

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

| Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 29th January 2026 in Ratley Village Hall at 7:45 pm | | |
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| No | Agenda Item | Action by |
| | <p>Present Cllrs. A Simpkins, D Payne, A Graham, County Cllr. C Mills, J Obbard, Clerk and two members of the public</p> | |
| 1. | <p>Proposal for Self-Build property at Grove End Edgehill - Anna Pearce</p> <p>Anna Pearce and Tom Coleman presented initial outline proposals for a new self-build property in the grounds of Tom’s parents’ home, Grove End, Edgehill.</p> <p>They stressed that this was for a modest sized ‘forever home’ for their family. As a local family with historic links to Edgehill they were very keen to move back into the village.</p> <p>The Councillors liked the artist impression images presented and stated that on the basis that this proposal was for a modest dwelling for a local family they would be minded to support an application, should one be lodged. Councillors wished the couple well.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Open Forum 2.2– General No items</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr. Berry who was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Cllr. Littlewood was unable to attend. No apologies were received from Cllr. Hornsby.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Declarations of Interest None received</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Edgehill Quarry updates.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Minutes of previous meeting – 11th December 2025 The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Simpkins, seconded by Cllr. Graham, agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 11th December 2025</p> <p>7.1 Batchelor’s Lane stop sign and white lines. As Batchelor’s Lane is an unadopted road, WCC Highways have no jurisdiction to install safety measures. Clerk to approach owners of the camp site to request installation of these measures as users of the camp site are the main users of the lane. Carry over</p> <p>7.2 Claranet Web Hosting - Clerk to make arrangements to procure a compliant “.gov” email address. This has been procured but isn’t working yet. Clerk to resolve through Claranet. Carry over.</p> <p>7.3 Cromwell Cottage – planning breach – SDC planning are investigating</p> | <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> |

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| <p>7.4</p> <p>7.4.1</p> <p>7.4.2</p> <p>7.4.3</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p> <p>7.9</p> <p>7.10</p> | <p>Collective Edgehill considerations. Cllr. Graham reported the following:-</p> <p>Birds mouth fencing around the edge of the green on the corner. There were mixed feelings about whether this was a good idea. Councillors agreed to hold fire on any request for fencing to be installed at the current time.</p> <p>Bench on the green. There was general support for a bench on the green. A kind offer has been received from a resident who has offered a bench for this use on the proviso that it is placed adjacent to the stone wall. Councillors to arrange for site to be cleared and concrete base laid in preparation. There was a request that the dog waste bin be moved to the other end of the green. This was agreed by the Councillors – this could be included in the scope of a working party in the summer.</p> <p>Speed Camera training. There was good support for some police speed survey training to be carried out to enable teams of residents to carry out speed checks. Clerk to explore contact details to arrange for training sessions.</p> <p>Finance. All December Finance actions were completed.</p> <p>All December Planning actions were completed</p> <p>Grange Close green – two new trees needed to replace dead trees. – trees have been ordered and are due for delivery before the end of March. Existing dead trees will need to be felled.</p> <p>Old Road Hedge – encroaching on salt bin and street light – all to consider. – Clerk reported to Highways – now in hand – Highways have agreed to make 3 x 30cm passes which will reduce the depth of the hedge by some 90cm. Some work has been carried out – not sure if 900mm has been removed yet.</p> <p>Communications Sub-Committee. Link on website to planning apps no longer works – This still needs to be sorted – Cllr. Payne and Alex Graham in conversation with SDC.</p> <p>Streetlight 1 – is still not working due to access problems – Clerk chased – now with Cllr. Hornsby to arrange access to maintenance team. Clerk to remind Cllr. Hornsby to make contact with WCC to arrange for the street light to be fixed.</p> | <p></p> <p>All</p> <p>JO</p> <p></p> <p>JO</p> <p></p> <p>DP</p> <p>JO</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>8.1 26/00051/TREE – Edgehill Wood – reduction to Oak and Beech The Councillors raised no objection to this application. Clerk to post response on Planning Portal</p> <p>8.2 25/03141/LDE – Edgehill Country Park – 4 x camping pods The Councillors raised no objection to this application. Clerk to post response on Planning Portal</p> | <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> |

