

Ryhill Parish Council

Website: www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk

Clerk to the Council:
Charles Greaves

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

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 hosts the 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

If you wish to contact the Council 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). Our clerk is part-time (9 hours per week) but will answer you as soon as he can.

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

COUNCIL 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, Chair's Annual Report; 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. We also have a noticeboard which is located on the outside wall of St Paul's Church on Chapel Street.

The website continues to evolve and is updated regularly by our clerk and Cllr Karen Fretwell. It will be reviewed as part of our general review processes in 2026. Karen is already carrying out an exercise to identify minor and major changes that might be necessary. www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk



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 their goodwill.

ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED THIS YEAR



This year council has needed to replace the broken noticeboards at each of our allotment sites: Cemetery Road and Sunnybank. These were fitted without charge by Cllr Andrew Atherton and a parishioner. We would like to thank Andy and the parishioner for undertaking this work.

PARISH PRECEPT 2025-2026

The parish precept was set at £53,111 for 2025-2026 which is virtually the same as for the last 11 years. This resulted in no change in the parish council charge levied on individual tax bills because we committed to cover any increase in expenditure from reserves. Council has tried to make savings despite increases in almost every bill for services from suppliers. Councillors and volunteers have continued to undertake minor repairs and clearance themselves in order to keep costs as low as possible.

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 of the Council is the designated link 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, once again, had 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 continuing to prove very successful. We continue to fund the Safe Scheme in Ryhill because of the very positive results achieved and the appreciative comments by parishioners. Our Scheme Coordinator has been with us for a number of years and has an excellent understanding of the issues in Ryhill. 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

CEMETERY GATES

The cemetery gates are now locked at night time. This is because of anti-social behaviour and the distressing vandalism of graves. Wakefield MDC undertook this task initially because the cemetery is under their jurisdiction but this is now undertaken on a voluntary basis by Cllr Lisa Booth and this appears to be working well.

The summer opening times are: 7am to 8 pm.

The winter opening times are: 7 am to 6 pm.

We would like to thank Lisa for undertaking this task voluntarily on behalf of the parish.

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.

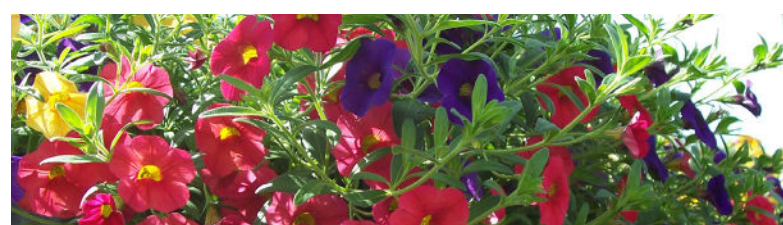


PLANTERS

We are committed to improving the look of the village and have moved over to planters rather than the old hanging baskets which all needed to be replaced, at a very high cost.

The provision of planters has been a successful and ongoing project over the years and we will continue with this when funds are available and where Wakefield MDC will allow us to site them.

The planters are provided by us and are maintained by parishioners who have adopted them and other volunteers. 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.



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. In 2024 two additional Christmas trees in tubs were sited on Station Road and on Nostell Lane. The trees were kindly donated by Spring Green Nurseries and the solar lights kindly provided by Cllr Gloria Booth.

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.



FUNDING OF RYHILL AND HAVERCROFT CHRISTMAS EVENT 5 DECEMBER 2024

Ryhill and Havercroft Community Learning Project asked Council for help with the cost of the rolling road closure by Chevron Traffic Management so that this event can go ahead.

We have agreed to share the cost of this part of the project with Havercroft and Cold Hiendley Parish Council. Our share of the cost is £1449.



Rycroft Sports and Leisure Centre

The Parish Council continues to support the Centre and the services offered through financial contributions annually. We are delighted that 3 Councillors from Ryhill Parish Council are Trustees or are active members of the management team. These are Cllrs Angie Morley, Karen Fretwell and Lisa Booth. The Centre is now in its 24th year of supporting the community. This year the bar and corridors have been redecorated and a new kitchen has been installed.

The Centre's external sports facilities offer football, cricket, rugby, Crown green bowling, and the 3G all-weather pitch continues to be extremely popular. Badminton, karate and majorettes use the sports hall. A new sport, Pickle Ball has been introduced on Monday evening.

The gym is open daily and membership has increased.

Six groups from across the district access the assisted bike sessions weekly. There are Pedal in the Park sessions on Wednesday evenings.

Wakefield District Cycle Forum hold a led bike ride from the Centre on the 3rd Sunday in every month.

The social area with bar and catering kitchen provides food and refreshment throughout the day. There is a weekly luncheon club every Wednesday.

At the weekends the Centre can cater for children's birthday parties which include the use of the bouncy castle and soft play area.

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 6pm 8-12 years and 6.00 to 8.00pm 13 to 19 years.

The centre offers a Future Self Project for young people aged 16-25 years who have been referred or have self-referred for support. Young people will have a one-to-one worker and can access the Thursday morning drop-in sessions between 11 am and 1 pm.

The Centre is putting together an activity offer for over the summer holidays and a brochure and flyers will be produced. The centre has also been working with Wakefield MDC and local councillors for the Beat the Street activities and held a quiz. Cllrs Cummings and Ali donated a scooter and helmet for the winner. IMAGE of child and cllrs with scooter
The centre staff are working with Oak Forest School on Thursday mornings to develop the centre's mini garden/allotment area. The young people from this project have been building planters and a seating area and all is looking good. Planting will take place soon.

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.

We have a biodiversity policy and action plan.

This year, as well as the ongoing tree planting, we have purchased wild flower seed. Some has already been sown and more will be put down in autumn.



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.

We would like to thank Gloria for undertaking this work on behalf of the parish.



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; Ryecroft 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.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND POINTS OF CONTACT

The Chair and Clerk to act as contacts with YLCA and Wakefield Council.

Allotment Sites contact Sunny Bank	Cllr G Booth
Allotment Sites contact Cemetery Road	Cllr A Morley
British Legion contact	Cllr B Burnage
Ryecroft Leisure representative	Cllr L Booth
Safe Scheme contact	Cllr C Bashforth

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.