

Ryhill Parish Council

WEBSITE: www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk

Clerk to the Council
Charles Greaves

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

The Parish Council meets on a monthly basis, on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm, 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. Items not on the agenda cannot be resolved at the meetings. **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 the parish council to support their local communities. Each councillor undertakes other roles within the council as part of their duties as well as other voluntary work for the parish. The Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer is part-time (9 hours per week) and is a paid employee.*

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

Over the last few years, the Council has been subjected to unprecedented harassment and abuse from a very small number of people. 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 sent to individual councillors because they have no delegated powers (LGA 1972, section 101).

Council may 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. Council's vexatious behaviour policy may be found on our website:

www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk

WEBSITE

Council commissioned the development of a new professionally designed website in 2022-23. The website contains most of the information that members of the public may be interested in, for example, standing orders; council policies; back copies of the newsletter; agendas and minutes of meetings. Council aims to be as transparent in its business as possible and the website helps in this respect. The website is still relatively new and continues to evolve. www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk

PARISH PRECEPT 2024-2025

The parish precept was set at £54,654 for 2024-2025, which is virtually the same as for the last 10 years. Council has tried to make savings despite increases in almost every bill for services because we know how parishioners are struggling with the cost of living. Councillors and volunteers have continued to undertake minor repairs and clearance themselves in order to keep costs as low as possible.

THANKS TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE PARISH

Council would like to extend grateful thanks to those parishioners who voluntarily carry out tasks for the parish including: litter picking, adoption of planters, fetching and carrying, minor repairs on property owned or managed by Council, helping at community events, etc.



These acts of kindness, without cost to the parish, are very important and very much appreciated by Council. They make a big difference and save the parish money through this goodwill.

ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED THIS YEAR

This year council has needed to replace the posts and gate into Sunnybank allotments from Ryhill Park. The previous gate had not been replaced for a great many years.

The damage to the fence onto The Stray was also an additional expense. A vehicle driven by an unknown person broke one entire panel of the new fence installed in 2021 and had to be replaced. Our noticeboard, which is located with the kind permission of St Paul's Church, also needed to be replaced. The parish was charged only for the purchase of a new one because volunteers kindly gave their time and expertise to fix it in place.

SAFE SCHEME

The Safe Scheme involves paying for extra policing in our parish to deal with specific problems identified and reported 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 month within the parish of Ryhill. The times will vary as complaints and problems arise. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council are the designated links between the parish and the police team but parishioners will often speak directly to officers during their patrols. The Safe Scheme Coordinator produces a detailed monthly report for Council and we have recently begun to post a summary on our website. This year we have a traffic officer regularly working with the team because of the excessive speeds that members of the public have continued to report to us. This is proving very successful.

We continue to fund the Safe Scheme in Ryhill because of the very positive results achieved and the appreciative comments by parishioners.

Parishioners may contact the Clerk to the Council to suggest priorities for our officers or speak directly to officers during their time within the village.



WAKEFIELD RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Parish Council continues to work directly with the neighbourhood policing team. Their main aim 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.

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

As always, if you see anyone acting in a suspicious manner or witness a crime taking place, please contact West Yorkshire Police on 101 or 999 (in an emergency).

It is important that crimes and suspicious incidents are reported via the correct channels because this builds up a picture of what is happening in communities and determines how police resources are deployed.

If you are reporting a crime that is not an emergency, please use 101 or the online reporting service at www.westyorkshire.police.uk/reportcrime

For suspicious incidents and to give information please use 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or

Giveinformation/Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org)

If you wish to report anti-social behaviour please use 101 or report it via

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/asbform

VILLAGE CARETAKER

We continue to fund our own village caretaker who undertakes a wide variety of tasks on behalf of the parish council.

Our caretaker is John Hope and you may see him around the village as he carries out his work. The tasks are those no longer undertaken by Wakefield MDC and that parish council has to provide.

ALLOTMENTS

We have two allotment sites in the village: Cemetery Road and Sunnybank. These are popular but from time-to-time vacant plots become available. Parishioners who would like an allotment should contact the Clerk to the Council as on page 1.

If there are no vacancies you will be placed on the waiting list and contacted should a plot become available.



HANGING BASKETS BULB PLANTING AND PLANTERS

We are committed to improving the look of the village, however, through circumstances beyond our control, we have been unable to commission hanging baskets this year. We were informed by Wakefield MDC that our brackets needed to be taken down and replaced. The cost was very high. In addition, the lamppost columns were due for their 3 yearly testing. Prior to the intervention of Cllr Cummings, the cost was to be placed on the parish council. This was another huge financial shock. Wakefield MDC have since paid for the safety checks on the columns but this took place too late for the contractor to fulfil our regular hanging basket displays.

Council has now resolved to increase the number of planters within the village instead of hanging baskets. Provision of planters has been a successful and ongoing project over the years but we have to seek permission for siting of them. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting a response from Wakefield MDC. Once permission is gained the project to site more planters will commence. Time is getting on but we are not limiting ourselves to just spring/summer planting.

The planters are provided by us and are maintained by parishioners who have adopted them. Council provides reimbursement for twice yearly planting of planters though some adopters choose to fund this themselves. We are grateful to all of our adopters for maintaining the planters and helping to improve the appearance of the village.

The intention is that new planters will be planted up by volunteers from the community with plants paid for by parish council.

ADDITIONAL GRIT BINS AND ROCK SALT

Since 2010 we have taken steps to help residents with extreme winter weather snaps through the purchase and storage of rock salt supplies. The grit bins are filled late autumn by our village caretaker. Over the years we have purchased and installed a total of 20 additional grit bins most of which are used properly by parishioners. Any theft or vandalism is reported to our Safe Scheme officers to monitor along with their other duties.