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| | <p>8.3 25/02726/LBC – Upton House – Redecoration and internal modifications The Councillors raised no objection to this application. Clerk to post response on Planning Portal</p> | JO |
| 9. | <p>District and County Councillors reports</p> <p>9.1 District Council report – Cllr. Littlewood – no report was received</p> <p>9.2 County Councillor’s report – Cllr. Mills presented his report, which had been previously supplied. This is shown at Appendix 1</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Parish Plan</p> <p>10.1 Communications Sub-Committee. No items</p> <p>10.2 Environmental sub-committee No items</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>11.1 255 emails, and 2 printed communication received since the last meeting .</p> | |
| 12. | <p>Alkerton Recycling Centre Restrictions to residents outside of Oxfordshire</p> <p>The Parish Councillors discussed the disappointment over the introduction of charges for customers outside of the Oxfordshire County boundary, that have recently come into effect. This is felt to be unfair, especially for those that are just on the Warwickshire side of the county border.</p> <p>It was felt that there was the potential for this to lead to an increase in fly-tipping.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to write to Oxfordshire County Council to ask for them to reconsider the scheme to include those with an Oxfordshire postcode / postal address. A reciprocal arrangement with adjacent County Councils could also be considered</p> | JO |
| 13. | <p>Finance</p> <p>13.1 Invoices for Payment – 7 transactions had been approved Councillors and paid by the Clerk plus two service charges since the last meeting – See Appendix 2 for details.</p> <p>13.2 2025/26 Accounts – these were discussed – See Appendix 2.</p> <p>13.3 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>13.4 2026 Budget / Precept. On 7th January, the Finance Sub-Committee recommended a precept of £18,000 for 2026/27 Financial Year. This was proposed by Cllr. Payne Seconded by Cllr. Graham and agreed by All.</p> | |

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| 14. | Parish Maintenance 14.1 No items | |
| 15. | Urgent Business 15.1. No items | |
| 16. | Next meeting. The next meeting will be held in Ratley Village Hall on March 12 th Dates of following meetings: April 16 th , May 21 st (Annual Parish Meeting and annual meeting of the Council) June 25 th , September 3 rd , October 22 nd , December 3 rd . Meeting closed at 21:00 | |

Signed (Chair) _____

Date _____

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Appendix I – County Councillor Report

County Councillor Report

Ratley and Upton Parish Council Meeting

29th January 2026

Utility bill support available in Warwickshire

A scheme providing financial assistance to help those who may be struggling with their utility bills this winter is now available until 16th February. The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund providing a one-off voucher payment to meet an immediate need and help those who are finding it hard to manage the cost of their energy and water bills. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7370/utility-bill-support-available-through-warwickshire-local-welfare-scheme>

Direct Payments for Social Care

If you provide regular unpaid emotional or physical support to a friend, neighbour, family member or member of the community you might be able to receive a payment from us, to help support you outside of your caring role? Find out more

<https://orlo.uk/5UZC5>

New support for Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance

Support is being rolled out across Warwickshire to help children and young people who are struggling to attend school. Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) describes the difficulties some children experience in going to school or their education setting. It is not about refusal or a lack of motivation. For these children, attending school can feel overwhelming and emotionally distressing. These difficulties are often linked to anxiety, emotional wellbeing or unmet needs and are more common for children who are neurodivergent, have sensory differences, or have experienced challenging life events. Without the right support in place early on, these challenges can impact a child's mental health, friendships and learning, and place additional pressure on families. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7371/supporting-attendance-and-wellbeing-warwickshire-introduces-new-support-for-emotionally-based-school-non-attendance>

Children's Chickenpox vaccinations

January 2026 sees the introduction of an update to the childhood immunisation schedule, the MMRV vaccine, which now includes protection against chickenpox as well as Measles, Mumps and Rubella. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7347/chickenpox-vaccination-offered-to-children-across-warwickshire-from-january-2026>

