

Ravensworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday, 10th November 2025

1. Present

Councillors: A Ayres [Chair], J Cooke, B Hird, A Pledge.

2. Apologies

Councillor Robinson presented her apologies, which were approved.

3. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previously circulated Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2025 were received and approved as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

5.1. Visit by Police Community Support Officer Elliot Brown

AGREED: that Councillor Pledge should contact Elliot to ask whether he had, as promised, been able to arrange for the publication of a request to those driving large vehicles that they should drive with caution.

5.2 Fencing on the Village Green

The Chair referred to the two letters he had received, seeking clarification and expressing some concern about the fencing currently being installed outside the Village Hall.

The Chair confirmed that he had replied to both letters explaining the rationale behind the erection of the fencing. It was noted that various positive comments had also been received and councillors felt that the work had been carried out to a good standard.

The meeting again discussed the various issues that were regularly raised by residents regarding cars being parked adjacent to their properties, particularly those dropping off and collecting children from the school, and damage to the Village Green caused by parking etc.

5.3 Open Reach Update

The Chair reported that this matter was now progressing, the Parish Council having 'signed off' the work to the Village Green.

5.4. Digital and Data Compliance

The Chair reported that he had recently met with Ken Bell to discuss and agree a way forward following the recent notification from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association about future AGARs [annual governance and accountability return] and the Parish Council's compliance with its data requirements.

Discussion took place around the following issues:

- The Parish Council intends to acquire a 'clerktoparishcouncil.gov.uk' email address, at no cost to the Parish Council, which will be used instead of the Ravensworth.village@gmail.com currently being used.
- Some concern was expressed that other parish councillors were still required to use their personal email addresses for Parish Council business because this was not in line with data and digital compliance expectations.
- The cost of purchasing additional '.gov.uk' email addresses at this time is substantial and in excess of the Parish Council's budget.
- The Parish Council is required to produce and adopt an IT Policy. The Chair said that the template provided by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association would be used but adapted for our purpose.
- Parish councillors felt it was appropriate that they should be consulted/involved in any future discussions relating to digital and data compliance.
- The area of data control is an important matter and needs to be progressed in a way that everybody can understand and comply with.

The Chair said that care had to be taken regarding the way in which the new requirements were adopted.

5.5. Parcel Lockers

It was noted that the idea of installing lockers had now been abandoned because of the concerns expressed about increasing traffic on the track.

6. Open Forum

There was no business to discuss that had not been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Finance and Payments

The Chair reported that:

- The bank statement currently showed a balance of £16,114.96
- £120 had been paid to Community Heartbeat for the VETS [defibrillator]

- £827.96 for the fencing project.
- £1,760 for this year's grass cutting
- An estimated cost of £700 for Insurance [includes public liability]
- The cost for registration of the Village Green with the Land Registry is yet to be determined
- Balance for 2025/26 after above expenditure will be in the region of £13,000.

8. Planning Applications

Nothing further to report at this stage on any of the outstanding applications,

9. Village Hall Report

Councillor Robinson presented the following written report prior to her absence:

- Lockers – decision made not to proceed
- Completion to new entrance of the porch – disability width door, minimal step and like-for-like as per planning requirements
- The work was delivered by Randall Orchard Construction with the main funding coming from a successful grant application to Yor4
- A plaque installation and photographs will be done by Yor4 in due course
- Thank you to volunteers and to Calvert Carpets for the new flooring
- The area around the hall has been cleared of weeds and moss
- Unspent monies from Coronation and Platinum Jubilee funds are to be used for two new flower tubs at the front door of the Village Hall
- Fundraising events: 4th December – Christmas Wreath making at 7 pm; 6th December – Christmas Quiz and pie/pea supper; Soup and Deserts – every month, starting in January; 15th January at 3.00 pm – Village Hall AGM.

10. Any Other Business

10.1. Weather Riggs Animal Sanctuary

It was noted that everything appeared to have been removed from the field except the large red bin which was unsightly and remained at the entrance.

Agreed: that this be pulled back into the field.

10.2. Chair's Absence from Next Meeting

The Chair reported that he would be on holiday and therefore unable to attend the next meeting. He therefore presented his apologies. Councillor Robinson will chair the meeting in his absence.

10.3. Clerk to the Parish Council

It was noted that the Parish Council could not afford to pay a Clerk a full salary but councillors agreed that it was worth inviting anybody interested in undertaking some of the Clerk's duties on either a voluntary or via a fixed annual payment to apply.

Agreed: that Councillor Pledge should draft an advertisement for approval, prior to inclusion in The Flyer.

11.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 9th February 2026 at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:08 pm