

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 17th Oct 2024 in Ratley Village Hall at 7:45 pm

No	Agenda Item	Action by
	<p>Present Cllrs. A Simpkins, A Berry, D Payne, L Hornsby, J Obbard, Clerk and two members of the public</p>	
1.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>1.1 – The Flower Show Committee have agreed that their account and card reader can be used for collecting donations at the fireworks display. These funds will then be transferred back to Cllr. Berry’s account prior to onward distribution of any surplus.</p> <p>1.2 The existing benches outside the Village Hall are in need of restoration – to be done by Cllr. Berry. An additional two benches have now kindly been donated by the Payne’s. Councillors thanked them for this!</p> <p>1.3 A member of the public raised a few concerns</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.1 The streetlight near the bus stop is not fixed yet – Clerk has reported and will chase if not repaired in the next few days.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.2 The bus timetable at the bus stop is out of date - any chance of getting a new one? Busses come through but times aren’t right. Cllr. Hornsby agreed to follow up.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.3 Old Vicarage plans – any news? – The Councillors explained that this had been dropped as far as they were aware</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.4 Grass cutting – Orbit cut the top bit but nothing else. This is all they are contracted to cut. Thomas Fox cut the rest.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.5 Town Hill Steps – grass. Thomas Fox are still not blowing grass away. Clerk mentioned that on the last cut, following the previous complaint, they had made an excellent job of clearing the cuttings away. All to monitor next cutting season.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.6 Town Hill Steps 2. The steps are the only way up to the houses which isn’t accessible - will soon need a ramp. One by No 1 Town Hill (AB) – Gwen – not suitable. Clerk to speak to Malcolm Littlewood for suggestions for raising this with Orbit.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.7 Recreation field lane is in a terrible condition can something be done please?. There are potholes in the surface which is bad for cars. This is caused by over use of heavy farm vehicles. Cllr. Berry mentioned that this used to be a dirt track until the water main was replaced. Following problems encountered the Parish Council managed to negotiate compensation with contractors to resurface.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">One possibility would be for all Town Hill residents to contribute to resurfacing? All to think of alternative solutions.</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>LH</p> <p>All</p> <p>JO</p> <p>All</p>



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2.	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr. Mills and Cllr. Graham who were unable to attend.</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest None received</p>	
4.	<p>Edgehill Quarry updates. None other than lorries are still driving through Edgehill to reach the quarry entrance.</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting – 5th Sept 2024 The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Simkins, seconded by Cllr. Payne, agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 5th Sept 2024</p> <p>6.1 At the previous meeting 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 reported that if we have access to Compass on WCC website we should be able access the information we require. JO to investigate. It was later confirmed by Cllr. Mills that the 'Compass' system is only available to WCC staff.</p> <p>6.2 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 – Bankier Sloan. Carry Over</p> <p>6.3 At the previous meeting 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. The Overgrowth has now been cleared.</p> <p>6.3 Bio-digester proposal. Actions completed – plans for application has now been dropped</p> <p>6.4 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. WCC Grant will be pursued prior to committing to purchase a new bench. JO to investigate.</p> <p>6.5 Big swings – four plastic bolt caps are missing. Cllr. Berry agreed to source some replacements.</p> <p>6.6 Cllr. Hornsby and the Clerk to attend a firework training session in Leamington in September. Completed</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>AHB</p>
7.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7.1 24/02247/FUL Hill View, Ratley – major extensions This had been previously commented on by Councillors. Clerk to report No Objections</p> <p>7.2 24/01985/FUL The Pavilion, Upton Viva – major alterations This had been previously commented on by Councillors. Clerk to report No Objections</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p>

