

	Minutes of Ratley and Upton Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2025 in Ratley Village Hall at 7.00 pm
No	Agenda Item
1.	Apologies None Received
2.	Present Cllrs. D Payne, A Graham, A Simpkins (Chair) L Hornsby, A Berry. Cllr. Mills (WCC), and J Obbard, Clerk. 2 members of the public were present
3	County Councillors Report Cllr. Mills’ report which was received in advance of the meeting is shown in Appendix 1 District Councillors Report Cllr. Littlewood’s report which was received in advance of the meeting is shown in Appendix 2
4.	Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2024 These were proposed by Cllr. Payne and seconded by Cllr. Berry as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings. This was agreed by all, and the minutes duly signed by the Chairman.
5.	Matters Arising from previous meeting The Chair summarised the minutes from the last meeting and explained that any actions from the May 2024 Annual Meeting had been transferred to the May Parish Council meeting for a more rapid response.
6.	Annual Financial Statement. The Clerk presented the unaudited annual accounts for April 2024 to March 2025 and reminded the meeting that smaller councils such as ours, are now normally exempt from external auditing, although internal audit is still a requirement. However, the limitation for exemption is that neither income or expenditure exceeded £25,000 during the financial year. Unfortunately, during the last year, due to some exceptional items, our expenditure (just) exceeded the £25,000 threshold – therefore an external audit will be required. The Councillors will approve the accounts during the June Parish Council Meeting following results of the internal audit report. The Precept for the 2024/25 financial year was set at £16,000. – this is the element of council tax raised from residents of the Parish that is provided to the Parish for our local needs. The electronic banking arrangements introduced due to the Covid restrictions continue to work well and enable more rapid payments to be made. The Parish Council controls ensure that at least two Councillors approve payment before the Clerk is able to make an electronic bank transfer. The largest expenditure last year was, again, grass cutting of playing fields, verges etc., followed by Purchase of a replacement swing set for the recreation ground, Clerk’s salary, cutting and clearance of trees, bushes and hedges and donations to the Village Hall and Ratley PCC.

The closing total balance for the 2024/25 financial year was **£19,306** which is some **£4,900** lower than the previous year (which has clearly resulted from the higher than normal spend). The Parish Council had reached a level of reserve funds sufficient to run the Parish for a considerable period in the absence of funding, should the need arise, and also to enable any significant unexpected items of expenditure to be met. However, in order to meet the expected increase in various costs during 2025/26, the precept has been increased to £17,000 for the current financial year.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council accounts were public documents. The 2024/25 accounts will be available for inspection for a period of 30 working days at a time to be publicised following receipt of the internal audit report. They will also be available for inspection on the Parish Council Web site.

The annual accounting document will be completed and sent to the external auditors by the Clerk, in addition to various other documentation that is required to support the submission. The result of the audit will be known within two months of the documents being provided.

7. Local Community Reports

7.1 Ratley Village Hall.

This was prepared and presented by Shona Walton and is attached in Appendix 3.

7.2 - Ratley Parochial Church Council

A report prepared by Andrea Harding-Smith was read by Cllr. Berry and is attached in Appendix 4

7.3 - Ratley Youth club.

This report was prepared and presented by Shona Walton, and is attached in Appendix 5.

7.4 – Tysoe School

This report was prepared by Paige Allister, Head of Tysoe C of E Primary School and read by The Clerk. The full report is attached in Appendix 6.

7.5 - Welfare Trust.

This report was prepared by Pete Simkin and presented by Cllr. Graham. The full report is attached in Appendix 7.

7.6 – Ratley Creative

This report was prepared by Adrienne Obbard and presented by the Chair. The full report is attached in Appendix 8

7.7 – Ratley and District Flower and Produce show

This report was prepared by Liz Simkin, Show Committee Secretary, and read by Barbara Payne. The full report is attached in Appendix 9

8.	Chairman's Report The Chair presented her annual report of the activities of the Parish Council and the community. This is shown in Appendix 10.
9.	Any Other Business No items were raised
	The meeting closed at 20:00

Signed (Chair) _____

Date _____

Appendix 1 – County Cllr. Chris Mills Report:

Parish Assembly

2024/25 has been a challenging year for the majority of Councils across the UK with a few going into bankruptcy, but this is not the case for Warwickshire County Council. With good financial management we have been able to increase our investments in key areas to protect our vulnerable people in Warwickshire. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy includes significant investment over the next five years in key areas such as support for vulnerable adults and elderly citizens.

