

Ryhill Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Clerk to the Council
Clare L Baxter MiLCM

Address for correspondence:
La Chanteuse, Common Lane,
Upton, Pontefract, WF9 1DF
(01977 643867)

Spring 2022

The Parish Council meets on a monthly basis, on the **second Tuesday of each month** at 6.30pm, with the exception of the August recess. The meetings are council meetings held in public and are not public meetings; therefore, **the public are not permitted to speak without notice**. Anyone wishing to speak at these meetings should write to the Clerk requesting permission at least ten days prior to any meeting. Anyone with

an urgent item may approach any councillor about it before the commencement of the meeting. Councillor(s) will discuss this with the Chair and it will be at the discretion of the council whether to include it in the business of the meeting. **Each year the council hold an Annual Parish Meeting in April. This is a public meeting and allows parishioners the opportunity to speak without prior arrangement.**

COUNCILLORS:

Andrew Atherton

Cheryle Bashforth (Chair)

Gloria Booth

Lisa Booth

Brian Burnage (Deputy Chair)

Richard Caley

Karen Fretwell

Angie Morley

Trasi Staves

*Your parish councillors are some of the 80,000 local councillors nationally who give their time **unpaid** to support their local communities. Each councillor undertakes several other roles within the council as part of their duties. The Clerk to the Council is part-time and is a paid employee. She is the proper officer.*

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

Over the last few years, the Council has been subjected to unprecedented harassment and abuse from a very small number of persons. This is unacceptable and is one of the reasons that Council resolved that any future correspondence must be directed to the above postal address and should not be forwarded to individual councillors as they have no delegated powers (LGA 1972, section 101).

Email correspondence will no longer be accepted as Ryhill Parish Council does not have (opt in) consent forms attached to its electronic systems in agreement with GDPR requirements.

Council can refuse to answer requests that it deems vexatious due to the tone, language or criticism or if the burden on the small authority is oppressive in terms of time and resources.

PARISH PRECEPT 2022-2023

Ryhill Parish Council has decided to set the precept for 2022-2023 at £54,185.00, the same as the precept for 2017-2018. Ryhill Parish Council has not increased the parish precept for quite a number of years now and this is due to careful management of our finances.

BREAK IN AND MASS TRESPASS OF RYHILL STRAY AND PARK

Last August saw the break in and mass trespass of Ryhill Stray and Park which was occupied for nearly 2 weeks. Our fence and gate were badly damaged and the area filled with rubbish and human excreta. We received a great many comments from parishioners about the distress this caused as they saw the devastation of their lovely, and well-used, green space and the restrictions to their amenity because of this. This was sad but it was also really heartening to know how much people appreciate this area in the middle of our village.

Restoration of the area began when the trespasses moved off and Council was assisted by Cllr Maureen Cummings, RRAID community group and Wakefield MDC Street Scene. The cost was substantial. RRAID paid for repairs to the existing fence and gate, installation of a bollard and height restrictor on the gate. Council paid for the bollard and replacement locks and a small grant to RRAID to plant a new hedge. Our ward councillors provided an additional fence from their Capital Funding to help with security. Council is very grateful to all concerned in the restoration process which is ongoing.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The parish council would like to thank the volunteers who have joined councillors to deliver the newsletters over the last few years. Their help is very much appreciated.

PROTECTION OF GREEN SPACES OWNED OR LEASED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to protect the green spaces in our parish boundaries as best we can. We secured ownership of our two allotment sites and these continue to be popular with parishioners and there is currently a waiting list for plots on both sites.

We also maintain Ryhill Park and Stray and the old station site. We would like to thank the many members of the public who use the areas with respect to other users and who control their pets as requested. Sadly, there are just a few people who have encouraged their dogs to rip bark off trees and allow their dogs to attack other users of the park. These issues have been raised with our Safe Scheme officers.

WAKEFIELD RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

The parish council has continued to work very closely with our neighbourhood policing team. Members of the team have attended a number of parish council meetings and have a very good idea of our concerns.

