



# Rawcliffe Parish Council

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**Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6:30pm, which was held remotely via a Zoom meeting**

**Present:**

Councillor N. Case (Chairman), Councillor S. Rawlings, Councillor E. Thornton, Ward Councillor D. Smalley and Fiona Vicary (Clerk)

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

**Apologies:**

Councillor M. Symes, Ward Councillor D. Wann

**2. To Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 April 2019:**

*It was resolved to* approve minutes of said meeting as a true and accurate record, to be signed and dated by the Chairman.

**3. To consider any further issues raised by electors of Rawcliffe Parish:**

No members of the public were present at this meeting. The Clerk read out a number of issues, received by email, relating to anti-social behaviour, including littering and dog waste. The discussion of these topics was moved to the April Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report**

Chair Report for Annual Parish Meeting  
 Rawcliffe Parish Council  
 12th April 2021

As my term in the chair of this council comes to an end I look back upon a very unusual year.

The pandemic changed many things and forced upon all of us many challenges and uncertainties.

There is a lot to take heart from, in particular the community spirit and sense of common purpose prevalent during the first wave of the virus. As our social bubbles contracted people looked after each other and focussed on matters close to home. My hope is that as restrictions begin to ease some sense of the togetherness and common spirit we displayed last Spring will be retained.

**Council Response to the pandemic**

The pandemic of course required the parish council to make changes and I have been especially pleased with the response of our staff, members and ward councillors to those.

The transition to on-line meetings has gone particularly well. Rawcliffe was the 1<sup>st</sup> parish council in the region to conduct remote meetings and I would like to thank Fiona and our members for adapting so well to the new process and for their patience whilst I worked out how to chair and deliver meetings remotely. I for one definitely find remote meetings more efficient and am grateful for the shorter meeting times. We are fortunate to have efficient communication methods which meant that our responsiveness is probably better than before. Although no residents have chosen to attend on-line meetings, we have however successfully included all representation and presentations from everyone wishing to contribute.

With respect to employees, I was especially pleased that we were able to support our staff during the pandemic and provide some security at a time when many people are struggling to stay safe and solvent. Each staff member was affected in different ways, some involving more change than others, within the legal boundaries and individual circumstances I believe we managed to strike a reasonable balance for all.

### **Rawcliffe Recreation Ground and Pavilion**

The Rawcliffe Recreation Association volunteers have continued to do an excellent job in providing and managing the recreation facilities, we would especially like to thank Ray Thompson for his efforts.

The Rec facility is excellent, and there is a lot of potential for expanding use of the site and making it more of a hub for the community. There are many ideas and during the coming year this council will seek to examine the roles of all involved in running the Rec facilities to determine how to get the best reward for everyone.

### **Planning**

Activity has increased significantly over the year, yet every application is examined and comments made to the local planning authority. We are always keen to hear from residents on planning matters, in my experience planning matters are the most common reason for residents to attend or make representations to the Parish Council. One matter which could be improved is enforcement; since the parish council lacks any enforcement powers we must rely upon the efforts of the overstretched team at the City Council.

### **Roads and Transport**

The parish continues to experience regular issues regarding the highways. The primary issues reported relate to inconsiderate parking, patchy bus service provision and the poor condition of the roads. Whilst this council has no powers in these areas, we will continue to represent residents on transport issues where we can. We have seen good responses from the City Council in certain areas especially when city councillors have been present when issues are raised.

### **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

Dog-fouling, anti-social behaviour and littering appear to be the most frequent complaints about daily life in the parish. We remain disappointed that policing resources continue to be eroded, the reality is that police priorities have changed dramatically over the past decade with many residents feeling left without any police protection or ability to intervene. Since the parish council lacks any enforcement powers for litter, anti-social behaviour or dog-fouling our abilities to affect change are severely limited.

### **Environment Officer**

With the unexpected sudden departure of our previous litter picker, the council decided to expand the role to include more attention on maintenance.

After a (strange and appropriately masked and socially distant interview process) we are delighted to have Ian join the council as our elaborately titled Community Environment Officer.

The role is crucial, probably the best thing the council has done in recent years and a critical part in keeping the parish assets and facilities maintained. The council is increasingly mindful that the service (which didn't exist 7 years ago) is now vital. The quantity of dog waste in particular is a huge problem that has required the council to increase expenditure; it is likely that we will need to spend more in future in order to keep the community as clean and faeces free as possible.

### **Financials**

The past year saw the Council's expenditure and revenue remain broadly in line with budget.

The main area over budget was maintenance, especially trees, however the parish council remains in a positive financial position which allowed to us take the decision to actually reduce our precept demand this year without any expectation for a reduction in services.

### **Closing Thank-you**

Finally, as we look forward to 2021/2022, I would like to put on record the councils thanks to every member of the Parish council for their time and dedication, Council officers who continue to go beyond their job description to support and advise members, City of York Councillors who work hard to represent the area, all the local support groups who work hard to improve the quality of life in Rawcliffe and the local residents who continue to give us their support, help and advice.

**Nicholas J Case**

**Chairman**

**Rawcliffe Parish Council 2020/2021**

### **5. Responsible Financial Officer's (RFO) Report**

The Internal and External Auditors formally approved the Parish Council's accounts and governance for 2019/2020. The balance in hand at the start of the financial year 2020/2021 was £77,527.

In this financial year (2020/2021) total receipts were £53,574 and total payments were £49,009, leaving a balance to carry forward of £82,092 (see bank reconciliation below)

Payments made for this financial year included:

- Wages and employment costs
- Grass cutting and maintenance
- Tree and hedge maintenance
- Taxi scheme and grant to Clifton Alliance Cricket Club
- Insurance
- Audit fees
- Subscriptions and donation
- Ongoing repairs to the play area, including replacement swings and chains
- Waste removal and salt bin refill
- Email and website hosting
- Purchased five new grit/salt bins
- Purchased another defibrillator to be installed at the Shipton Road phone box

The precept was set at £42,000 for 2021/2022. This includes a Council Tax Support Grant of £1291.00. The precept is slightly reduced from £42,840 in 2019/2020.

The bulk of the coming years budgeted expenditure will cover Parish Council insurance premiums, wages for employees and the ongoing running costs of the Parish Council. £3000 has been budgeted for the parish grant scheme, £1,160 towards a new or updated website and £4000 for tree/hedge maintenance. A play area refurbishment grant has been applied for from City of York Council.

**BANK RECONCILIATION TO 31 MARCH 2021**

**BANK ACCOUNTS:**

Current Account balance as at 31/03/2021	£ 31,202.35	Receipts	£ 53,574.36
Business Premium Account as at 31/03/2021	£ 50,889.56	Brought Forward at 31/03/2020	£ 77,526.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 82,091.91</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£131,101.00</b>
<b>Less unpaid payments</b>		<b>Less Payments</b>	£ 49,009.09
Less unrepresented cheques	£ -		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 82,091.91</b>		<b>£ 82,091.91</b>

***The meeting closed at 6.43pm***