

**Ravensthorpe Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 2026**

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1. Present

Councillors: J Cooke, B Hird, A Pledge and C Robinson [Chairing the meeting]

**2. Apologies**

Councillor Ayres had presented his 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were received and approved as a correct record.

**5. Matters Arising**

**5.1. Visit by Police Community Support Officer Elliot Brown/Concern about large vehicles travelling through the village** - It was noted that CPSO Elliot Brown had now placed a request on Community Messenger that those driving large vehicles in and around Ravensthorpe should do so with care and consideration for others.

**5.2. Digital and Data Compliance** – the meeting discussed the implications of the new requirements as it relates to the annual AGAR return and the proper function of the Parish Council.

**AGREED:**

- that the proposed Data Protection Policy be considered in detail by all members of the Parish Council, prior to its adoption.
- that a quote for the cost of acquiring additional email addresses be obtained prior to the above policy being finalised.

**5.3 Weather Riggs Animal Sanctuary** - the bin has now been removed.

**5.4 Clerk to Governors** – Councillor Pledge said that she had now submitted the advert, as agreed by the Parish Council, for inclusion in the next issue of The Flyer.

**AGREED: that an approach be made to neighbouring parish councils to enquire whether any would consider sharing a clerk.**

## **6. Open Forum**

**6.1. Village Activities** - a resident made the following suggestions:

- **Introduction of a New Year's Eve party** in the Village Hall, to be available to residents and their children only.
- **Christmas Raffle** – funds to be used to support the Village Hall and/or village activities.
- **Christmas music/carols** on the Village Green.
- **Swaledale Festival** – offer the Village Hall for the hosting of an event.
- **Pop up Panto** - there are professional groups in the area who take their performances to various venues.
- **Annual barbecue** – this could provide a range of activities for families and residents in the village i.e. rounders on the Village Green.
- **Lighting of village trees at Christmas** – for a limited period over Christmas, using some of the raffle ticket profits.
- **Installation of Bird Boxes in Trees on Village Green**
- **Services Memorial** – because numerous members of the Ravensworth community have probably lost family members serving in the armed forces over the years, it was suggested that an appropriate memorial, be installed, possibly near to the Village Hall.

Councillor Robinson thanked the resident for her ideas and recommended that as most of the suggestions related to the Village Hall, it would be good if she joined the Village Hall Committee, where her thoughts could be considered and developed.

**6.2. Bus Shelter** – a resident asked the Parish Council to consider the installation of a bus shelter. She felt that waiting for a bus in inclement weather was challenging, particularly for youngsters on their way to school.

Parish councillors noted that the village was in a conservation area and discussed the likelihood of permission being given for a shelter in any of the obvious locations. It was suggested that a shelter might be located on the triangle of grass to the side of the pub, although it was felt that this was not an obvious place to attract the attention of oncoming buses.

**AGREED: that Councillor Pledge should contact the County Council about the criteria for installing bus shelters, so that the request could be discussed further in the light of more information.**

Councillor Robinson thanked residents for their input to the meeting.

### **6.3 Finance and Payments**

The Parish Council received the Chair's written financial statement, which included grass cutting, insurance to Zurich, registration of the Village Green with the Land Registry, and the 3-year subscription with WIX for the website.

**Agreed: that the financial statement be received and noted.**

### **7.0 Planning Applications**

The following was noted:

- 5 pods on Flatts Lane – nothing yet decided,
- 7 houses on land adjacent to Garden Centre – nothing yet decided,
- 40 lodges at Garden Centre – application has expired.
- Gayles Quarry – Councillor Robinson reminded the meeting that Ravensworth Parish Council endorsed the concerns provided in the thorough and well expressed Axis Technical Review. It was noted that many objections had been lodged, including those presented by National Highways.

Councillor Pledge said that she had been approached by a member of the Gayles Quarry Action Group asking Ravensworth Parish Council to ensure that its previously submitted objections were brought forward and added to the latest planning file. It was noted that the Chair had now written to the County Planning Authority asking for this to happen.

Councillor Pledge also asked that anybody with photographic evidence of vehicular incidents occurring on the roads in or around Ravensworth should let her have them so that they can be sent to the County Planning Authority.

### **8. Highways**

The road markings remain in good order, despite the poor weather.

### **9. Village Hall**

Councillor Robinson reported that:

- Debbie Mayne has now joined the Village Hall Committee.
- The Village Hall account currently stands at £2,886.
- Soups and deserts are due to start again.
- Italian Night scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- Craft Fayre scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026.
- The failed double-glazed window in the gents toilet has now been replaced.
- PAT Testing is due to take place.
- The shed outside the Village Hall requires repair.

- Windows require sealant on the frames.
- The radiator covers in the kitchen area to be removed to improve heating output.

## **10. Village Green**

Councillor Robinson said that repairs to the track would take place at Easter, while the school was closed for the holidays, at an estimated cost of £8,000. She reminded the meeting that because the Village was within a Conservation area, Tarmac could not be used.

Concern was expressed that despite some of the damage to the track on the lower green being caused by the high volume of school traffic, the school continued to contribute nothing to its maintenance and upkeep, which needed further discussion.

## **11. Any Other Business**

**11.1 Swing on Village Green** - Councillors noted that a swing had been installed on one of the trees on the Village Green and concern was expressed regarding its safety, as well as the Parish Council's liability should someone be hurt.

It was proposed that the Parish Council's insurers be contacted to ascertain whether the Parish Council had any liability.

**11.2 Methodist Chapel** – the plans attached to the Village Hall deeds show that land identified by the Methodist Chapel owners for use as an extension to their building is actually owned by the Village Hall.

**AGREED: that a letter be sent to the owners of the Methodist Chapel asking for evidence that he/she owns the land in question.**

## **11.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:11 pm