

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

<b>Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 in Ratley Village Hall at 8:00 pm</b>		
No	<b>Agenda Item</b>	Action by
	<p><b>Present</b>                      Cllrs. A Berry, D Payne, A Graham, A Simpkins, L Hornsby, District Cllr. M Littlewood, County Cllr. C Mills, J Obbard, Clerk and two members of the public .</p>	
1.	<p><b>Welcome to Councillors [Clerk]</b>                      As this was the opening meeting of a new season in the Parish Council calendar, this first item was taken by the Clerk.                      To open, the Clerk welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Election of Chair and Vice Chair [Clerk]</b>                      Cllr. Simpkins volunteered for election to Chair.                      Her election was proposed by Cllr. Berry, seconded by Cllr. Graham and agreed by all. Cllr. Simpkins was therefore duly elected as Chair.                       The Council decided not to elect a Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair, meetings will be individually chaired by another Councillor to be agreed before commencement of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Open Forum</b>                      No items</p>	
4.	<p><b>Apologies</b>                      None were received</p>	
5.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b>                      None were received</p>	
6.	<p><b>Edgehill Quarry updates.</b>                       Cllr. Mills has spoken with Charlie (Enforcement) who visited site and was pleased to report that some tarmac had been laid within the site to reduce the amount of mud. He also reported that the quarry operators were not legally bound to show Camera footage. There was a discussion about the purpose of mandating that CCTV had to be installed, if WCC had no powers to view it.                      Weight restrictions – during the consultation, two objections had been received during the during purdah. The portfolio holder, when appointed, will be able to over-rule these objections.                       Cllr. Graham reported that she had received another request for the Parish Council to reconsider having a 20mph zone through Edgehill. The question was asked; why can Wroxton etc. have one but not Edgehill. It was suggested that Oxfordshire has a different attitude to speed limits, and that new 20mph zones are very difficult to achieve in Warwickshire. Regarding traffic calming – such as chicanes, ramps etc., we have previously</p>	

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>been advised that street lighting would be required.</p> <p>Cllr. Littlewood stated that the starting point would have to be a traffic speed survey first – this is likely to cost some £500 - £600 per measurement area. It was noted that the results of a recent survey at Edgehill (although arguably not in the best location) would have been unlikely to persuade Highways that 20mph zone was required. Clerk has made the results of this last speed survey available to an Edgehill resident who requested it. It is also available for Councillors to view on the PC DropBox files.</p> <p>Clerk to make contact with Parish Councillor at Tysoe – Chris Bell – who has had some experience of rules around traffic calming, lighting etc.</p>	JO
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Payne, agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025</b></p> <p>8.1 Edgehill Quarry site – various actions – covered under 6 above</p> <p>8.2 Playground Inspection – see Item 14.1</p> <p>8.3 Seeded sycamore tree in Town Hill – The Clerk reported that the tree was too large for a one-person felling. This would now have to wait until after leaf-fall and a 2-3 person team engaged to tackle it.</p> <p>8.4 Edgehill Entrance ‘Gate’ – WCC Highways have reinstated this – very quick service – thanks.</p> <p>8.5 Land Registry documents to be posted on Web site and in PC Dropbox files. Completed</p> <p>8.6 Audit arrangements – Internal audit complete – report next meeting.</p> <p>8.7 Ratley Flower Show – Clerk has reported outcome of last meeting to the Flower and Produce Show Committee.</p> <p>8.8 Additional Litter Bin between the Knowle and the Ratley Turn. Clerk has written to SDC and WCC requesting information. Owing to the cost of purchasing an additional bin together with ongoing costs for regular emptying, the Cllrs. Felt that this was not achievable at the current time. If funds permitted, the potential for other locations would also have to be considered – for example Edgehill.</p> <p>8.9 Climbing Frame. Repairs to the Climbing frame have been completed by the Clerk and Cllr. Berry</p> <p>8.10 Brambles on Lower Rec. This has been cleared and burned by Cllr. Berry and Shona.</p> <p>8.11 Picnic bench has replaced but the one in even worse condition also needs urgent replacement. See item 14.1</p> <p>8.12 High Street Pavement.....reported to Street Scene but nothing happened yet (Cllr. Payne saw them at top of High Street filling potholes).</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>9.1 25/00899/TREE Glendale No objections – permission has been granted</p> <p>9.2 25/00748/FUL Will England Cottage</p>	