Adult Social Care supports over 8,000 Warwickshire residents with over 5,700 of them supported to remain in their own homes. Warwickshire County Council will continue to support our most vulnerable residents across the County.

We have also invested in Child's Social Care Services including home-to-school transport particularly for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). 70% of the Warwickshire County Council's budget is allocated to Social Care, the remaining 30% is earmarked for Warwickshire County Council's other services, which include maintaining our highways.

2024 has been another successful year for the Children & Families Service. Warwickshire was successful in its application to the Department of Education to join Wave 2 of the Families First for Children Path Finder Programme. This has resulted in Warwickshire County Council to be at the forefront of this once-in-a-lifetime reform to Children's Social Care. Our main focus over the following year will be to continue the increase of the number of children receiving Early Help Support.

Warwickshire County Council will continue to support our most vulnerable residents across the County. To enable us to help protect our vulnerable residents has come at a cost to our residents resulting in an increase to the council tax. The council tax increase was capped at the Government's national limit of 4.99% from April 2025. This resulted in an extra £1.67 per week on Band D property. Anyone struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact their local District or Borough Council to explore potential discounts or exemptions.

Investment

The Coventry and Warwickshire area attracted a total of 54 foreign investment projects. These projects resulted in the creation and safeguarding of 2,717 jobs which goes to show that Warwickshire is a good place to invest in

Unitary Authority

Following the Government's publication of the English Devolution White Paper on 16 December 2024 regarding the implementation of a Unitary Authority, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution wrote to the leaders of the six councils in Warwickshire to invite them to develop a joint submission proposing local government reorganisation in the county. This invitation set out guidance for the development of any proposals and the criteria against which proposals will be assessed, along with a timeline for this work to be completed. An interim plan was required by 21 March 2025, with full proposals submitted to Government by 28 November 2025. Should the proposals for Unitary Authority be accepted, it will eventually result in the dismissal of all District and Borough Councils, bringing all Councils under one umbrella. There is a lot to do and therefore, a decision for a Unitary Authority may not be until 2027/28. ***There is no Public Consultation***

Summary

Warwickshire County Council is in a relatively good financial situation which enables us to make sure Social Care a priority for our most vulnerable residents in Warwickshire.

What is Devolution?

In England, devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. It is important because it ensures that decisions are made closer to local people, communities and businesses.

Through the white paper the Government aims to establish [devolution deals](#) for all areas in England.

In March 2024 Warwickshire County Council become one of only four councils to secure a Level 2 Devolution Deal (the Deal). The Deal included the transfer of three key sets of functions and funds:

- responsibility of allocating Adult Skills Fund delivering 19+ further education and skills provision from August 2026 onwards;
- planning and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from April 2025 onwards; and
- devolution of Homes England compulsory land assembly/purchase powers to be concurrently held with and exercisable by Homes England.

What is LGR?

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is the process in which the structure and responsibilities of local authorities are reconfigured. The Government has set out plans to move away from the current two-tier system of district and county councils in England. This is relevant to Warwickshire County Council and the five District and Borough councils in the county (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford District Council, and Warwick District Council).

The Government has indicated that for most areas this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more, but there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including for devolution, and decisions will be on a case-by-case basis.

What are the various layers or tiers of local government?

In Warwickshire, democratic representation and responsibilities for delivering services are split across a range of councils. These are sometimes referred to as tiers of local government.

1. Parish and town councils

The first tier is that of parish and town councils. These councils may maintain local amenities such as recreational areas, footpaths and cemeteries, organise events or operate public conveniences. Parts of Warwickshire, but not all, are covered by this tier.

2. District/ borough councils

The second tier is that of district/borough councils. These organisations deliver services such as housing, environmental health, planning, waste collection, licensing and elections.

