'.
- 'The footway, lighting and drainage works shall be completed prior to the first occupation of any dwelling on the site'
-'Traffic regulation order to derestrict the carriageway where extension to street lighting is required within the national speed limit'.
- 'Restriction on the use of access via Ravensworth for construction purposes.

9.0 Highways

[a] A66 Upgrade – Ken Bell referred to his attendance at a recent meeting with National Highways and other stakeholders to discuss two proposed design changes: a T-junction at Collier Lane being replaced by a roundabout on the existing A66 and also some rerouting of the bridleway which crosses from south to north beside the existing Mainsgill Farm shop entrance.

Ken has had a subsequent conversation with Rishi Sunak who has been told informally that the plan is to do the work on the A66 in stages, with detailed design work *not starting on 'our' stretch for two years.*

[b] Speed of Vehicles Travelling Through the Village
The meeting was reminded of PCSO Elliot-Brown's attendance at a Parish Council meeting earlier in the year when he had said he could arrange for temporary strips to be put on roads through the village to monitor the speed and volume of traffic.

It was noted that the traffic through the village had been even worse than usual this summer, caused by the volume and size of farm vehicles as well as those taking an alternative route through the village to avoid the congestion on the A66.

AGREED:

- **that Audrey Pledge should contact PCSO Elliot-Brown to ask how much notice the Police would need to put the monitoring strips in place.**
- **that the Parish Council would aim to have the temporary monitoring strips fitted during July and/or August next year.**

10. Village Hall

Councillor Robinson reported that:

- the Quoits pitches were in serious disrepair and urgently needed dismantling and removing.
- The Village Hall was being well used and had a regular income.
- A number of the very popular wreath-making sessions had been booked by Fiona Dean.
- The numbers attending the monthly lunches were insufficient to make them sustainable.

11. **Any Other** Business

11.1 Information Document – it was noted that this document had now been updated and would be printed and circulated.

11.2 Village Green – the Chair said that he was still awaiting confirmation from the Land Registry about the Village Green.

11.3 Himalayan Balsom – Ken Bell reminded the meeting about the importance of keeping the Himalayan Balsom, which is the invasive species in the UK, under control by removing it from the river bank. He asked that as many people as possible turn out to help with the task when requested.

11.4 **Wind Hope Farm** – This project is gaining momentum and councillors felt it was vitally important to support the team working hard to prevent the installation of a wind farm on this precious land.

AGREED; that this matter be placed as a regular item on our agendas.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 16th November 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30 p