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Revised applications. A 'No Objection' response was sent to the SDC Planning Portal	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>District and County Councillors reports</b></p> <p>10.1 – District Council report</p> <p>This had been previously sent to Councillors. It is shown in Appendix 1 (Cllr. Littlewood drew special attention to the Community Grant scheme which is opening soon...)</p> <p>10.2 County Councillor's report.</p> <p>This is shown in Appendix 2</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Parish Plan</b></p> <p>11.1 Communications Sub-Committee. The Clerk has received correspondence from Claranet (Web browser administrators) suggesting that the inclusion of personal details held against a Parish Council email address will be an audit failing. Clerk to investigate how to comply and how to avoid having to change to a “.gov” domain.</p> <p>11.2 Environmental sub-committee Cllr. Graham reported that the Yellow Rattle plugs have now been planted at the Obelisk site – it is hoped that these, and the other plugs planted in the autumn survive the current dry weather. Andrea and Alex have removed lots of perennial weeds and will keep an eye out for more.</p>	<b>JO</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>12.1 313 emails and 1 printed communication received since the last meeting .</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>13.1 Invoices for Payment 7 transactions had been approved by Councillors and paid by the Clerk since the last meeting - See Appendix 3 for details.</p> <p>13.2 2025/26 Accounts – extracts of these were presented and discussed. See Appendix 3 for details.</p> <p>13.3 – Bank Statements – these were presented and discussed. Statements reconcile with Accounts spreadsheet presented.</p> <p>13.4 Grants and Honoraria a) The payment of an honorarium of £100 (in line with agreed budget for 2025/26) to John Hopkins for cleaning the bus shelter was proposed by Cllr. Simpkins seconded by Cllr. Hornsby and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange payment.</p> <p>b) The payment of a maintenance support Grant of £750 to Ratley PCC, in line with</p>	<b>JO</b>

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>agreed 2025/26 budget, was proposed by Cllr. Berry seconded by Cllr. Payne and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange 2024 payment following receipt of the second part of the SDC Precept in September.</p> <p>c) The payment of donation of £750 towards maintenance costs, in line with agreed budget for 2025/26, to Ratley Village Hall was proposed by Cllr. Simpkin, seconded by Cllr. Hornsby and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange payment following receipt of the second part of the SDC Precept in September.</p> <p>13.5 –2024/25 Audit. The Clerk reported that Monika Morgan has completed the internal audit. AGAR to be approved at next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JO</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JO</p>
<p><b>14. Parish Maintenance</b></p>	<p>14.1 Playground Maintenance</p> <p>The Playground inspection report received in September raised a number of minor concerns that are currently being worked through. Outstanding items include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ownership sign – (i.e. “this recreation ground is owned by Ratley and Upton Parish Council”). This will be considered by the Councillors.</li> <li>• Soft surfaces – moss, level etc.</li> <li>• Replace picnic table near toddler swings – needs replacing – Clerk to check out size of smaller plastic bench – check no smaller than existing but could be a bit bigger.</li> <li>• Goal posts – significant corrosion – replace or repaint. – volunteers have come forward and offered to paint them.</li> <li>• Net damaged – Cllr. Berry has removed these.</li> <li>• Trim trail – Two large posts need replacing. Some posts are available – if long enough Cllr. Berry will use these, otherwise purchase new ones.</li> <li>• Elephant needs painting. The Chair offered to paint this. Small pots of required colours to be purchased.</li> </ul> <p>14.2 General</p> <p>Old offices at the Hornton Masonry site. These are in very bad condition and there is considered to be a real risk of children injuring themselves. Clerk to contact Ian Sloan – land agent.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to email Sarah Brooke Taylor to request more information about the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements to support the development of houses in the old quarry land adjacent to The Vicarage.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">All</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JO</p> <p style="text-align: right;">All</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AB</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JO</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JO</p>
<p><b>15. Urgent Business</b></p>	<p>No items.</p>	
<p><b>16. Next meeting.</b></p>	<p>The next meeting will be held in Ratley Village Hall on June 26<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Dates of later meetings:-</p>	

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

(Friday) September 5<sup>th</sup>

October 16<sup>th</sup>

December 11<sup>th</sup>

Meeting closed at 21:45

**Signed** (Chair) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Appendix I – District Councillors Report

Ward Member Report for April 2025 At the recent election for County Councillors there were in addition two by-elections within SDC for Welford and Alcester West. Both brought about by resignations of the elected members. This introduced further purdah restrictions and as such reduced the conduct of business; “normal service is now resumed”.