Warwickshire has five district/borough councils, which collectively cover the whole county. They are Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford District Council, and Warwick District Council.

3. County councils

The third tier is that of county councils. These organisations deliver services such as adults and children's services, highways and transport, waste disposal, libraries, public health, fire and rescue and trading standards. Warwickshire County Council covers all of Warwickshire.

4. Combined or strategic authorities

The fourth tier is that of combined authorities. A combined – or strategic – authority is a legal body that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.

They cover issues that require strategic oversight of the entire region and have responsibilities, and funding, to deliver economic development, strategic planning and transport, adult education, local growth plans and other functions.

In mayoral strategic authorities, mayors will have significant powers over housing and planning, including the ability to develop and propose the spatial development strategy for their areas, working alongside other members of the strategic authority.

Warwickshire County Council is currently a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined

Appendix 2 – District Cllr. Chris Mills Reports:

Stratford on Avon District Council – an update for Parish Assemblies.

The last 12 months has seen some very significant changes in terms of service delivery and local government.

Stratford on Avon District Council is responsible for the following services.

- Social Housing
- Planning Applications
- Council Tax Collection on behalf of Warwickshire County Council
- Waste Collection
- Environmental Health
- Leisure Facilities
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Local Economic Development.

SDC owns a very small number of dwellings which are mainly used to reduce the cost of placing homeless families into B&B accommodation, but the Council works closely with the Housing Associations in order to place families into permanent rented accommodation as quickly as possible. Note that SDC does not have any statutory powers to force Housing Associations to house anybody but does work in close cooperation and provides lists of families on a waiting list through Home Choice Plus.

In addition to Planning & Building Control, SDC's planning policies require a developer to include a mix of homes of varying sizes. Where developers decline to provide Social Housing mix on their sites SDC secures funding for Social Housing from developers through Section (S)106 contributions.

SDC is responsible for waste collection but not waste management which is the responsibility of the County Council. SDC do however own a share in a recycling company based in Coventry. This handles all of the District's recycled waste and receives a return on the joint investment with several other authorities through the sale of the processed material.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

Under this Government's Local Government Reform described in the English Devolution White Paper (December 2024), the five District and Borough Councils will be merged with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) by the target date of 2028/29. This should create a single "Unitary Authority" which will assume the above responsibilities along with those of WCC.

The consequences for SDC are that this tier of Local Government will be abolished, and a new Unitary Authority will replace both the County Council as well as District and Borough Councils, and it is possible that it will be necessary to join more than one Local Authority with parts of Warwickshire; Worcestershire for example is one option, as a new Unitary Authority.

The Government has required all authorities to propose a mutually agreed plan which may come into being by 2028/29. Much has to be worked through, and nothing is either set or fully explored at this stage. If agreement across the six Warwickshire authorities cannot be achieved, the White Paper suggests that a plan will be imposed.

A working Group has been set up at SDC to explore the options, and I am a member of that group. I will try to keep you all informed as far as I am able.

SWLP

A recent review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has created a need for the current Planning Core Strategy to be reviewed and replaced before 2031. Consultations have been carried out and responses being assessed with a view to report findings this summer. This has required a rework and update of the current Core Strategy. The new document is called the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP).

The South Warwickshire Local Plan is now at Regulation 18 and in consultation. The consultation period ended on the 7th March. Responses are being evaluated.

The SWLP Spatial Plan

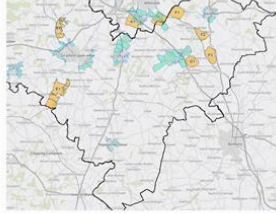
Local Strategic Growth (SG) Locations.

Locality:

- SG13 Gaydon Lighthorne Heath
- SG14 East of Gaydon
- SG15 North of Wellesbourne
- SG16 South of Wellesbourne
- SG17 Shipston on Stour

Potential New Settlements:

- E1 Long Marston Airfield
- G1 Land West of Kingscote



SWLP

Acceptable or Inappropriate Development?