Grant fund to support local youth projects

The Warwickshire Youth Council Grant Fund is now open! Up to £5,000 is available for projects supporting young people aged 11–17. More details:

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The Warwickshire Youth Council Project Grant Fund is designed to strengthen youth provision in three key areas: crime and safety, experience in schools, and mental health. The funding supports projects running over a 12-month period, ensuring initiatives are accessible to young people at times and in locations that suit their needs. Grants of up to £5,000 are available from Friday 16 January to Sunday 8 February 2026. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7364/warwickshire-youth-council-launches-grant-fund-to-support-local-youth-projects>

Loneliness

Loneliness can impact mental and physical health, and older people are most at risk during winter. Warwickshire offers local groups, befriending services, and mental health resources to help you stay connected. In Warwickshire, it is estimated 23,500 people aged 16-64 in Warwickshire may be lonely all or most of the time. Age UK runs a telephone befriending service which allows you to sign up for a free weekly friendship call. It can be a great way to speak to someone new. Search 'telephone friendship' on the Age UK website to find out more or call 0800 434 6105. You could also visit your local Age UK to see if there are any classes or local groups you could attend.

Safeguarding adults

Warwickshire County Council has launched its latest episode of the Let's Talk Warwickshire podcast, raising awareness of the different types of abuse and neglect that adults may experience and where to find help. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7220/new-let-s-talk-warwickshire-podcast-episode-explores-safeguarding-adults-from-abuse-and-neglect>

Avian influenza confirmed by Defra in Warwickshire

The UKHSA is now urging people not to touch any sick or dead wild birds. Partners are working to manage the situation and protect public health and the risk to other birds. Avian influenza has been identified at Ryton Pools Country Park, and visitors are being asked to take a few simple precautions to protect both wildlife and other park users. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7245/public-urged-not-to-touch-sick-or-dead-birds-as-avian-influenza-confirmed-by-defra-in-north-warwickshire>

Concept Masterplan for the Parade in Leamington Spa finalised

A masterplan that will create a vibrant, accessible and thriving environment on and around the Parade in Leamington Spa has been finalised.

The Parade Public Realm Concept Masterplan has been brought about by the Leamington Transformation Board which comprises key stakeholders including Royal Leamington Spa Town Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council.

The masterplan has a range of adaptations and changes that, combined, will create a place that will boost the economy, create a safer and accessible environment for visitors of all ages and reinforce the town's Conservation Area status through its design.

These include

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- Exploring options to remove vehicular traffic from the Parade (from Hamilton Terrace to Clarendon Avenue)
- A new Town Square adjacent to Town Hall, extending to Livery Street and Hamilton Terrace
- A water feature such as a fountain or mirror pool to make a more attractive space. The aim is to encourage families and longer visits so this will support the objective of creating a family friendly, fun space
- Integrating trees, planting and sustainable management of water
- Supporting cycle access, prioritising segregated cycle links on side streets along with secure cycle parking in the town
- Fully accessible seating, carefully located with different views and social settings for all ages and abilities
- Prioritising safety with good lighting, natural surveillance and designs that consider neurodivergence and the safety of women and girls

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Ratley & Upton

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Appendix 2 - Current Account status up to 29th January 2026