CHRISTMAS TREE AND LAMP POST DECORATIONS

We continue to fund the provision of the tree and lights for the Christmas season with the kind cooperation of St Paul's Methodist Church.

We also provide the lamp post decorations. The number of these is determined by Amey/Wakefield MDC who carry out safety checks every three years and determine the lamp posts that may be used. We hope to provide the same again this year. In addition, we would eventually like to site two more Christmas trees and lights within the village. This will depend upon permissions and the time of writing we are still awaiting a response to our request from Wakefield MDC.

Love where you live – Caring for your environment – “May Fest”

On 4 May 2024, a joint venture was undertaken between Ryhill Parish Council and Rycroft Leisure. It was a family event to celebrate the environment and encourage community involvement.

The afternoon commenced with a “fun run” and those youngsters that took part all got a small gift. Roller skating was available for the younger ones in the hall. There was a craft table where children could make bees, butterflies and flower garlands out of scraps of paper to take away. There was also an opportunity to plant your very own sunflower seeds in a pot!

There was a thrift market with a number of stalls available selling a variety of homemade crafts, bric a brac and the usual tombola. There was a stall with information about The Woodland Trust. Countryside Rangers were on hand to answer any questions on local nature events. A big thank you goes to all who had a stall, including the Young at Heart group and those who donated towards a worthwhile charity. Whilst the turnout was not huge the stall holders all appeared to enjoy themselves and in total the afternoon raised £126 towards the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



Rycroft Sports and Leisure Centre

The Parish Council continues to support the Centre and the services offered through financial contributions annually. Councillors from Ryhill Parish Council are Trustees or are active members of the management team. The Centre is now in its 23rd year of supporting the community. This year the bar and corridors have been redecorated and a new kitchen has been installed.

There is a weekly luncheon club every Wednesday and there are now wrestling and kick boxing events during the year.

The Centre's external sports facilities offer football, cricket, rugby, Crown green bowling, and the 3G all-weather pitch continues to be extremely popular. Indoors badminton, karate, tots' football and majorettes use the sports hall. The gym is open daily and membership has increased. 6 groups from across the district access the assisted bike sessions weekly.

The Rycroft Bike Hub meets fortnightly on Wednesdays for free activities:

10.30-11am 'start to ride' an adult beginner friendly session
11 – 12.15 a short ride for those who have ridden before and who want to build their cycling confidence.

Brand new bikes and helmets are available to borrow or you can bring your own. Bike Hub is also holding free bike activity sessions for children throughout the summer.

To book contact: Catherine Portman on her email:

catherine_rycroftbikehub@yahoo.com

The social area with bar and catering kitchen provides food and refreshment throughout the day and caters for parties and receptions for all occasions.

Contact Rycroft Leisure Centre **01226 7236559**

Email: sports@rycroftleisure.com

Follow on Facebook

Rycroft Youth Centre

The youth Centre continues to be popular and offers a wide range of activities every session.

Opening times are:

Monday and Wednesday: 4pm to 5.30, 8-12 years and 6.00 to 8.00pm, 13 to 16 years.

It continues to provide a programme of activities during the school holidays.

Contact Rycroft Youth Centre **01226 723659**

Email: youth@rycroftleisure.com

Follow on Facebook



PROTECTION OF GREEN SPACES OWNED OR LEASED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

We continue to maintain and protect the green spaces within our parish boundaries for public amenity. These are Ryhill Park and Stray and the old station site.

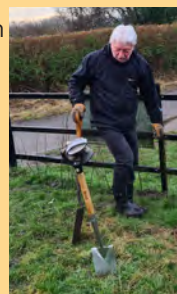
Many of you have told us how much you appreciate these areas and we would like to thank all of you who use the areas with respect to other users and those who control and clean up after their pets as requested.

WORKING WITH ORGANISATIONS TO INCREASE OUR COMMITMENT TO BIODIVERSITY

Following on from initiatives started as part of Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee and the King Charles III's coronation we have continued to increase planting on areas owned or leased by Council. Late 2023 and early 2024 councillors worked with Roger Parkinson of Woodland Trust to plant further hedgerow and slow growing trees. The trees and hedgerow were provided by Woodland Trust at no cost to the parish.

Council has adopted the model biodiversity policy for the Parish and intends to continue with planting and increasing the number of planters in the village.

The Council hopes to encourage more members of the public and community groups in these ongoing initiatives.



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

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

DEFIBRILLATOR

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

END OF DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY OF THE NEWSLETTER

In last year's newsletter we asked your opinion about whether you preferred an online newsletter with copies placed in community buildings and shops or continue with the delivery to every address in the parish. We received no responses and therefore the newsletter will be on our website and hard copies placed in community buildings and shops from now on.

COMMITTEES

Each elected member undertakes additional roles as part of their work for Ryhill Parish Council.

Allotment working group (5)	AA CB GB BB AM
Allotment Sites contacts (2)	GB AM
Highways & Environment contacts (3)	AA RC KF
Newsletter administration (1)	CB
Planning contacts (5)	AA CB GB LB BB
Rycroft Leisure representative (1)	LB
Rycroft Trading representative (1)	TS
Safe Scheme contacts (2)	CB BB
Special Events working group (3)	AA KF AM
Website administration (4)	CB LB KF AM
WMDC contacts (2)	BB AM
YLCA contacts (2)	BB KF

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again, councillors would like to thank our District Councillors: Cllrs M Cummings, U Ali, F Heptinstall for their continued and valuable support by working closely with the Parish Council.