

RYHILL PARISH COUNCIL

www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk

Clerk to the Council:
Charles Greaves

Address for correspondence:
47 Meltham Road, Honley
Holmfirth, HD9 6HW
Email: clerk@ryhillparish.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026

The Parish Council meets on a monthly basis, on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm, 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 (Chairman)

Gloria Booth

Lisa Booth

Brian Burnage (Deputy Chairman)

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 several 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

THANKS TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE PARISH

Council would like to extend very 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.

COUNCIL WEBSITE

Council commissioned the development of a 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 will continue to evolve in line with statutory requirements.
WEBSITE: www.ryhillparish.gov.uk

PARISH PRECEPT 2026-2027

The parish precept was set at £57,928 which is similar as for the last 12 years. This has resulted in no change to 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 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.

CEMETERY GATES

The new gates were installed by Wakefield MDC earlier this year after a very long wait and a great deal of tenacity by our former district councillors. The gates are locked at night time because of anti-social behaviour and the distressing vandalism of graves. This is undertaken on a voluntary basis by Cllr Lisa Booth.

The summer opening times are 7 am 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.

ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED THIS YEAR

This year the council has had to purchase and replace locks for Sunnybank allotments. Replacement taps have been purchased by Cllr Atherton and he has fitted replacements voluntarily at no cost to the parish. We are thankful for his time and expertise.

SAFE SCHEME

We continue to fund the Safe Scheme in Ryhill because of the very positive results achieved and appreciative comments by parishioners. We pay 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 Chairman of the Council is the designated link between the parish and the police team but parishioners often speak directly to officers during their patrols.

The Safe Scheme Coordinator produces a detailed monthly report for Council and a summary is posted on our website. The scheme works well because we have a coordinator who has been working closely with Council for a number of years and has built up an excellent understanding of Ryhill and its issues. As well as the extra general patrols by officers from our neighbourhood police team, we have a traffic officer who regularly works with the team and members of the off-road motorcycle police team.

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

ILLEGAL PARKING

Many parishioners have contacted parish and district councillors with their concerns about illegal parking in the village. Wakefield MDC Parking Services are responsible for the management of parking on double yellow lines. You can report to them using the email: customerservice@wakefield.gov.uk or by calling WMDC contact centre on **03458506506**. Your confidentiality will be respected.

Parking on pavements and other obstructions are the jurisdiction of the police. You should report in confidence using the contact details in the next section.

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 now 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 and we have moved over to planters rather than the old hanging baskets which would have required replacement at a very high cost.

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

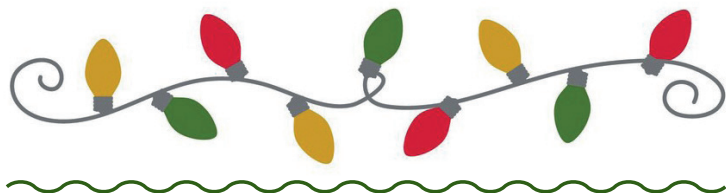
The planters are provided by us and are maintained by parishioners who have adopted them and other volunteers. Council provides reimbursement for twice yearly planting of the planters though some adopters choose to fund the planting themselves. We are grateful to all our adopters for maintaining the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

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 have ordered the same again this year. We provided two additional smaller trees and lights: one on Nostell Lane and one on Station Road. We intend to continue with this provision and also to provide an additional three trees and lights: a further one on Nostell Lane; one on Hammerton Farm corner; and one on Mill Lane.



RYCROFT SPORTS CENTRE

RYCROFT SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE

The Parish Council makes an annual financial contribution to support the Centre and the services offered. Councillors from Ryhill Parish Council are Trustees or are active members of the management team.

The Centre's external sports facilities offer football, cricket, rugby, Crown green bowling and the 3G all-weather pitch continue to be extremely popular.

Badminton, Karate and Majorettes use the sports hall. A new sport, Pickle Ball, has been introduced on Monday evenings.

The gym is open daily and membership has increased.

The assisted bike sessions continue to be popular.

This year several new groups have begun using the centre.

Rycroft Hammers Tots Mini Hammers Saturday 9.15 – 10am

Rycroft Hammers Ladies Fitness Friday 6pm - 7pm

Girls Football with SWS sports Thursday 5pm - 6pm

Indoor Bowling Friday morning 11- 1pm.

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 use of a bouncy castle and soft play area.

Contact Rycroft Leisure Centre: 01226 723659

Email: sports@rycroftleisure.com

Follow on Facebook

RYCROFT YOUTH CENTRE

The youth club is open during term time.

Monday and Wednesdays:

4-6pm for ages 8-12 years

6-8pm for ages 13-19 years

The Centre has a Monday afternoon session for the over 50s, the Young at Heart group. The session is 1-3pm and the group members engage in a variety of activities and trips.

For the summer holidays the Centre had a five-week programme of activities for the young people.

The Centre also has a project called Future Self which is for young people aged 16-25 years of age. This is a bespoke package of support for young people who are struggling with low level mental health issues or need some extra support.

They get one to one support and can access some of the group work activities.

Contact Rycroft Youth Centre 01226 723659

Email: youth@rycroftleisure.com

Follow on Facebook



GRANTS MADE TO VARIOUS GROUPS THIS YEAR

Council has made a number of grants this year. These include:
British Legion - donation and wreath
A grant of £1,449 towards the cost of traffic management for the Santa Parade and activities
A grant of £1,250 to SWS Sports to continue the delivery of a holiday club to young people during the school holidays. The grant was paid directly to Rycroft Leisure.



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.

OUR COMMITMENT TO BIODIVERSITY

Parish Council adopted the model biodiversity policy for the parish this year.
Britain is in a very poor state having lost over 50% of our biodiversity. We will continue to do our best to help nature and we encourage allotment tenants and parishioners to help. Even small measures undertaken by individuals such as bird boxes, insect hotels and leaving uncultivated spaces for nature can have an impact.
It is our intention to continue with tree planting, wild flower sowing and increasing the number of planters in the village. We hope 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.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Each elected member undertakes additional roles as part of their work for Ryhill Parish Council. The Chair and Clerk act as points of contact with YLCA and Wakefield MDC

Allotment site contact Sunnybank	Cllr A Atherton	Rycroft Leisure representative	Cllr L Booth
Allotment site contact Cemetery Road	Cllr A Morley	Safe Scheme Contact	Cllr C Bashforth
British Legion Contact	Cllr B Burnage		

WORKING WITH OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

This year we have welcomed 3 new district councillors to our monthly council meetings. They are Cllrs Bev Watkins, Penny Ashton and Steve Ashton. We will continue to work closely with them to achieve the best results we can for our parish.
Their community forums/surgeries for Ryhill are:

St Pauls Methodist Church.
Chapel Street Ryhill WF4 2AD

Saturday 9 - 10 am	12 September
	10 October
	14 November
	12 December

The Libb
Mill Lane Ryhill WF4 2AL

Saturday	15 August
	17 October
	21 November

THANKS TO FORMER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

We would like to thank all our former district councillors: Cllrs Maureen Cummings, Usman Ali and Faith Heptinstall for their hard work and commitment over the years, working closely with us to achieve the best results for the Parish of Ryhill. We would like to offer them our very best wishes for the future and thank them once again for their support during their service.