The main aim of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) is to work with local communities and partners to reduce crime, target known offenders and problem areas, tackle anti-social behaviour and provide reassurance and long-term solutions to local problems. Our NPT is Wakefield Rural and they can be contacted as follows:

Email: wakefield.rural@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

NPT: 01924 293256 (voicemail facility)

Non Emergency: 101 or in an emergency 999

Website: www.Wakefield.Rural@Westyorkshire.pnn.co.uk

<https://twitter.com/#!/WakeyRuralNPT>

www.facebook.com/wakefield-rural-npt

Parishioners with concerns should contact the team with the assurance that their issues will be dealt with in confidence.



SAFE SCHEME

The Safe Scheme involves paying for extra policing in our parish to deal with specific problems identified by parishioners. The scheme is operated in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police and involves the deployment of our regular neighbourhood police team for extra hours each week within the parish of Ryhill. The times and the tasks will vary as complaints and problems arise. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council are the links between the parish and the police team. Parishioners may contact the Clerk to the Council to suggest priorities for our officers though many of you speak directly to officers during their patrols.

We have successfully run the Safe Scheme in Ryhill for quite a number of years now. We have had some very good results because of the scheme and we have received many positive comments from parishioners about the increased presence of our local officers. Officers work late and into the early hours so may not always be seen by parishioners but we receive a very detailed monthly report about their activities and the many successes. For this reason, the parish council is funding the scheme for a further year.

RYCROFT SPORTS CENTRE

After a very challenging couple of years the Centre looks forward to providing the sports and community activities as it has for over twenty years. Challenges lie ahead the issue of funding being the ever present one. Volunteering is one way of giving support to the Centre and getting some fulfilment from helping others and anyone who would like to consider this please contact the Scott Mincher the Centre Manager.

Our external sports facilities offer football, cricket, crown green bowling, 4G all-weather pitch and this year rugby makes a welcome return. Indoors badminton, karate and majorettes use the sports hall and the fitness and weights suites are open every day.

The social area with bar and catering kitchen provides food and refreshment throughout the day and caters for parties and receptions for all occasions. There is a weekly luncheon club every Wednesday. The Centre hosts the village gala in July.



Contact Rycroft Leisure Centre:

01226 723659

Email: sports@rycroftleisure.com

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RYCROFT YOUTH CENTRE

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY	4.00 to 5.30pm	8 - 12 years
	6.00 to 8.00pm	13 - 19 years
WEDNESDAY	5.00 to 7.00pm	12 - 16 years
FRIDAY	4.00 to 6.00pm	8 - 12 years

The Youth Centre offers a wide range of activities every week and operates successful summer camps during the school holidays. Activities range from arts and crafts, music, dance, performing arts and sport.

The Park Play Area was refurbished in 2020 with some new equipment and we are looking to add more items as funding allows.

Contact Rycroft Youth Centre: 01226 723659

Email: youth@rycroftleisure.com

STREETS IN RYHILL WITH HAVERCROFT POSTAL ADDRESSES

Did you know that the following streets are in RYHILL even though they have been allocated Havercroft addresses by the postal services?

They are: Madeley Road, Madeley Drive and Madeley Mews; Beachill Road, Beachill Crescent and Beachill Drive; Hemmingway Close; St James' Court; Church View Close; Greenacre Walk; Lodges Close; Ryecroft Avenue; Park Walk; Kings Wood Drive and Ings Close.

We are highlighting these so that you know that you are represented by the parish councillors of Ryhill.

SEVERE WEATHER AND OUR OWN SUPPLIES OF ROCK SALT AND GRIT BINS

Since 2010 Ryhill Parish Council has taken steps to help residents with extreme winter weather snaps through the purchase and storage of rock salt supplies to enable our village networks to remain open. This service has proved to be very successful and we have had many positive comments about it. The grit bins are filled by our village caretaker and councillors who volunteer their services. We can also call on a contractor with a snow plough if necessary. To report problem areas for gritting in severe weather you can contact the Clerk to the Council.