- Climate Change & Pollution.** Is this a sustainable site remote from services and retail in open countryside along total road? Is the site located remote from employment centres and would increase traffic volumes along that route contrary to Climate Change Net Zero Policies.
- Flood Risk.** Is the location regularly flooded regardless of the out of date current designation. Development means additional hard standing and roofing will increase the rate of Surface Water Run Off (SWRO) which in turn will increase the downstream risk of flooding.
- Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Geodiversity.** Is this proposed development in Open Countryside and would it impact severely nature and the wild life of the site and beyond it due to increased vehicular and human activity?
- Landscape.** Is the site in open countryside. Would any excessive domestic development cause harm to the landscape and the character of the area? Would the development initiate coalescence of communities and reduce the feeling of wellbeing for those who already reside in the location?
- Cultural Heritage and assets.** Will the proposed development result in adverse effects on heritage sites and assets?
- Natural Resources.** Will the proposed development result in adverse impacts of natural resources limiting access to sand and gravel deposits for example?
- Waste.** Mixed development will increase the volume of waste. Can services cope?
- Housing.** New housing stock is needed. What is the local need and is this being prioritised?
- Impact on human health and wellbeing.** Is Healthcare going to be overwhelmed by the proposals?
- Accessibility.** Is accessibility to shops is very restricted? How far would it be to walk to retail services?
- Education.** What local capacity in local schools is there? How far will pupils and students need to travel for primary and secondary education?
- Economy.** How far will people need to travel for work? Road capacity? Pollution?

Write your comments in an email and send to: www.swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Complete the survey at <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/>

Your Parish may, or may not be earmarked for development or have potential developments earmarked close to you. The issue as I see it is that the proposals to substantially increase the residential populations will impact on already struggling public services and the general infrastructure of South Warwickshire. The Government's new instruction on calculating Housing Need has increased the annual house building target in the district by 104%, i.e. doubling it.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 3 - Ratley village Hall annual report

Annual Report from the Trustees of Ratley Village Hall to the Parish Meeting 22nd May 2025

Registered Charity Number: 533987

Maintenance

Having completed the extensive (and expensive!) roof repairs last year, this year has seen a major re-decoration of the Village Hall, including a shiny new floor. Trustees decided, to reduce disruption to Hall functioning, to engage a decorator rather than ask for volunteers, so apologies if you were disappointed not to be called upon.

Trustees are grateful for the security of the annual grant from the Parish Council which enables us to plan routine maintenance with confidence and promptness, rather than rely on the uncertainty of hiring income and charitable grant funding.

Hirings

Following the impact of lockdown, I am pleased to report that hiring activity has increased slightly this year, and income is up 13% on last year. Our biggest single hirers are the National Childbirth Trust and weekly yoga sessions. Both these regular users value the quality of the floor finish and general cleanliness, for which we are sincerely grateful to our regular team, Marzana and Wieslaw.

We are delighted to hold the monthly Film Club sessions, with huge thanks to Manny Puro, and encourage neighbours to join up for the screenings of very current releases that supports the Hall, works out very much cheaper than commercial cinemas, and has no travel costs!

Manny and Alison also gave us the most successful and well-attended fund-raising event since before lock-down, with the Great Ratley Quiz, proceeds from which were shared with St Peter ad Vincula, in the spirit of true community collaboration.

The Hall was designated as a Polling Station at the General Election.

Trustees remind parishioners that we have excellent catering and audio-visual facilities, disco and table tennis equipment, and convenient parking. We particularly value family events: when the bouncy castle van arrives, I always make sure that I nip in to check that the kids are having fun - and to see if there might be cake...

We are currently planning a summer programme of monthly Friday night pop-up food vans, when we hope our neighbours will gather to eat in the Hall at the end of the working week.

Heating and electricity

Thanks to Adrian Berry's creative initiatives and regular monitoring, the complex heating system is working optimally and efficiently in maintaining comfort levels and the fabric of the building.

Last year, I reported a 10% reduction in electricity costs on the previous year, and this year, with the benefit of improved insulation, lower energy prices, and restricted user access to the heating controls, our annual power costs are 32% lower than two years ago.

