

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 5th Sept 2024 in Ratley Village Hall at 7:45 pm

No	Agenda Item	Action by
	<p>Present Cllrs. A Simpkins, A Berry, D Payne, A Graham, L Hornsby, County Cllr. C Mills, J Obbard, Clerk and one members of the public</p>	
1.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>1.1 - A resident of New Road mentioned that they observed a contractor hedge cutting in New Road and whilst they cut some hedges, they left others untouched. The Councillors believed it to be most likely that the person hedge cutting was contracted to Orbit and was only cutting those hedges listed as 'belonging' to the Orbit-owned properties.</p> <p>1.2 The Clerk mentioned an earlier conversation with a parishioner who complained about the state of the footpath alongside Grange Lane beyond the Grange Hollow property. Cllr. Berry pointed out that this area is the responsibility of the Hornton Masonry site owners. Clerk to write to Agent.</p> <p>1.3 Cllr. Graham spoke about the poor state of the footpath between the Knowle and Edgehill – Clerk read recent letters from Jeff Hobday, from WCC Highways which hinted at further clearance work to be undertake. Clerk to write again to request clarification of actions regarding the overgrown hedgeline and the rapidly deteriorating surface of the footpath.</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p>
2.	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr. Littlewood who was unable to attend due to a previous over-running planning meeting</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest None received</p>	
4.	<p>Edgehill Quarry updates. C Mills read an email recently received from Charlie Jones, the WCC Enforcement Officer This is shown below:-</p> <p><i>I was actually at Edgehill on Tuesday this week for a monitoring visit so I can provide a very up to date progress of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The site itself has progressed a lot in six months and the northern end towards the village of Ratley has nearly being infilled. It needs another 12-18 inches of soils which the operator advised should be done before winter 2024. They will then cease infilling until Spring 2025 or when weather permits.</i></p> <p><i>The processing and sale of aggregate continues towards the southern part of the site. The Highway was clean at the time of the visit and the road sweeper was in operation. There aren't currently any</i></p>	



RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

outstanding issues or breaches on the site and we haven't received a complaint about the site since January 2024.

Please let me know if any concerns are raised at the meeting. Regards

Charlie Jones

Planning Officer (Enforcement & Monitoring)

Cllr. Berry showed a photo of tyre marks from trucks turning into quarry from Edgehill. It is clear that the number of vehicles doing this has reduced but not ceased.

No further info on weight restrictions. It is expected that all will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal when it appears.

5. Minutes of previous meeting – 27th June 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Payne,, seconded by Cllr. Graham, agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 23rd May 2024

6.1 Water service disruption - Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Severn Trent requesting an urgent improvement in the service being delivered currently. This action was completed. A response was received but a follow up email was sent by Clerk – a further, incomplete reply has recently been received from ST, acknowledging their difficulties with the pumps and pointing out that it is expected the repairs to the water tank will take another 10 weeks.

6.2 Electricity supplies - Cllr. Hornsby agreed to have a conversation with the member of public outside of the meeting

6.3 Town Hill Trees – Pollarding work now completed. Thanks to Cllr Hornsby for arranging.

6.4 Edgehill speed surveys – A speed survey was carried out very recently. It is not known what instigated this but it is assumed was the initial approach from Cllr. Mills, who will try to confirm this and also to obtain the results of the survey. [subsequent to the meeting the results of the WCC speed survey have been shared with the Councillors.]

6.5 Cllr. Mills was asked about whether it was possible to obtain Public or Parish Council access to an online highways map to view those issues that have already been reported. Cllr. Mills to investigate. CM to email Clerk link to the site.

6.6 Cllr. Graham reported on her recent meeting with Rosemary from SWAN. There was little to report other than a meeting is being arranged for people to learn about nature recovery. Cllr. Graham to send date of the meeting.

6.7 Finance actions were completed (with the exception of donations to Village Hall and Ratley Church which will be paid in September after the second Precept instalment has