| Payments | | | | | |
|------------|--|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Date | Who | Ref | VAT | NET | Total |
| 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 |
| 23/05/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 4 & 5 | 1569335567 | £166.30 | £831.50 | £997.80 |
| 23/05/2025 | John Hopkins - bus shelter | 1564228576 | | £100.00 | £100.00 |
| 23/05/2025 | Ratley Village Hall - donation | 1555344373 | | £750.00 | £750.00 |
| 23/05/2025 | Ratley PCC - maintenance support | 1560481625 | | £750.00 | £750.00 |
| 04/06/2025 | No Butts Bins - picnic bench | 1562706577 | £149.00 | £745.00 | £894.00 |
| 14/06/2025 | J Obbard - Clerk fees Q1 | 1580499308 | | £517.14 | £517.14 |
| 14/06/2025 | HMRC - PAYE Q1 | 1576832068 | | £344.76 | £344.76 |
| 17/06/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 454640713 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
| 24/06/2025 | A Berry - Wickes Paint and sundries for goal posts | 1582638735 | £6.90 | £34.50 | £41.40 |
| 24/06/2025 | A Berry - Wickes Paint for goal posts | 1582390596 | £2.70 | £13.50 | £16.20 |
| 24/06/2025 | A Berry - Wickes White Spirit for goal posts | 1582639359 | £0.98 | £4.87 | £5.85 |
| 26/06/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 6 & 7 | 1587180100 | £166.30 | £831.50 | £997.80 |
| 18/07/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 454640713 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
| 23/07/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 8 & 9 | 1599067901 | £166.30 | £831.50 | £997.80 |
| 06/08/2025 | Claranet Web Hosting | 1607475370 | £12.46 | £62.32 | £74.78 |
| 15/08/2025 | Moore - External Audit | 1608359160 | £42.00 | £210.00 | £252.00 |
| 18/08/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 461828629 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
| 05/09/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 10, 11, 12 | 1624481999 | £249.45 | £1,247.25 | £1,496.70 |
| 16/09/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 464271009 | | £5.17 | £5.17 |
| 17/09/2025 | PlaySafety Ltd | 1634367771 | £20.00 | £100.00 | £120.00 |
| 17/09/2025 | J Obbard - Clerk fees Q2 | 1635770234 | | £550.60 | £550.60 |
| 17/09/2025 | HMRC - PAYE Q2 | 1626937300 | | £367.20 | £367.20 |
| 29/09/2025 | A Berry - concrete for playground | 1637464880 | £6.08 | £30.38 | £36.45 |
| 29/09/2025 | A Berry - shackles for playground | 1637464880 | £24.45 | £122.26 | £146.71 |
| 29/09/2025 | A Simpkins - paint for elephant | 1641034995 | £17.21 | £86.03 | £103.24 |
| 05/10/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 13, 14 | 1632378255 | £166.30 | £831.50 | £997.80 |
| 17/10/2025 | A Berry - concrete for playground | 1647990060 | £6.75 | £33.75 | £40.50 |
| 20/10/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 466709777 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
| 25/10/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass cutting Cuts 15, 16 | 1652496329 | £166.30 | £831.50 | £997.80 |
| 01/11/2025 | J Obbard (Majestic gift for A Berry) | 1660203215 | | £70.00 | £70.00 |
| 05/11/2025 | Ratley Flower Show | 1659299175 | | £242.50 | £242.50 |

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| 18/11/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 469187577 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
| 19/11/2025 | Thomas Fox - Grass Banks and hedges | 1671620416 | £93.32 | £466.62 | £559.94 |
| 14/12/2025 | J Obbard - Clerk fees Q3 | 1682031621 | | £533.85 | £533.85 |
| 14/12/2025 | HMRC - PAYE Q3 | 1681819955 | | £356.00 | £356.00 |
| 14/12/2025 | Claranet email web hosting | 1686892957 | £1.33 | £6.63 | £7.96 |
| 16/12/2025 | Bank Service Charge | 471641978 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
| 30/12/2025 | J Obbard - 2 x trees | 1695701113 | | £115.96 | £115.96 |
| 02/01/2026 | Claranet Web hosting | 1688761111 | £22.00 | £110.00 | £132.00 |
| 18/01/2026 | nPower | 1705701765 | £3.84 | £76.89 | £80.73 |
| 19/01/2026 | Bank Service Charge | 474121691 | | £4.25 | £4.25 |
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| | | | | | |
| | Year 2025/26 Total | | £1,718.21 | £13,395.97 | £16,442.50 |
| | | | | | |
| | Current Balance | | | | £1,195.59 |