Website and wi-fi

We continue to be grateful to Peter Owen for his management of the Hall's website, which is our only show-case, and to Voneus, for the free wi-fi access for the next two years. If anyone has social media skills that could help promote the Hall, Trustees would be interested in making contact.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Finances

Having had two busy years of complex improvements, we look forward to a period of 'steady-state' and can turn our attention to promoting the Hall and building up our reserves.

Our fees are pitched to be affordable, but we adhere to the principle that they will not be subsidised by fund-raising - income must ensure that the Hall 'washes its face'. We are however, grateful for grants from the Parish Council, and the proceeds of the Village Lottery, which give reassurance that fixed costs such as rates and insurance can be supported, regardless of hiring income. which is subject to the vagaries of external circumstances.

Trustees

I am delighted to inform parishioners that the Hall has two new Trustees since last year: in addition to Sue Flintoff, Lisa Curtlin and Karen Darby, we have been joined by Helen Walter and Penny Maynard, who bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the task of maintaining and improving our provision for social and community development.

We would be very happy to receive further offers of support from people who have other perspectives - some men, for example?

In Memoriam

This report closes with a important conclusion however: Trustees were appalled by the sudden and unexpected death of Robin Flintoff on 2nd July last year.

Robin co-led the team of volunteers who sought and secured funding, navigated the legal and logistical labyrinth, co-ordinated the environmentally and historically sensitive design and construction project and mobilised local support and public awareness. Most importantly, it was principally Robin's vision, creativity, skill, technical talent, commitment to and sophisticated understanding of the Ratley and Upton populace, and sheer determination that we have to thank for the outstanding facility we have today. His passing is a tragic loss to our community.

Shona Walton

Chair

Ratley Village Hall

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 4 – Ratley PCC Report

St Peter ad Vincula Church, Ratley

Report to the Parish Church Council for 2024 – 2025

Organisation:

The Parish Church Council has not changed! Our nominal Churchwarden is Thelma Grinnell-Moore, although being housebound she is not able to get to the official ‘swearing in’ to be formally re-appointed. Her experience in church matters, though, is invaluable! Elaine Atkinson, Michael Parkes and Keith Smith continue as regular members of the PCC. We still have no official secretary, although notes (minutes!) of each PCC meeting are taken and filed. There is not a treasurer either, although during the year we have adopted the use of ‘ExpensePlus’ software to monitor and document the accounts. This is mostly done by Katie Hartless-Rose, the Benefice administrator, simply because she is willing and able! Training in this system has been given both to Katie and to Andrea Harding-Smith so it can be used with confidence and transparency. Shona Walton attends PCC meetings with an eye to most Safeguarding matters. Andrea Harding-Smith attends meetings to give updates on building and church fabric matters.

Meetings:

Last year the PCC met five times. Each meeting typically included updates and discussion on Safeguarding, Worship matters and planning outreach and special events, Finances, the Church fabric and future dates and events. The APCM (Annual Parish Church Meeting = AGM!) will take (/took!) place on 18th May 2025, at which the reports were received and the accounts signed off.

Worship:

There are still generally three services each month – Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays at 10.30 am and 6.30pm respectively and a lay-led Compline usually held at 6pm on the fourth Sunday - with extra services and occasions for Christmas, Easter and Harvest in particular. We recently held an Evensong rather than an evening Communion, which was appreciated by those who attended.

Special services and events:

In the past year the Harvest Festival Service was not followed by any kind of reception, due to the non-availability of people to set anything up. Christmas included the annual Carol Service, for which thanks – as ever – must go to the Festival Choir and to Shona, and a very lively and successful Crib Service was held on Christmas Eve, led by Rev. Matthew Arnold - as it was last year. There was also a Christmas morning service. Easter was joyful but a less well-attended occasion. Again, the choir led the singing!

There were no weddings during the past year but two are booked to take place later this month! There were a number of funerals and interments of ashes, with the loss of some prominent members of our community. The staff of the benefice continue to offer their support to all inhabitants of the parish in the event of bereavement, not just church members or adherents.

