



# Rawcliffe Parish Council

Fiona Vicary - Clerk to the Council  
 Rawcliffe Recreation (Bob Eccles) Pavilion  
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**Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm at Rawcliffe Recreation (Bob Eccles) Pavilion, St Mark's Grove, Rawcliffe, YO30 5TS**

**Present:**

Councillor N. Case (Chairman), Councillor A. Dawes, Councillor S. Rawlings, Councillor R. Thompson, Councillor J. Cleaver, Councillor A. Benjamin, Councillor E. Thornton and Fiona Vicary (Clerk)

1 member of the public was present at this meeting.

**Apologies:**

Councillor D. Paterson, Councillor S. Phillips

**2. To Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 April 2018:**

The minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting could not be found and therefore were not approved.

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

Comments raised included that a parishioner was pleased with the newsletter and the initiative to set up the new Parish Council office was welcomed. Communication between the Parish Council and the community needs to be improved. There was some discussion about the local bus services and it was recognised that the introduction of a new bus service, which is part-funded by York Hospital, and will run between Rawcliffe Park and Ride and the Hospital, will be of great benefit to the community.

**4. Chairman's Report**

As my time in the chair of this council comes to an end I look back upon a year where the council has enjoyed a full complement of members who have held a terrific blend of life experiences -the council been much higher on confidence since being low on numbers a couple of years ago.

I hope that the elections in May see the return of a good number of members who are willing to give up time for free to help serve the needs of the residents of Rawcliffe and Clifton Moor. It would be a shame to lose the momentum we have gained.

Last month, after 10 years in post our previous clerk Nicola Moorcroft decided it was time to move on, Nicola was a diligent officer and we wish her and her family well for the future. Nicola's loss however gives me the enjoyable task of welcoming Fiona Vicary as our new Clerk to the council. Fiona not only brings professional experience to the Council but a host of enthusiasm and fresh ideas. I hope that Fiona finds happiness and fulfilment from working with us, I very much look forward to working with her.

I would also like to thank our three ward councillors, Stuart Rawlings, Sam Lisle and Peter Dew. Despite very busy schedules, their attendance at our meetings has been exemplary; their input has always been helpful and informative. Whatever the outcome of the City of York Council elections next month, any new Ward councillors will have a very tall act to follow.

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

The Rawcliffe Recreation Association volunteers have continued to do an excellent job in providing and managing the recreation facilities, a task much harder now following the sad passing of Bob Winspear, a man whose decades of support and commitment will be very hard to match.

Nevertheless, the Parish Council successfully completed the refurbishment of the Rec building. Jointly funded by this council, the Rec Association and the Ward Committee the project came in on budget and within good time. The collaboration between the council and the Rec team was excellent. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Ray Thompson for his diligence, expertise and patience dealing with the builder without which I am pretty sure the project could not have been completed.

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 need to examine the roles of all involved in running the Rec facilities to determine how to get the best reward for everyone.

### **Beacon of Light**

Last November saw nearly 1000 people turn out to commemorate 100 years since the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. It was a terrific event attended by a wide cross section of the community. The event was the idea of Cllr Alan Dawes who also had to take upon himself the task of delivering the event and the commissioning of the beacon itself. Enlisting the support of businesses and volunteers was a remarkable feat resulting in an evening that everyone who attended benefited from. Alan, we salute and thank you.

### **Planning**

Activity has remained stable over the year. All applications are thoroughly scrutinised and comments made to the local planning authority. All new councillors are supported with planning training from the YLCA in order to help them become efficient and effective elements of the planning process. We are keen to hear from residents on planning matters, but sadly, no Parish Council has more than one voice however together with residents' views there is always the chance to influence a decision.

### **Roads and Transport**

The parish continues to experience an increase in 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) however we remain disappointed at the bus service provision for the area and the apparent acceleration in the deterioration of our road infrastructure.

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

We are fortunate to live in an area of low crime and anti-social behaviour. However, it's important to continue monitoring the situation. We remain disappointed that liaison with and appearances from the local PCSO's at our meetings remains stopped, however we the reality is that policing and the resources available have changed dramatically over the past

few years. We are however pleased to see the local police team seek input at Ward and Police Station meetings, we encourage more of these. The new Police Community messaging service has also proved informative.

### **Environment**

A crucial part of keeping the parish clean has been the Parish Litter Picker. The council is increasingly mindful that the service (which didn't exist 6years ago) is now vital. The quantity of dog waste in particular is a growing 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 drawdown its reserves in order to make them more appropriate for a Council of our size. This was achieved by using reserves for project expenditure such as our contribution to the Recreation Hall extension.

The parish council remains in a positive financial position; however, it should be borne in mind that funding future projects from reserves won't be possible in the 2020/2021 budget. Any expansion in expenditure would require additional funding by grants or by taxation via the precept.

Finally, as we look forward to 2019/2020, 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 2018/2019

### **5. Financial Officer (RFO) Report**

The balance at the start of the financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018) was:

Community Account	£ 69,566.13
Business Premium Account 2	£ 46,496.94
Business Premium Account 1	£ 4,174.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>£120,237.50</b>
Less U/P cheques	-£ 2718.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>£117,519.03</b>

The balance at the end of the financial year (31<sup>st</sup> March 2019) was:

Community Account	£18,947.37
Business Account (merged)	£50,772.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£69,719.87</b>
Less U/P cheques and DDs	-£ 762.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>£68,957.56</b>

***Meeting closed at 6.50pm***