

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2026 in Ratley Village Hall at 7:45 pm		
No	Agenda Item	Action by
	<p>Present Cllrs. A Graham (in the Chair), A Berry, L Hornsby, County Cllr. C Mills, District Cllr. Littlewood, J Obbard, Clerk and two members of the public</p>	
1.	<p>Open Forum A member of the public asked about a motorbike that had started parking on the pavement outside 6 Old Road. Cllr. Hornsby agreed to pop round and speak with the owner.</p> <p>Cllr. Graham mentioned a white van, and now trailer which has recently been parking behind the double garage / tool store in the Vicarage woodland grounds. Cllr. Berry also mentioned a sign-written minibus which he saw parked there earlier – these vehicles are believed to be owned by, or related to people who own the land.</p> <p>Cllr. Hornsby had been approached by a resident of Old Road about hedges and verges in the High Street and made an open offer for clearance works. [These works were in scope of our grounds clearance contract and have now been completed.]</p>	LH
2.	<p>Apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr. Simpkins who continues to recover from medical procedures. Cllr. Payne sent apologies as he was unable to attend due to being on holiday.</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest None received</p>	
4.	<p>Edgehill Quarry updates. No significant quarry traffic has been reported since the last meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting – 12th March 2026 The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Graham, seconded by Cllr. Berry, agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 12th March 2026</p> <p>6.1 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>6.2 Speed Camera training. Correspondence has now been received from Warwickshire Police, confirming that they are willing and able to provide site-based training and guidance on the use of operating speed cameras, and in setting up volunteer speed</p>	

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	<p>survey groups. Cllr. Graham agreed to consult with residents of Edgehill to find volunteers for the training. .</p> <p>6.3 Finance. All March Finance actions were completed.</p> <p>6.4 Planning. All March Planning actions were completed</p> <p>6.5 Grange Close green – A single Quince tree has been planted to replace a dead Rowan. (An ordered Medlar failed to arrive, for which a refund was received). A further dead tree needs felling and replacing.</p> <p>6.6 Trees. Residents of a house in Grange Close have offered to contribute to the cost of the works required on the stand on Beech trees in Old Road and have provided the contact details for a Tree Surgeon who may be able to offer competitive rates. Clerk unable to contact alternative Tree Surgeon suggested by resident. Clerk to pursue.</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>All</p> <p>JO</p>
7.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7.1 - 26/00692/TREE Hilltop House – Fell Larch and restructure hedge No objection response has been lodged by the Clerk.</p> <p>7.2 - 26/00541/FUL - Cromwell Lodge, Edgehill - Removal of garden room and construction of extension. Councillors raised no concerns but Cllr. Berry wished to view the application in more detail before the clerk posted the PC's response. Comments required by 5th May</p>	<p>JO</p>
8.	<p>District and County Councillors reports</p> <p>8.1 District Council report – Cllr. Littlewood presented his report. This is shown in Appendix 1 Licence application to be considered at a licencing meeting in Stratford on 5th May – Either Cllr's Berry or Hornsby to attend? – Visitor car park should be available.</p> <p>8.2 County Councillor's report – Cllr. Mills presented his report, which had been previously supplied. This is shown at Appendix 2</p>	
9.	<p>Parish Plan</p> <p>9.1 Communications Sub-Committee. No items</p> <p>9.2 Environmental sub-committee Wildflowers – Cllr. Graham mentioned that she and Alex would hand-pull perennial weeds – possibly plant some more yellow rattle. Tree suckers to remove.</p> <p>Bench – Cllr. Graham agreed to contact the member of public who has offered a wooden bench regarding size etc.</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>AG</p>

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10.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>10.1 203 emails, and 0 printed communication received since the last meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>Finance</p> <p>11.1 Invoices for Payment – 4 transactions had been approved Councillors and paid by the Clerk plus one service charges since the last meeting – See Appendix 3 for details.</p> <p>11.2 2025/26 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>11.4 2025_6 Audit arrangements. Councillors agreed that Monika Morgan should be contacted again to request her services as an internal auditor. Clerk to make contact.</p> <p>11.5 Clerk asked whether the Councillors wished to make a donation to Shipston Home Nursing again this year. Cllr. Graham proposed a £200 donation, which was seconded by Cllr. Berry and agreed by all. Clerk to make arrangements for payment.</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p>
12.	<p>Parish Maintenance</p> <p>12.1 Cllr. Berry proposed that this agenda item is moved up the agenda for future meetings. This was seconded by Cllr. Graham and agreed by all. Clerk to make arrangements.</p> <p>12.2 – Cllr. Berry wished to pass thanks to WCC Highways for their excellent service recently. Cllr. Berry had reported a number of potholes, all of which were marked up and fixed within 5 days.</p> <p>12.3 – Parish Council thanks were to given to the resident of Hill View for his recent patching work on the playgrounds lane.</p>	<p>JO</p>
13.	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>14.1. None</p>	
14.	<p>Next meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held in Ratley Village Hall on May 28th (Annual Parish Meeting and annual meeting of the Council) – this has had to postponed from 21st May.</p> <p>Dates of following meetings:</p> <p>June 25th, September 3rd, October 22nd, December 3rd.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 20:40</p>	

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Signed (Chair) _____

Date _____

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Appendix I – County Councillor Report Ratley & Upton Parish Council Meeting 16th April 2026

Meningitis Cases in Kent and London

Cases of invasive meningococcal disease have been confirmed in Kent and London. It's important to know the signs of symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia. **What are the symptoms of meningitis?**