CM

AG



RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>been received)</p> <p>6.8 The Stable House, Chapel Lane – recent installation of an Air-source heat pump – There was concern expressed that the recent heat pump installation appeared to contravene various regulations, Clerk referred matter to Planning Dept. who are now investigating.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7.1 24/02145/TREE The Quarterhouse – fell Pear and Cherry trees – agreed – no objections – Clerk to report.</p> <p>7.2 – Bio-Digester – Cllr. Littlewood reported that there will be a meeting on Tuesday with the developer to discuss the potential application. Cllr. Littlewood will provide an update after the meeting. Cllrs. agreed to make contact with David Roache, Tysoe to offer support – Cllr. Mills to provide details. Cllr. Hornsby agreed to write to David.</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>CM, LH</p>
8.	<p>District and County Councillors reports</p> <p>8.1 - District Council report – This had been previously supplied and is shown in Appendix 1</p> <p>8.2 – County Councillor’s report – Cllr. Mills presented his report - this is shown in Appendix 2</p>	
9.	<p>Parish Plan</p> <p>9.1 Communications Sub-Committee. No items</p> <p>9.2 Environmental sub-committee.</p> <p>9.2.1 Wild Flower planting at The Obelisk, Edgehill – the recent wildflower planting day went very well with a good number turning out to help. There has been significant rainfall since the planting which with obviate the need to water the young plants.</p> <p>Over the next few months Cllr. Graham agreed to work on material for website, including QR codes etc. A small budget will be required for display purposes QR codes, posts, boards etc.).</p>	
10.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>10.1 389 emails and 2 printed communications received since the last meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>Finance</p> <p>11.1 Invoices for Payment – 6 transactions had been approved by the signatories and paid by the Clerk since the last meeting – See Appendix 3 for details.</p> <p>11.2 2024/25 Accounts – these were discussed – See Appendix 3.</p> <p>11.3 Bank statements for both the Current account and the Savings account covering the period since the last meeting were presented for inspection. These tally with the Parish</p>	

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Council accounts.</p> <p>11.4 – Section 173 allowances. The Clerk pointed out that the amount of S137 payments being made has dropped well below the maximum allowed sum on a per electorate basis. Councillors to consider increasing donations in line with inflation for the next financial year.</p>	All
<p>12.</p>	<p>Parish Maintenance</p> <p>12.1 Cllr. Berry had undertaken an inspection of the playground and football pitch. The picnic bench in the corner had a loose top (which he has now fixed) – whilst the other picnic bench is unfit for purpose and needs replacing. Cllr. Berry to research options. Options include wood or recycled plastic.</p> <p>Big swings – need bolt caps - 4 are missing will find replacements.</p> <p>Rubber post surrounds working well</p> <p>Barbeque fixed by Cllr. Berry (had been dislodged by approx. 4”) – also repaired table by the side.</p> <p>Along side rec by lane to farmyard, an oak tree looks suspect – may need felling / replacing. All to monitor</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p> <p>All</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>13.1 - Fireworks – the displays used to be covered by Youth Club insurance, then Village Hall Insurance (which no longer covers fireworks). The Parish Council insurance policy does cover fireworks provided it is run by the PC. The Chair proposed that the PC took over the responsibility for organising the annual display to enable our insurance to be used. This was seconded by Cllr. Payne and agreed by all.</p> <p>Cllr. Hornsby and the Clerk to attend a firework training session in Leamington in September.</p> <p>13.2 Cllr. Graham reported that she had been approached by the Welfare Trust to become a member – this she has agreed to.</p> <p>13.3 Cllr. Graham also reported that she has been requested by the Chair of the Cotswold AONB to take on a voluntary position on their board. Both the Chair and CEO were comfortable with her continuing in her role as a Parish Councillor. Cllr. Graham has accepted the offer. Congratulations were given by all.</p>	<p>LH /</p> <p>JO</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Next meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held in Ratley Village Hall on October 17th (Cllr. Graham gave apologies as she will be on holiday)</p>	

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Dates of following meetings:-
December 5th

Meeting closed at 21:05

Signed (Chair) *awd*

Date 17. oct 2024

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix I – District Councillor Report

Ward member Report to Parish Councils in Tysoe Ward.

02-09-2024

Typically, August is a quiet time at SDC as Officers and Members take the time for holidays. The work does not stop however, especially with regards to planning applications. Although a reduced workload planning applications continue to come in!

Planning Applications

The main Application in the Ward remains the Anaerobic Digester project. This Application has been in the system now for nearly two years. As I reported last month, the time span has not been because of dereliction of effort by the Planning Officers at SDC but simply because of the complexity of impact on the locality, the claimed benefits, and clear local harm such a project will impact the environment and quality of life of residents living close to the proposed site; and, in my opinion, the insignificant National benefit that the relatively infinitesimally small contribution to the national consumption of gas, and, 40% of the production being Carbon Dioxide as a financially beneficial by-product. The calculation as to support or refuse the application comes down to Harm vs Benefit. Importantly, should the application be refused, and the applicant go to appeal, then the process of assessment must be seen to have been conducted properly, and this has added to the time taken to ensure a safe and reasonable decision.

Over the first part of the year, I co-chaired the Task and Finish working group reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at SDC, on the 'protection' of Public Houses as important centres of communities, especially in rural areas. The result was a planning guidance note for planning officers to emphasise the current Core Strategy and to ensure that applications for change of purpose are strictly applied. The first 'successful' outcome since publication of the Planning Guidance note has been the refusal to permit the grade II listed Fox and Hounds in Great Wolford to be changed from a public house to a dwelling. With work commencing on the South Warwickshire Local Plan [SWLC], a combined planning document with Warwick District Council, it is essential that work continues to reinforce planning protection for this and other assets of community value such as local shops and post offices.