Today we learn that inflation in April was 3.5%, a huge rise in just one month due to increases in gas and electricity and water charges increasing by an average 26%. On top of that the reduction in employer NI tax thresholds has increased the burden on businesses increasing the cost of goods.

Looking locally, in the pamphlet that accompanied the latest Council Tax Demand a number of projects were highlighted as being included in the SDC Budget for 2025/26. Many of these projects are Stratford upon Avon Town Centric with little benefit to the wider District as a whole. These should be a burden on the Town Council and not the wider District. Projects include:

- £70k to fund the temporary closure of Stratford upon Avon High Street to test the viability of pedestrianisation and impact on the retail businesses. This is a repeat of a study completed prior to Covid which identified the unpopularity of the proposal within the retail sector. The exercise also tests the security provision required to protect pedestrians from so-called “Rouge Drivers” who might attempt a terrorist attack.
- £100k for an assessment study for the parking requirements for the proposed Stratford upon Avon ‘Gateway’ scheme.
- £150k for a new “splash pad” on the recreation ground in Stratford upon Avon. o £222k for funding Street Scene improvements.
- £250k for yet another Stratford upon Avon Relief Road study.
- £1.2m for an Avon Hydroelectric Scheme. The scheme will build a new hydron electric turbine on the weir. There are issues with connectivity to the grid at this point and the only current interested potential consumer is the RSC itself. This will require running a cable under the river. Power generation would not be available for distribution to the grid for the benefit of other consumers. Having repeatably asked, I have not received any estimation for the return on the investment and break-even timescales. It is therefore clear that the nett benefit to the District is unknown yet capital has been ring fenced for the project stopping the use elsewhere in the communities of the District as a whole.

Up until recently there has been a single Ward Member allocated to act as a ‘Parish Champion’. Ward Members conducting their duties are the first point of contact for Parishes. This means that in cases where there is a breakdown between Parish and Ward Member, the Parish Champion might act as an intermediary. There are now two Champions, and additionally a Town and Parish Council Liaison OAicer has been appointed to assist with administrative and clerical functions. As Parishes have a Clerk to the Parish, it seems that this is an unnecessary duplication and additional cost. If in doubt Clerks to the individual Parishes can look to WALC.

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Appendix 2 – County Councillors Report

### County Councillor Report Ratley & Upton Parish Council Meeting 22nd May 2025

#### No Mow May 2025

Why not play a role in protecting our native plants and insects by leaving your lawnmowers in the shed and embracing No Mow May?

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6165/give-power-to-the-flowers-in-your-garden-take-part-in-no-mow-may-2025>

#### Foster Care Fortnight

This May, Warwickshire Fostering is supporting Foster Care Fortnight, raising awareness of fostering and the vital role foster carers play in the lives of children and young people. The UK's leading campaign is dedicated to raising awareness of fostering and the vital role foster carers play in the lives of children and young people, running from Monday 12 May to Sunday 25 May

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6205/warwickshire-fostering-highlights-the-power-of-relationships-during-foster-care-fortnight->

#### Training course to help professionals support children and young people with their health

The Children and Young People Making Every Contact Count training course is available for professionals to help support the wellbeing of children and young people. Find out more information:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6166/training-course-to-better-help-professionals-to-support-children-and-young-people-with-their-health>

Find out more here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/help-new-expectant-parents>

#### Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

To keep people informed about this new approach to JSNAs, two types of updates have been created: A 6 monthly newsletter giving an overview of what has been happening in the work programme, including what work is currently happening, what sections of the live products have been recently updated, and examples of the impact the JSNA work programme has had.

Updates on specific sections of our live JSNAs. Signing up to these updates will notify you when there are updates to the section you're signed up to, such as when data is refreshed, narrative has been updated, or any other page changes. The frequency of these will depend on the availability of the data.

