

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 6.00 pm at the Markham Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)
J. Pearce
D. Johnson
J. Goldsborough
M. Jones (from 5.50 pm)
J. Ball (from 6.05 pm)

In attendance:

C. Wilson (Clerk)
J. Gamble (county councillor)
C. Hanrahan (Parkwood Leisure)
G. Lewis (Parkwood Leisure)
Members of the public (x2)

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/55/26	Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr Drane. Mr Jones and Mr Ball had been delayed but were expected. Councillors consented to all absences. There were no other absences.	
RPC/56/26	Review Registers of Interest: The clerk will recirculate electronic copies of councillors' current registers for those councillors who had yet to complete their review.	Clerk
RPC/57/26	Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
RPC/58/26	Dispensations: No dispensations required.	
RPC/59/26	Parkwood Leisure Report: The Rufford Park representatives reported on the following in particular: 1. The various upcoming events over summer 2. The Christmas events schedule was expected in late September 2026 3. A comedy event at the Mill this weekend 4. The recent heatwave which had had a deleterious effect on the grounds and caused difficulty for the grounds team to remain safe whilst working 5. Four trees which had been identified as failing in the past six weeks 6. The Savile kitchen which was reopening as the Abbey Teahouse and Garden and would be serving high teas to walk ins with pre-booked afternoon teas also being offered 7. A children's makers' loft which was available above the gift shop They noted the need to cut back the hedge along the A614 near the traffic lights. Councillors were pleased that the wilderness was being cut back and praised the appearance of the park.	
RPC/60/26	10 minutes public speaking time: Nothing raised.	
RPC/61/26	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 May 2026: The minutes of the meeting on 26 May 2026 were approved.	

RPC/62/26	Matters arising – for information only: There were no matters arising.	
RPC/63/26	Reports from district and county councillors: Mr Gamble reported on the following in particular: 1. NCC had submitted its revised plans for the Ford but the police had lodged objections on safety grounds 2. NCC had therefore submitted a funding request to East Midlands Combined County for a bridge instead 3. A614 is to be fully resurfaced outside the Limes Café 4. A number of roads at Ollerton, Wellow, Edwinstowe and Rufford have been marked for mastic surface repairs by the end of July 5. "Offline" work such as compulsory purchases have begun in relation to the A614 improvements. Councillors expressed concern at the absence of any consultation or publicity regarding the new proposals for the Ford and at the cost of a bridge. Mr Gamble had no information regarding the potential costs or consultation process. Councillors asked him to find out more about both. They also asked him to action a review of the dedicated NCC Ford page to bring it up to date with the developments reported above. Mr Gamble was also asked to find out what works are proposed to the Mickledale Lane junction. With councillors' agreement, the meeting moved to item 14a – <i>Planning Applications - 26/00827/OUTM Outline permission for up to 119 homes with all matters reserved except for access and landscaping Land At Old Rufford Road Bilsthorpe.</i> Mr Gamble reported that he had objected to the application for reasons including location, traffic, flooding, lack of GP and school capacity, light pollution, impact on wildlife given the proximity to Sherwood Pines and extension beyond the Bilsthorpe boundary. The chair of Bilsthorpe Parish Council reported that Bilsthorpe councillors had: a. been objecting for six months b. questions regarding who would benefit from the s106 monies payable in relation to the development and proposed traffic junction improvements c. raised the possibility of boundary change because two Bilsthorpe residents had asked. Mr Jones and Mr Ball arrived during these discussions. Councillors noted from the public in attendance that: i. Mickledale Close residents object to the application ii. the local flood agency is working with Strawsons, the land agent and planning authority iii. the Environment Agency has identified Mickledale Close as at high risk of flooding iv. residents had generated access to £145,000 funding for resilience works v. residents understand that 119 new homes would flow into Mickledale Lane Councillors discussed the application and unanimously agreed to object to the proposal on the following grounds: 1. Mickledale Close properties have been the subject of serious flooding incidents in recent years with the proposal adding to the flood risk which they understood is already categorised as high by the Environment Agency. There must be no risk of adding to the existing flood risk. 2. The proposal will inevitably result in a significant increase to traffic with major adverse implications for the traffic burden at the Mickledale Lane junction with A614 and on other local roads and properties in the locality.	JG JG JG