Welfare and Support

The Labour Governments announcement that Winter Fuel Allowance is to be stopped except for those on Pension Credit means that many more pensioners could be at risk of fuel poverty over the fast-approaching Autumn and Winter. I urge all communities to highlight any who might be in need this Winter to both SDC and WCC. Living in cold under heated properties can start an irreversible downwards spiral in the elderly and vulnerable. If your communities are lucky to have 'Warm Hubs', please make those in need aware that they exist as friendly warm social places.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Resettlement & Asylum in SDC

At the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 30th August, we were updated with regards to the current status of SDC's performance in fulfilling pledges and statutory duty regarding housing households in need. The update focussed on housing pledges in support of;

- The UK Refugee Resettlement Scheme,
- The Afghan Relocation Allocation Policy, Afghan Citizens relocation Scheme,
- Service Families Accommodation,
- The Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and,
- The Asylum dispersal scheme.

By July 2025 19 households are to be resettled in the District in Housing Association accommodation. This will reduce the cost of B&B utilisation to SDC. 19 households should be viewed in the context of the current 5,997 households on the list, but this includes those of low priority. High priority households on the list, i.e. those that are homeless, or have a high housing need and/or a local connection number 1,638 households of which some 900 are of the highest priority with SDC having a Statutory Duty to rehouse them.

Funding for the pledged households from Central Government is £45,750 in this F.Y. but the liability for funding the scheme is estimated to be in the order of £51,000.

SDC Finances & Resources

The SDC finances remains in a healthy condition because of the cash reserves and investments achieved historically, however there are increasing costs that have required reserves to be allocated. Investment Interest provided an additional £290k but with interest rates reducing, this cannot be considered a reliable revenue stream.

Staff Recruitment agencies cost an additional £100k, and Council Tax collection, Housing Benefit Administration and Housing Benefits cost an additional £125k. Leisure Centre and reinstatement of play areas and paddling pools following the floods of 2024 cost an additional £20k. A reduction in Off Street Parking revenues and reduced levels of recycling and additional building maintenance resulted in reduced revenues and costs amounting to some £170k.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 2 – County Councillor Report

County Councillor report Ratley & Upton Parish Council Meeting 5th September 2024

Prepare for emergencies: Key contacts

Key contacts for a range of risks in Warwickshire, on the Warwickshire Resilience Forum website? Select a risk, add your postcode to learn who to contact. You're a couple of clicks away from being #BetterPrepared.

Visit: <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/emergency-contacts/>

Family Information Service

Warwickshire's Family Information Service (FIS) provides information, advice and one-to-one support on issues including family relationships, finance, housing, parenting support and more.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/40/family-information-service>

RSV vaccination for older people

From 1 September, people aged between 75 and 79, will be contacted by their GP surgery to book a slot for their respiratory syncytial virus RSV vaccination.

Please wait to be contacted. Older people are vulnerable to the disease, which can lead to hospitalisation

RSV vaccination in pregnancy

If you're 28 weeks pregnant you are eligible to have the respiratory syncytial virus RSV vaccination to protect your unborn baby.

Babies are vulnerable as they have small airways and limited immunity against RSV.

Please speak to your maternity service or GP surgery.

UK is the first country in the world to offer a national vaccination programme that uses the same vaccine to protect both infants and older adults from RSV

The vaccine will protect infants and older adults, easing winter pressures on the NHS

Eligible people urged to take up offer when rollout begins in September

The UK will become the first country in the world to have a national programme that uses the same vaccine to protect both newborns and older adults against RSV.

The rollout, which will start from 1 September 2024 in England, includes a vaccine for pregnant women over 28 weeks to help protect their newborn babies, a routine programme for those over 75 and a one-off campaign for people aged 75 to 79. These are the groups at the greatest risk from RSV, based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Domestic abuse survivor engagement

If you've experienced domestic abuse, or you know someone who has – please help Warwickshire to better understand why people find it hard to reach out for support. Find out more:

<https://www.talk2someone.org.uk/victim-survivor/victimsurvivor-engagement/1>

Disabled people to benefit from two-year extension of free weekday travel before 9am

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet has approved the extension of the all-day travel trial for holders of disabled person's bus passes who are below state retirement age. The trial, which began in August 2023, will now continue until March 31st, 2027. More information about concessionary travel, including how to apply, can be found here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/free-bus-travel-older-people-people-disabilities-1>

Dementia Connect in Warwickshire (for anyone living with dementia and their carers)

Dementia Connect in Warwickshire is available for everyone affected by dementia. It offers practical and emotional support and can ensure people are linked in with, and supported to access the wide range of additional support that can help them to live well with dementia.

This service is commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and delivered by Alzheimer's Society across Warwickshire. People affected by dementia whether they have a diagnosis or are a carer can self-refer to Dementia Connect.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact number (charged at local rates): **0333 150 3456**.

Free conference about autism

If you have an interest in autism and the support that is available, you are invited to join one of three upcoming Together with Autism conferences being held this year. The conferences are being organised by local provider, Act for Autism, in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System. The series of events will take place on the following dates and will run from 9.45am to 4.30pm:

Saturday 14 September 2024 at Meadow Park School, Coventry. Booking is now open for the Coventry event

Saturday 9 November 2024 at North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (Hinckley Road campus), Nuneaton. Booking will open six weeks before the event.

Saturday 7 December 2024 at North Leamington School. Booking will open six weeks before the event.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5491/book-your-place-on-a-free-conference-about-autism->

Aston Martin honoured with King's Award for Enterprise

One of the UK's most iconic luxury brands - Aston Martin - was awarded the prestigious Kings Award for Enterprise earlier this year in the category of Innovation. The company has manufacturing bases in Gaydon in Warwickshire and St Athan in Wales. Read more:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5458/aston-martin-honoured-with-king-s-award-for-enterprise-in-innovation

Tree planting funding

The application window for community groups to apply for funding to create new orchards and micro woods has been extended until the end of 2024.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5509/community-groups-given-longer-to-apply-for-tree-planting-funding-in-warwickshire>

Ticket fraud

Getting ready to buy those Oasis tickets?

If you're booking tickets for any gig or event, stay safe and only buy tickets from a venue's box office, official promoter/agent or well-known, reputable ticket site.

For more advice visit: http://star.org.uk/buy_safe

WCC's Cabinet Approves New Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Operating Model

A new operating model has been approved for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) by Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet. Following a review of how WFRS use their resources, a public consultation took place earlier this year on a proposed delivery model that would help the service to better align their resources to the risks and demands across all parts of Warwickshire. The feedback from the 1,300 responses that were received has been used to shape a revised model known as Model A. This new way of working offers several improvements on the current operating model. This includes, guaranteeing 14 fire engines during the day, when activity is highest, and 13 at night, when the risk is lower. This is a significant improvement from the current guaranteed 11 engines during the day and 8 at night. Providing WFRS with a 27% increase in capacity to conduct prevention work, helping to stop fires and incidents before they occur. Improving average response times for the most urgent incidents across the county by 58 seconds to under 10 minutes, ensuring quicker assistance when and where it is needed the most. It also improves the average response time for a second engine when this is needed. The Cabinet have approved the additional allocation of £1.75m to fund this new operating model.

Chris Mills

County Councillor

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 3 - 2024/25 Accounts

Payments					
Date	Who	Ref	VAT	NET	Total
10/04/2024	Transfer from Savings Account			-£500.00	-£500.00
10/04/2024	WALC Subs	1324316673	£24.20	£151.00	£175.20
11/04/2024	Npower - Lighting charges	1327752922	£12.35	£246.98	£259.33
22/04/2024	Caloo - Swings	1331006163	£737.00	£3,685.00	£4,422.00
22/04/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 2 and 3	1331007392	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
22/04/2024	Lighthorne Tree Care - High Street Bank	1330273438		£550.00	£550.00
18/05/2024	J Obbard - Clerk fees Q1	1355034626		£453.57	£453.57
18/05/2024	HMRC - PAYE Q1	1349952711		£302.38	£302.38
25/05/2024	John Hopkins - cleaning bus shelter	1354117305		£100.00	£100.00
25/05/2024	Clear Insurance	1354216305		£382.62	£382.62
30/05/2024	Transfer from Savings Account			-£1,000.00	£1,000.00
30/05/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 4, 5 & 6	1354707810	£249.45	£1,247.25	£1,496.70
01/06/2024	Well Medical (J Obbard) - Defib' pads	1359050568	£23.98	£119.90	£143.88
27/06/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 7 and 8	1331007392	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
28/06/2024	Monika Morgan - Internal Audit	1376553754		£75.00	£75.00
27/07/2024	Transfer from Savings Account			-£1,000.00	£1,000.00
27/07/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 9 and 10	1384370556	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
02/08/2024	Transfer from Savings Account			-£1,000.00	£1,000.00
02/08/2024	Naturescape wildflowers	1401546423	£112.00	£560.00	£672.00
02/08/2024	Claranet Web Hosting	1402960160	£12.10	£60.50	£72.60
03/08/2024	Lighthorne Tree Care - Cherry trees Town Hill	1389261671		£540.00	£540.00
22/08/2024	Transfer from Savings Account			-£404.40	-£404.40
22/08/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 11 and 12	1408518338	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
	Year 2023/24 Total		£1,836.28	£7,895.80	£9,732.08
	Current Balance				£15.03