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	<p>7.3 24/02337/LBC I Home Farm Drive, Upton Estate – Reroofing and minor repairs This had been previously commented on by Councillors. Clerk to report No Objections</p> <p>7.4 24/02319/TREE Old Manor Barn, Ratley – Minor tree works The Councillors had no issues with this application – Clerk to report no objections</p> <p>7.5 24/02448/FUL School House, Ratley – new windows and height alteration. There were some concerns raised regarding this application for issues such as window heights, removal of existing structures and parking spaces – Clerk to follow up case officer.</p> <p>7.6 24/02419/FUL The Old Post Office, Ratley – extension above existing kitchen The Councillors had no issues with this application – Clerk to report no objections</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p>
<p>8.</p>	<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 – This had been previously supplied and is shown in Appendix 2</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Parish Plan</p> <p>9.1 Communications Sub-Committee. Cllr. Berry Shared Risk Assessments, Marshal plans and site plans for Fireworks Display.</p> <p>9.2 Environmental sub-committee. Cllr. Payne attended the recent nature plan session and reported that although interesting, many of the attending Parish Council representatives had large parishes, thousands of parishioners, huge precepts etc. It was agreed that at the current time the Councillors were content with our recent wildflower planting initiative.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>10.1 241 emails and 0 printed communications received since the last meeting.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>11.1 Invoices for Payment – 7 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 Council accounts.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Parish Maintenance</p> <p>12.1 Grass cutting review There was a very positive overall assessment of the year’s work. However, Frenches Lane is a mess and needs some serious work. Some elder has</p>	



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	<p>been cut and piled on top of brambles – these have fallen over onto path making it almost impassable.</p> <p>The Goggs area – didn't get cut for a while – we need to ensure that this is cut from the start of the 2025 cutting season.</p> <p>Outstanding work includes – high street flowers, playing field banks, New Road Hedges. Clerk to write to Thomas Fox explaining issues and requesting rectification.</p> <p>12.2 Tree on triangle by pub – needs looking at as it appears to be deteriorating quickly. Can we get Lighthorne Tree Care in to have a look. Clerk to request Lighthorne Tree Care to inspect and advise</p> <p>12.3 Hedge by playing field – John White was going to cut but didn't. legislation only applies to hedges alongside agricultural land but not to gardens or recreational areas. Cllr. Berry to ask John again if he is able to cut.</p> <p>12.4 Playground Inspection – This was thought to be generally good. However, there are a few items that will need addressing including the following:- Football posts need attention. – remove net and paint. Some concern about the trail, corroding chains, deteriorating posts etc. Over next few weeks we will have to have a detailed look at all the issues and make plan for correction.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>AHB</p> <p>All</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Urgent Business 13.1 – No items</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>Next meeting. The next meeting will be held in Ratley Village Hall on December 19th (Previously scheduled for Dec 5th)</p> <p>Dates of following meetings:- None arranged – Clerk to circulate suggestions for 2025 meetings</p> <p>Meeting closed at 21:00</p>	<p>JO</p>

Signed (Chair) *aw*

Date 19 Dec 2024

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Appendix I – District Councillor Report

Ward member Report to Parish Councils in Tysoe Ward.
03-10-2024

Planning Applications

I first started working on the Anaerobic Digester Planning Application in Tysoe as a Parish Councillor. Now in my second year as Wared Member, and after just over two years of constant work of myself and fellow Parish Councillors, both in Tysoe and neighbouring Parishes, District Councillors, and members of the public, I have learned this week that Acorn Energy have withdrawn their application on being informed that the Officer was minded to REFUSE permission. I have to say that the work of those preparing the Tysoe Parish Council was exceptional and, in particular, mention of Councillor David Roache who led the campaign very professionally as Chair of Tysoe Parish Council.

So where does this now leave us? It is clear that the original application was not professional, inaccurate and flawed. It was an application for the wrong technology, in the wrong place being miles from any injection centre and in open countryside within sight and close proximity of the Cotswold National Landscape and residential homes. It was destined to create chaos, damage and harm to the infrastructure, environment and wellness of residents. Withdrawing the application however provides the Applicant with the opportunity to re-submit a new application or simply just 'walk away' and focus on other opportunities. I hope that good commercial sense will prevail and the Applicant will take the latter option.

Welfare and Support

The Labour Government previously 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 would be happy to work with Parish Councils and other local groups to look after those whom might be at risk and look to organising local 'warm hubs' where there is a need. Please contact either myself or your County Councillor to discuss further.