Electoral Roll:

The Church Electoral Roll has been renewed this year. This is mandatory every six years, nationally, and this year is such a year. So far 19 people have signed up to the Electoral Roll, of whom several are unable to get to church through old age or ill health, although there are a couple of new additions who are very welcome! We also have a couple of other promised applications, although these had not arrived by the time the summary had to be prepared for the APCM (Annual Parish Church Meeting) which takes place on May 18th in the church, after the evening service.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

State of the Church building:

The condition of the church carries forward from that reported last year. There remains a serious concern about the considerable damp problem on the north wall beside the Entrance Porch. Rev. Matthew has approached Richard Povey of Kineton, who is used to conservation work, but as yet Mr Povey has not been able to look at this problem and report his findings.

As part of the conditions of one of the grants made for the repair of the church tower, we were required to adopt and implement a particular monitoring and maintenance scheme. After reframing it to make it more practical, it is proving very useful and is helping us to monitor all aspects of the condition of the church fabric with a different focus each month, and to ensure all inspections and maintenance is carried out.

Thanks!

As ever, heartfelt thanks should be offered to everyone who contributes to the continued existence of Ratley Church both as a building and as a functioning place of worship. There are more quiet, unheralded contributions than can properly be recognised and recorded, but together they are vital and greatly appreciated.

However, I should bring to your attention that the church operates with relatively little support in the larger picture, and there is serious concern about how long it will be possible to continue to function. Although it is not costly to run each year, expenditure has exceeded income regularly for some years, and the people who attend and are willing to get involved are few in number. This is a sad thing to consider in the light of the hundreds of years our church has been serving this community. I hope there will be a more positive view by next year, but we shall have to see what happens between now and then!

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 5 - Ratley Youth Club report

Ratley Youth Club - Annual Report to Annual Parish Meeting - May 2025

Since my last report in May 2024, when we were holding a regular monthly event, supporters have made the decision to change the Club's format, due to the reduction in the number of children in the village. Members have long been able to invite a friend from outside the village to Club sessions, but as we now have only three children in the target age range, from Easter 2025 until we reach a number which makes other activities viable, we are running a reduced annual programme consisting of events such as:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- BBQ and games on the Rec in July
- Swimming in Emberley Leys pool in September
- Fireworks on November 5th
- Trip to the Panto in December

We are grateful for the donations from the village charity, from Upton Estate, and from any surplus raised by Adrian Berry on November 5th, which have in the past subsidised outside providers such as Circus Skills, Yoga, Drama, Lego workshops and other activities.

Although the Club started much earlier, the current Chair's records go back to 2nd November 1995, when the Club held ambitious community events such as an arts and crafts mobile van visit, a quiz night, a snowboarding trip, an adult/child three-legged pancake race round the village, a community tile-making workshop open to all villagers (which are mounted on boards and still stored in the Village Hall) Aunt Sally, tennis, bowling, ice-skating and even a narrow boat weekend. The most ambitious was a community lantern-making workshop with a procession of about forty huge paper lanterns round the village led by a fiddler, to sites representing the elements, culminating in setting alight a huge castle lantern sculpture on the Tump, (representing 'Air') the metal plaques still remain on the obelisk (Earth), the Goggs (Water), the Village Hall (Picturing the Castle on the Tump), and the Lower Rec vault where the Time Capsule is buried near the old bonfire site (Fire).

Youth Club members and leaders past and present would like to thank all grown-ups who have supported the Club, and who have come out to play on so many occasions over the years.

In particular, Claire Brown who has been Secretary for many years and Stuart Brown, who as Treasurer still keeps our finances in order, have been outstanding stalwart supporters for decades.

The Officers will remain in post to ensure continuity and probity until further decisions are taken.

If members of the public have ideas or comments to make, please contact Shona.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 6 — Report from Tysoe C of E Primary School

Tysoe CE Primary School
Parish Council Report May 2025



After an excellent Ofsted inspection in January 2024, Tysoe has moved from strength to strength; most recently receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from our SIAMS inspection in March 2025. The children, staff, governors, and families spoke so positively about our school and the inspector noted that our vision of ‘Nurturing hearts, serving with love, growing minds’ drives everything we do.