	3. There is an existing lack of infrastructure in Bilsthorpe, including drainage, schools and medical services which will be exacerbated by further development. 4. The proximity of the proposed development to A614.	
RPC/64/26	Reports from Councillors: Mr Gamble noted that the Ollerton roundabout sign is obscured.	
RPC/65/26	Parish environment and appearance including Rufford Ford, Rufford: Councillors referred to the discussions at RPC/63/26 (Reports from district and county councillors) above and noted that there is already a bridge over Rainworth Water elsewhere locally which could be used to access the golf club.	
RPC/66/26	Potential local government reorganisation - Rufford parish and Bilsthorpe parish boundaries: Councillors noted that the Bilsthorpe Parish Council chair had contacted the chair regarding a possible boundary reorganisation between the two parishes to move land which would attract any s106 CIL funding in relation to application 26/00827/OUTM from Rufford into Bilsthorpe. They considered the electoral impact of such a solution to a financial distribution problem. Councillors recognised that the matter was technical in nature. The clerk will contact the Mrs Tift and Mrs Penny for details of the NSDC officer to contact to gain a more detailed understanding of s106 CIL funding systems and allocation.	Clerk
RPC/67/26	Financial matters: a. 2026 schedule of fixed assets: The council unanimously approved the schedule valuing fixed assets at £4,364. b. To agree the 2025/2026 annual accounts: Agreed. c. To certify exemption from limited assurance review under section 9 Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015: Councillors certified that, as: i. Both the council's annual gross income and expenditure for 2025/26 were less than £25000, and ii. The council had been in existence since before 1 April 2014, and iii. The external auditor had taken no step in relation to any 2024/25 financial matters which precluded exemption and iv. The court had made no declaration under section 28(3) of the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 the council was exempt from a limited assurance review and authorised the clerk and chair to sign the certificate of exemption. d. To authorise the chair and the clerk to sign Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return: The Annual Return was presented incorporating the completed internal auditor's report. Councillors considered the contents together with the internal auditor's comments. They unanimously authorised the chair and clerk to sign Section 1 (Annual governance statement) and to include a negative response to assertion 1 because the meeting scheduled for 25 June 2026 to approve the AGAR before 1 July 2026 had been cancelled due to lack of quoracy for unavoidable reasons. e. To authorise the chair and the clerk to sign Section 2 (Accounting Statements) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Having considered the contents, schedule of fixed assets and variances, councillors unanimously authorised the chair and clerk to sign Section 2 (Accounting Statements). f. Financial position as at 30 June 2026: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position as at 30 June 2026 (incorporating the 2026-27 budget figures). The chair verified the stated balances against bank statements.	

	g. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved seven payments totalling £847.59. h. Appointment of replacement bank signatories - Update: All councillors have now signed the new mandate. i. Community benefit - Inkersall Grange solar farm – Update: The clerk reported that an invoice had been raised for the £35,000 community benefit.	
RPC/68/26	Planning: a. Applications: 26/00827/OUTM Outline permission for up to 119 homes with all matters reserved except for access and landscaping Land At Old Rufford Road Bilsthorpe: Discussed and decided at RPC/63/26 (Reports from district and county councillors) above. Councillors also discussed application 26/01014/S73M - Land at Crifton Lodge Farm Forest Lane Bilsthorpe - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (Materials), 4 (Landscaping) and 10 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) attached to plan, notification of which had been received after circulation of the agenda. Councillors had no comments to make. b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: i. 26/00494/FUL External landscaping works to 109 existing holiday lodges including extension of patios, paved areas and new pergolas, and removal of 16 trees. Center Parcs Ltd Sherwood Forest Holiday Village Old Rufford Road Rufford NG22 9DN – Approval noted ii. 26/00594/FUL - Proposed Canopy and External Lighting to the Existing Padel Courts - Center Parcs Ltd Sherwood Forest Holiday Village Old Rufford Road Rufford NG22 9DN - Approval noted. c. Great North Road Solar Park – Developments and update: The Inspectorate’s recommendations were awaited. d. H2East: Humber to Nottinghamshire pipeline: No developments. e. Enforcement matters: None.	
RPC/69/26	Service faults: Nothing raised.	
RPC/70/26	Correspondence: Noted together with the local government reorganisation update.	
RPC/71/26	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
RPC/54/26	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 5.30 pm.	

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm