

ANNUAL MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th MAY 2024

Present

Cllr A Ayres (Chair)

Cllr A Pledge

Cllr C Robinson

8 Members of the Parish

1. Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone and outlined the make-up of the two meetings as follows. After approving and reviewing any matters arising from the minutes of last year's annual meeting, the purpose of the first meeting was to get RPC's approval for the various Annual Governance and Accountability Return documents and then deal with the organisation of RPC for the coming year.
The second meeting contains reports from the PC and then there will be an Open Forum when residents can speak about any matter of local interest including putting forward any motion for all present at the meeting to vote upon but the result of any vote made will not be binding upon the PC to implement.
2. **To receive and note apologies for absence**
3. To approve the **minutes** of the meeting held on the:
The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were approved.
4. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters required to be addressed
5. **Financial Report**
Every year the PC must complete an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The PC must approve the various sections of the documents, send an appropriate section of the AGAR to the government's external auditor and publish the whole of the completed AGAR.

The PC must evidence that all the correct steps have been taken in the required order and record this in the minutes of the meeting. All the documents referred to under item 5 had been reviewed by all the councillors and the internal auditor before the meeting.

5.1 The cash book for the financial year ending 31 March 2024 showed our precept of £5400 was supplemented by £2024.07 of reclaimed VAT, £224.36 from NYC for our cutting of visibility splays, £3.45 from Northern Power Grid and £19.05 worth of bank interest.

Our major expenditure included £2422.40 – materials/skips associated with the final stage of the repair of the hall roof, and £1620 - for grass cutting.
The PC account had a final balance of £7327.05 - £1514.82 more than at the end of the previous financial year.

5.2 Since neither our total income nor our total expenditure for the financial year exceeded £25,000, we will certify ourselves exempt from review by the external auditor. The completed Certificate of Exemption will be displayed, along with all the other AGAR related documents, on the PC notice board and will also be published on the website <https://www.ravensworthvillage.com/parish-council>

5.3 The Annual Internal Audit report for 2023-24 required by AGAR was noted.

5.4 The Parish Council approved the 2023-24 Annual Governance Statement for that year's AGAR.

5.5 The Parish Council approved the 2023-24 Accounting Statements for that year's AGAR.

5.6 The Parish Council undertook to comply with the AGAR publication requirements which include publishing the documents noted in 5.2-5.5 using the previously identified website for the period Monday 10 June – Friday 14 July 2024.

6. Elections

Chair: Andrew Ayres proposed Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr Pledge

The PC can have 5 Councillors, and it was agreed to continue to seek a suitable resident to co-opt.

7. Dates for Future Parish Council Meetings

Dates were proposed and agreed - all Mondays for Ordinary Meetings 2/9/2024, 11/11/2024, 10/2/2025, 14/4/2025 and the Annual Meeting 12/5/2025. These dates will be displayed on the notice board and published on the website.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7th MAY 2024

1. Report on the Year's Activities

The Chair Cllr Ayres reported on

The Green

This is a Registered Village Green (RVG) not Common Land. Therefore, it is RPC's responsibility to ensure that it is kept in good order for the benefit of all residents and visitors. The NYC team has once again done a fine job of looking after the grass over the last year and in addition has kept the visibility splays clear in and around the village. Parking remains a problem and residents without parking facilities around the RVG have continued to be encouraged to park with care and consideration for others and the Green itself. The prolonged wet weather has made repair of the cart tracks difficult to effect and such work will begin once there is a more settled period.

The Parish Council has resolved to produce a Village Green Policy.

There have been no planning applications received regarding the Methodist Chapel (owned by The Ravensworth Chapel Trust - chair of trustees Mark Bonnington). The charitable aims of the trust are

The advancement of the evangelical non-conformist Christian religion for the benefit of the public by means of the restoration, preservation and maintenance of the historic former Ravensworth Methodist Chapel ('Ravensworth Chapel') and the provision of Ravensworth Chapel as a place for rest, retreat and prayer, including the provision of literature and other resources to enlighten others about the Christian religion.

Highways and Traffic in the village

RPC has continued to seek to limit the speed of vehicles in the village. It is hoped that the presence of the school will aid our case for a 20mph zone, but it has proved difficult so far to enlist the support needed from those able to advance our ambition.

Road safety has remained compromised by the absence of road markings on the main highway through the village. Despite numerous enquiries North Yorkshire Highways have provided assurances but so far, no action.

Residents are urged to encourage all drivers to follow the signage which makes it clear that the tracks around The Green are private, other than for access to properties, and have a speed limit of 5 mph.

While the proposed A66 developments were given approval on 7 March 2024, a recent notice has been received that there has been a legal objection made and RPC awaits further information.

Street Lighting

Progress has been made with the repair of streetlights to the point where all the lights are now in working order. The problem with lights being timed to go off overnight on Mill Close remains unresolved but it is hoped that an accident report from the police to NYC will result in all the lights on the road being kept on through the night.

Cllr Robinson reported about the **Village Hall**.

She thanked all the committee members and volunteers for their work. The charity remains a small charity i.e. income just less than £5k. At the AGM it was decided to reprioritise projects to address the main issue - complaints re acoustics within the hall. It was agreed to purchase dense quality lined curtains for 5 windows and assess the impact. These were fitted on the Easter weekend in 2023, and feedback has been positive. The other major expense in 2023 was to replace a condemned heating boiler.

The next project is to provide a disability access door and to this end plans have been approved to reposition the entrance to the gable end of porch. Thereafter, the next ambition will be improving the exterior groundworks.

Funds remain healthy with regular bookings for yoga, samba band, wreath making, and private party bookings. The committee will start soups/desserts again in September and plan other fundraising activities.

2. Open Forum

Cllr Pledge spoke about the defibrillator and the need to review the methodology associated with the emergency list and telephone contact procedure.

Concerns were expressed about Wetheriggs and the need to organise a meeting for residents to hear about the centre.

The meeting was informed that Highways had been contacted about Flatts Lane regarding the long-standing problem of water settling on and running over the road causing deterioration of the surface.

There are no signs on the main road indicating there is a school in the village. New signage has been promised.

Gayles quarry concerns continue as decision date continues to be put back.

Next Annual Meeting is on 12 May 2025 The meeting closed at 8.07 pm.