Pupil numbers have remained stable and the school remains in a stable financial position. We have welcomed new staff members and our school dogs, Rex and Sadie, continue to be valued members of our school team.

With welcome support from Tysoe Utilities and the Friends of Tysoe School, we have maintained our programme of trips and visits to enhance the children’s learning. We are keen to welcome parents and family into school and are grateful for their support at our church services, theme days, World Book Day, our third annual Science Fair (that becomes bigger and better each year!) and our new ‘Chance to Chat’ sessions.

Our Outdoor Play and Learning project has continued providing increased opportunities for play and transforming our lunchtimes.

The pupil led Collective Worship Group regularly lead church services and worship and our choir regularly perform at church services, our school services and the Dementia Café. It has been lovely to see so many parents, carers and family members joining us for our services.

The Local Governing Committee (LGC) continues to support and challenge the school. The LGC supported the introduction of wraparound childcare at Tysoe and this has become a very successful feature of the school.

The Friends of Tysoe School have continued their hard work and fundraising this year, running several successful fundraising events. This year the Friends have been able to contribute toward the transport costs of trips and visits, new library books and are fundraising to refurbish the kitchen.

Fosse MAT continues to support the school with the building issues at Tysoe and we are pleased that vital work will soon be completed to the doors and windows, ensuring the building is kept safe, secure and in good repair. We hope to have repairs to the gable wall underway soon.

As always, it is a privilege for me to lead such as dedicated staff team and wonderful school of children. We are proud to support everyone in our school community to thrive.

Paige Allister
Headteacher

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 7 – Ratley & Upton Welfare Trust Report

RATLEY AND UPTON WELFARE TRUST

Charity Commissioners Registered No. 217491

Trustees:

Mr Keith Smith
Mrs Claire Brown
Mr Mike Parkes
Mrs Terry Walters
Mr John Walters
Mrs Andrea Graham

Secretary:

Mr Pete Simkin
Rutland House, Chapel Lane,
Ratley. OX15 6DS
Tel. 07918340774
Email: psimkin6@gmail.com

Report for the Annual Parish Open Meeting May 2025

The Trust generates income on the rent it receives from the 3 paddocks and the allotments; I am pleased to report that all the paddocks and all 12 of the allotments are currently tenanted. Tenancies are renewed in September, but the expectation is that all the plots will continue to be tenanted.

The surplus income that is generated continues to be used to focus on either significant village or individual needs. In the past 12 months the surplus money was spent on:

- £700 donation towards the swings on the upper Rec.
- £275 Ongoing annual support for the youth club.
- £500 contribution to the wildflower fund for the village

We remain open to any further ideas that would support the community or help any individuals in need.

The allotment site continues to thrive. Break-ins continue to be a problem, but everyone has learnt to leave sheds unlocked and not to leave anything of value on the site.

Overall, The Trust continues to prosper; our remit and intent is to serve our community, and we are always happy to consider any ideas or requests for financial support.

Pete Simkin
On behalf of Ratley & Upton Welfare Trust

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 8 – Ratley Creative Report

Ratley Creative Craft Group 2024 - 2025

Our meetings are few but we do remain a small group and last year Ratley Creative put on two lovely events for the villages.

On Friday 6th December we held a second Christmas wreath making workshop which was run by Nicky Jones from The Craft Studio in Kineton. This was very well attended with many who came because they had such an enjoyable time the previous year. I imagine that we will be repeating this lovely workshop in early December 2025! It seems to have become rather a tradition and the end products are all so lovely!

Our Winter Fair on 7th December was once again successful with 11 stalls and Sheila Jones provided refreshments. It is always an enjoyable day and the local talent is a joy to see so beautifully and proudly displayed. Items included upcycled items, hand made bags, paintings, plants, jewellery, silk scarves, cards and much more.

New members of our group are always very welcome so if anyone is interested please contact Adrienne by email at adruob@aol.com or phone 01295 670314 We would also be open to new suggestions and ideas to help expand/keep the group going.

Thanks to all those who have supported us in any way.

Adrienne Obbard
Ratley Creative.

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL



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Appendix 9 – Ratley, Edgehill and Upton Flower and Produce Show

Report for Ratley and Upton Parish Council 2025

Chair: Dave Payne

Vice Chair: any committee member, as required

Treasurer: Barbara Payne

Secretary: Liz Simkin. lizsimkin@icloud.com

The Show aims to hold an event at the end of each summer that brings together the community, encompassing the whole Parish age demographic. Parish Residents, visiting children of residents, or people who work in the parish or have a Parish allotment are all entitled to enter the Show. Show categories are in three main themes: flowers, produce and crafts. Fundraising takes place in the form of teas and cakes, a raffle and an auction of produce. Any surplus in funds raised helps keep the Show viable for future years.

Historically, a portion of the surplus has been given to support the Village Hall, but it has been a decade or more since there was enough surplus for this to happen.

The Show has a healthy number of enthusiastic members on the committee who are managing their roles well despite the tragic loss of long-standing Chair, Bob Flintoff. The Show was well supported this year, with regard: entries, attendance, and volunteers helping on the day. There were over 30 Adult entries (27 last year) and 1 Child Adult entry and 7 Child entries. Regrettably the under fives category had no entrants this year which reflects the lack of children in the parish in that age group.

There were 256 exhibits (241 last year) and 24 Child entries, which was a good effort from only seven children! All the categories were well supported.

+£560.10 raised from the Show (which includes a generous donation of £100 from Ratley resident, Lisa Curtlin as well as donations from committee members)

- £182.50 Village Hall Hire

- £158.40 Engraving Costs

- £ 50.00 Judges' Honoraria

- £ 10.00 Child Prize

- £65.94 further expenses (eg. printing costs, card)

+£93.26

Due to increasing costs, (mainly hall hire and engraving) the surplus stands

at £93.26. However, without generous donations, the Show would have made at least a £6.74 loss.

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All banks are now charging banking fees of approx. £50/year which puts a further financial strain on the show. As the Show's finances are complicated, the Treasurer felt it would be too problematic to share a bank account with another organisation from the parish.

The committee decided on all the following to try to remain financially viable:

- 1) appeal to Welfare Trust for annual donation.
- 2) appeal to the Waley-Cohen family for a donation
- 3) have an alternative to avoid the engraving costs. Suggestions include: asking winners to pay for engraving if they want it; issuing winners with an A4 certificate detailing their win and all the previous winners of that trophy. Final decision to be made on this at the next meeting.

On behalf of the committee, I am extremely pleased to report that the Welfare Trust has given the Show a £100 donation which will help ensure the Show breaks even this year. We are still waiting to hear back from the Waley-Cohen's but they have been away a lot recently and this may be why.

Liz Simkin
Show Committee Secretary

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Appendix 10 - Chairman's Report

As always, thank you for coming. And thank you for all your time with your help in the villages.

It's been a busy year on the RUPC – there have been issues with potholes that have been dealt with, mostly at a good amount of time between reporting and mending.

We have had our usual amount of planning applications dealt with, I hope, with good outcomes.

We are using Fox's again for our grass cutting, with apologies from the Chair about Cowslips, but we had started not to cut, but a 'new boy' got a bot enthusiastic.

We had a really wonderful turnout at the Obelisk to plant our wildflower plugs, all of which are just starting to hold promise of things to come. Thanks to Andrea and Alex for all their work.

The quarry traffic and weight limits with the lorries is ongoing but is always rumbling and being dealt with in the background. A big thank you to County Cllr. Chris Mills for his hard work.

We have had a lot of maintenance at the rec' – new swings, new protection for posts, new boarding for the climbing frame and a new picnic table. All these have been kindly dealt with by Cllr. Berry, Cllr. Payne and Jeremy Obbard, Clerk. Again, as a Parish resident, thank you.

We have also recently had some good news on new houses at the old quarry site near the Obelisk. Details will always be kept up to date on our web site.

Lastly, thank you to all fellow councillors for electing me as your Chair for the past year.

Ann Simpkins,

Chair of Ratley & Upton Parish Council