#### Service area

Social Care and Health

#### Service

Health and Wellbeing Board

#### Publication detail

The Empowering Futures: Growing Up Well in Warwickshire JSNA examines the picture of physical health in school-aged children and young people.

One of the priorities of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board is to **help our children and young people have the best start to life**, and this JSNA completes a set of three JSNAs exploring the physical health and wellbeing of children, having completed a 0-5 JSNA in 2022 and a Mental Health and Wellbeing of Infants, Children, and Young People JSNA in 2023.

This JSNA is structured around the six school-aged high impact areas for children's health, which focus on factors that have the greatest potential of improving health outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

You can sign up to these updates on the JSNA website via this link: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessments-1/sign-jsna-updates> [warwickshire.gov.uk].

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## **Mental Health**

If you are struggling with your mental health, remember you are not alone. There's support and help available to you and it's just a click or phone call away visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth>

## **Supporting young people's mental health**

Understanding and looking after mental wellbeing is just as important as taking care of physical health and a good habit to develop as early as possible.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6236/supporting-young-people-s-mental-health>

## **I need support now**

If you are struggling with money and need help now, we can help with:

Food, energy and water bills. Money advice. Aspects of family life. Accessing emergency food. Mental health support. Find help here: <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help>

## **Bird flu**

Bird flu has been detected in bordering counties. At this time, we suggest the following precautionary advice to ensure everyone stays safe. Do not touch or handle wild birds or their droppings. Please wear gloves to clean bird feeders and baths to remove droppings. If you find a dead bird then please report this to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds)

## **Fire risks that could be associated with air fryers**

With the surge in air fryer popularity, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is issuing safety advice to prevent potential air fryer fires.

Learn more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6169/are-you-aware-of-the-fire-risks-that-could-be-associated-with-air-fryers->

## **Warwickshire's new High Sheriff shares her passion for helping turn lives around**

A new High Sheriff was inaugurated this Easter at Old Shire Hall in Warwick. Karen Lynch MBE of Flecknoe will serve as the 691st High Sheriff in Warwickshire. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6172/warwickshire-s-new-high-sheriff-shares-her-passion-for-helping-turn-lives-around>

## **Quarry issues**

Charlie Jones-WCC Enforcement Officer did visit the site and was pleased to see that a Tarmac surface to the site has been laid which does help to reduce the mud on the road. On visiting the site, he did notice that a small building has been erected which is being used to store equipment. However, they should have applied for Planning permission which has now been sent in.

Regarding the camera footage from the Quarry site. Footage was requested but none has been received. Unfortunately, for legal reasons, the Council cannot demand to see the footage.

## **Weight restriction**

There were two objections during Purdah which held up any decisions being made but now the elections are over and subject to portfolio holder's appointment, he or she will be able to overrule the objections that occurred during the Purdah period

Chris Mills  
County Councillor  
Ratley & Upton

# RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Appendix 3 – 2025/26 Accounts

### Current Account status up to 22nd May 2025

<b>Payments</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>Total</b>
02/04/2025	Thomas Fox - Cut 1	1531855582	£83.15	£415.75	£498.90
04/04/2025	Walc Subscription	1536707421	£25.00	£157.00	£182.00
22/04/2025	Bank Service Charge	452194490		£4.25	£4.25
23/04/2025	A Berry (Grass Seed)	1547005401		£11.99	£11.99
23/04/2025	J Obbard (Massey Harpers) Stock Board	1551966232	£62.06	£310.32	£372.38
25/04/2025	Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 2 & 3	1548308507	£166.30	£831.50	£997.80
26/04/2025	Screwfix (A Berry) - washers for climbing frame	1548808941	£2.97	£14.82	£17.79
26/04/2025	Metals4U (A Berry) - tubing for climbing frame	1548308507	£9.25	£46.26	£55.51
17/05/2025	Clear Insurance	1560991899		£492.24	£492.24
19/05/2025	Monika Morgan	1561944446		£75.00	£75.00
19/05/2025	Bank Service Charge	454640713		£4.25	£4.25
	<b>Year 2025/26 Total</b>		<b>£348.73</b>	<b>£2,363.38</b>	<b>£2,712.11</b>