Homelessness, Resettlement & Asylum in SDC

The latest reports on Homeless people sleeping rough suggests that there is only a few know people on the streets. My thoughts are however that the surveys have focussed on our main centres in South Warwickshire, and I wonder what the situation is in our more rural Parishes. Again, there is support available to those who find themselves homeless in the District and if you know of any in need, I can signpost you to the correct people within SDC.

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Appendix 2 – County Councillor Report

County Councillor report Ratley and Upton Parish Council Meeting 17th October 2024 **Devolution deal for Warwickshire**

The County Council is delighted to announce that the Government has indicated its intention to move forward with a devolution agreement for Warwickshire. The Warwickshire Devolution Agreement is a significant long-term milestone for the County. It provides a strong foundation from which to secure further powers and resources. It will help us further strengthen our economy, and our continued drive to improve the life prospects for all who live, work or do business in Warwickshire. Find out more <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5573/devolution-deal-for-warwickshire>

Support to pay household bills

If you are struggling to pay your utility bills, you can look to Warwickshire County Council for support. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5542/apply-for-support-to-pay-household-bills>

AskSARA

AskSARA is an award-winning online self-help guide providing expert advice and information on products and equipment for older adults and people with disabilities. AskSara Warwickshire is an easy-to-use website available 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5569/asksara-an-award-winning-online-self-help-guide-for-warwickshire-residents>

Stoptober. Quit smoking to boost mental health and wellbeing

Not only does quitting smoking improve your physical health, it is also proven to boost your mental health and wellbeing. There are 66,000 smokers in Warwickshire ages 18+ which is 13.9% of the county's population. Find out more about starting your quitting journey: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5619/council-calling-on-residents-to-quit-smoking-to-boost-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Registering birds

Do you keep ducks, geese or chickens in your back garden or smallholding or allow your pet parrot or budgerigar to go outside? If so, you will need to register them by 1 October 2024. WCC's Trading Standards Animal Health Team want to make smallholders aware of this new measure to help tackle the ongoing risk of Avian Flu and other bird diseases. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5552/pet-owners-and-smallholders-are-urged-to-register-their-birds>

Specialist support for children with SEND

More children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Warwickshire are now receiving tailored support within mainstream schools. Find out more about specialist resourced provisions: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5600/warwickshire-county-council-expands-specialist-support-for-children-with-send->

Carers

To further your understanding of what it means to be a carer, we encourage all our partners to set aside some time to take Warwickshire County Council's free online Carer Aware and Young Carer Aware courses (estimated completion time is 30-40 minutes each). Further information and contributing to bulletin The Caring Together Warwickshire Service has a website (www.caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk) where you can find updates about the service, and

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information and support for all carer age groups. Further information about services available for carers can be seen here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers>

Councillor Grant Fund is open again for applications

Warwickshire County Council is inviting community and voluntary groups across the county to apply for the Councillor Grant Fund, which is now reopen for round two of funding. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5583/warwickshire-county-council-s-councillor-grant-fund-is-open-again-for-applications>

Full Council – 24 September

The meeting of Warwickshire County Council on Tuesday 24 September focused on key priorities that included keeping Warwickshire communities safe, supporting vulnerable young people and expanding school capacity.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5585/today-at-council-24-september->

Chris Mills

County Councillor Ratley and Upton

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Appendix 3 - 2024/25 Accounts

Payments					
Date	Who	Ref	VAT	NET	Total
10/04/2024	Transfer from Savings Account				-£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
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
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
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
22/08/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 11 and 12	1408518338	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
09/09/2024	A Graham - warning tape for wildflowers	1422139270		£9.96	£9.96
24/09/2024	J Obbard - Clerk fees Q2	1431152536		£453.57	£453.57
24/09/2024	HMRC - PAYE Q1	1432579095		£302.38	£302.38
24/09/2024	Ratley Village Hall	1427557221		£750.00	£750.00
24/09/2024	Ratley PCC	1431251103		£750.00	£750.00
24/09/2024	Transfer to Savings Account				£4,000.00
25/09/2024	Thomas Fox - Cuts 13 and 14	1428123370	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
26/09/2024	A Berry - Glue for Barbeque	1419425884		£5.85	£5.85
	Year 2024/25 Total		£2,002.58	£14,903.46	£16,906.04
	Current Balance				£841.07