We have purchased and installed a total of 20 grit bins for Ryhill, including the 3 new ones this year. We have provided the bins and salt to help parts of our village that may be cut off by ice and snow in winter because Wakefield MDC's services for gritting have again been curtailed. Sadly, some people in the parish seem determined to misuse grit bins by stealing them, moving from site, stealing the grit for their own use or filling them with rubbish or garden waste. Removing or vandalising bins and other street furniture is an offence under highways legislation. Our Safe Scheme officers will be monitoring the situation along with their other duties in the village.



HANGING BASKETS AND BULB PLANTING

We are committed to improving the look of the village and continue to receive compliments about the baskets, tubs and bulbs around the village. We cannot extend hanging baskets to any more lampposts because of health and safety legislation that has been imposed upon us. We have planted more trees, shrubs and bulbs on Ryhill Park and at other locations around the village. This will continue this year. If parishioners have any ideas for locations for bulb planting, please contact the Clerk to the Council.



PLANTERS

For many years we have been installing planters around the village which are then adopted by parishioners. We added a further 4 last year and these were then included in the twice-yearly planting programme funded by the parish council. We currently have 10 planters on the main streets of the village. A further 2 planters were purchased recently but these have yet to be sited.



CHRISTMAS TREE AND LAMP POST DECORATIONS

Ryhill Parish Council once again funded the provision of the tree and the lights for the Christmas season. We decided to source our own Christmas tree and lights. We undertook this with the kind cooperation of St Paul's Methodist Church.

Also, we have paid for lamp post decorations. We would have preferred to have more but we are only permitted to use the lamp posts safety checked and approved by Amey/Wakefield MDC.



MAJOR PROJECTS LAST YEAR

Council undertook several major projects last year. These were to renew 2 fences to 2 sides of Cemetery Road allotment site. These were necessary because of vandalism caused by thieves targeting church property. Two heavy gauge fences were erected to replace the damaged ones and we hope that this will improve the security to the site and also to the church. We would like to thank St James' Church for working with us to allow access over their property for one contractor to bring vehicles and equipment to the site.

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AND GREEN CANOPY

Council is involved in planning jubilee celebrations to take place in June through our working party representatives. A number of ideas have been suggested but decisions not yet finalised. Council will be providing funding for the celebrations in conjunction with Havercroft and Cold Hiendley Parish Council. We are also taking part in and funding the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". Our working party has identified places in the village to plant trees and hedges and is working with volunteers on the planting.



DEFIBRILLATOR

The defibrillator for our village is located outside St Paul's Methodist Church. It is used approximately once every fortnight. The pads are provided and funded by Ryhill Parish Council and Cllr G Booth cleans and resets the device after its use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors would like to thank the district councillors: M Cummings, A Manifold and Paul Stockhill for working hard to help us achieve our goals within the parish. Maureen has attended all our Zoom meetings during the pandemic.

COMMITTEES

As well as representing parishioners and making decisions on behalf of the community, councillors have other specific roles on committees.

Allotments Working Party:	Cllrs Atherton, Bashforth, G Booth, Burnage, Morley
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Allotment Site Contacts:	Cllrs G Booth, Morley
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Highways, Environment:	Cllrs Atherton, Caley, Fretwell
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Litter Cart:	Cllr Caley
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Newsletter:	Cllrs Bashforth
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Newsletter Distribution	Cllrs L Booth, Staves
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Rycroft Leisure:	Cllr G Booth
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Rycroft Trading:	Cllr Staves
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Ryhill PC Planning sub-committee:	Cllrs Atherton, Bashforth, Burnage, G Booth, L Booth
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WMDC Liaison:	Cllrs Burnage, Morley
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YLCA:	Cllrs Burnage, Fretwell
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Jubilee Working Party:	Cllrs Atherton, Fretwell, Morley
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