Early symptoms – such as vomiting, fever, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches – can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis or septicaemia will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell. Symptoms can appear in any order, and some may not happen at all. For meningitis, common signs and symptoms include:

Fever, a very bad headache (this alone is not a reason to get medical help) Vomiting, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, rash, confusion, delirium, severe sleepiness, losing consciousness and fits. Get more info by visiting:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/31/what-is-meningitis-symptoms-risks-and-how-to-protect-yourself/>

Warwickshire Food Strategy update

A further step to combat food poverty in the county, increase availability of affordable food in priority areas and empower communities to improve their diets and health outcomes has been taken. The plan will continue to focus on three strategic priorities. Affordability will focus on helping residents facing food insecurity to access more affordable, healthier food options through social supermarkets, community food projects, and other initiatives. A second priority area will use events like Kind Community, Kind Food and volunteer food champions to work with members of the community most in need to educate them, provide resources and develop their skills and confidence in choosing and preparing healthier food options. The third will promote locally sourced food and waste reduction by supporting suppliers in and around the county and influencing consumer behaviours. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7484/important-steps-to-combat-food-poverty-as-warwickshire-prepares-its-new-plan>

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 and mental health support.

If you are a Warwickshire resident with no other access to funds to pay for food or energy bills, you may be eligible for support through the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)

For more information, visit the [Crisis and Resilience Fund pages](#) or call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.

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Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Friday from 9am to 4.30pm.

Visit: www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help

Crime Victim survey 2026

Have you been affected by crime?

Share your experience to help shape a better justice system.

This is your chance to share your views about the criminal justice system. We would like to hear from anyone aged 16 and over who has been a victim of a crime and/or reported a crime in the last 5 years (i.e. from 1st January 2021 onwards). We are keen to hear from everyone who wants to complete this survey, including those who did not report to the police or withdrew their support for an investigation or prosecution.

<https://www.tonic.org.uk/victimsurvey2026>

Shout mental health support service

Are you feeling low or struggling to cope?

Text the word CWHOPE to 85258 for support. Shout's mental health professionals are available 24/7 and can help if you are feeling stressed, isolated, or low. If you are worried about a young person who is struggling with their mental health, they can also text CWHOPE to 85258 for free, confidential support 24/7. It's easy, discreet, and some young people may find it more comfortable than talking face-to-face.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust have partnered with Shout to offer free and confidential text support to anyone in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Changing lives through the home for Ukraine scheme

For the past four years, communities across Warwickshire have quietly been transforming lives. Residents from the north to south of the county have opened their homes to families fleeing war in Ukraine - offering safety, stability and security. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7497/warwickshire-residents-are-changing-lives-through-the-homes-for-ukraine-scheme>

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Ratley & Upton

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Appendix 2 – District Councillor Report

As the Council is in Purdah in the run-up to the by-election in Bishops Itchington, Napton on the Hill and Fenny Compton, no political decisions are currently being made.

On major decision was however made today regarding the Core Strategy.

Local Planning Authorities are required to assess whether their local plan policies need updating at least once every five years. This was last done in April 2021 when the assessment confirmed that the Core Strategy remained up to date. This report presents The Cabinet with an assessment of the Core Strategy policies against the provisions of the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was significantly updated in 2024. It concludes that in key respects, notably in relation to housing land supply, Core Strategy Policies need to be considered as out of date. Many other policies in the Core Strategy remain in conformity with national policy in the NPPF and as such can continue to attract full weight in the decision-making process. The following report is the formal review of the Core Strategy.

Appendix I of the report to Cabinet sets out the Council's assessment of the currency of Core Strategy policies. The outcomes of this assessment are as follows:

- Policies that are considered to remain up-to-date are CS.1, CS.2, CS.3, CS.4, CS.5, CS.6, CS.7, CS.8, CS.9, CS.11, CS.12, CS.14, CS.17, CS.18, CS.19, CS.20, CS.24, ASI-9, AS.11, CS.25, CS.26, CS.27.
- Policies that are considered to be out of date are: CS.13, CS.15, CS.16, CS.21. Although it should be noted that these include key policies concerning housing land supply.
- Policies that are considered to be only partially up to date are CS.10, CS.22, CS.23, AS.10.

It should be noted that in relation to application of national grey belt policy, strategic employment land provision and the protection of the countryside from housing development these are significant.

The attached table provides detailed explanations for the position of each of the Core Strategy Policies which I think that you will find very helpful when determining your position regarding Planning Applications.

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Appendix 3 - Current Account status up to 12th March 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
17/02/2026	Bank Service Charge	476573640		£4.25	£4.25
26/02/2026	Thomas Fox - Grass Banks and hedges - cut 2	1722013651	£39.24	£196.22	£235.46
05/03/2026	WCC - Street light maintenance	1723036093	£15.29	£76.44	£91.73
13/03/2026	J Obbard - Clerk fees Q4	1731253659		£533.85	£533.85
13/03/2026	HMRC - PAYE Q4	1736317300		£356.00	£356.00
17/03/2026	Bank Service Charge	479072047		£4.25	£4.25
20/03/2026	J Obbard - Flowers	1734593735		£16.17	£16.17
20/03/2026	Thomas Fox - Cut 1	1725678837	£83.15	£415.75	£498.90
	Year 2025/26 Total		£1,718.21	£13,395.97	£18,183.11
	Current Balance				£499.97

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