

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 28 th May 2026 in Ratley Village Hall at 8:00 pm		
No	Agenda Item	Action by
	Present Cllrs. A Berry, D Payne, A Simpkins, J Obbard, Clerk and two members of the public .	
1.	Welcome to Councillors [Clerk] 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.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr. Graham, County Cllr. Mills and District Cllr. Littlewood who were unavailable due to other commitments. Cllr. Hornsby did not attend.	
3.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair [Clerk] Cllr. Simpkins volunteered for election to Chair. Her election was proposed by Cllr. Berry, seconded by Cllr. Payne and agreed by all. Cllr. Simpkins was therefore duly elected as Chair. The Chair then signed the Acceptance of Office form which the Clerk will file. Once again, 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.	JO
4.	Open Forum 4.1 A member of the public asked for an update on progress with painting white lines at the junction of Batchelors Lane and Old Road. The Clerk explained that the Council had objected to the recent planning application for the caravan park, citing white lines and a 'Stop' sign being conditions for withdrawal of that objection. We need to wait until the outcome of application is known before any further steps are taken. 4.2 A member of the public asked about the fading road markings at the road junction at the top end of Old Road. Cllr. Berry mentioned that Warwickshire County Highways have an excellent app that anyone can use to report such faults directly to Highways.	
5.	Declarations of Interest None were received	
6.	Minutes of previous meeting – 16th Apr 2026 The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Payne, seconded by Cllr. Berry, agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair.	

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7.	Matters arising from minutes of meeting on 16th Apr 2026 7.1 Motor cycle parking on the pavement outside 6 Old Road. Cllr. Hornsby agreed to speak with the house owner. Complete – issue resolved. 7.2 Cllr. Graham agreed to consult with residents of Edgehill to find volunteers for the speed survey training. Only two volunteers to date, more needed (any volunteers from Parish Council?) 7.3 Grange Close green. Medlar tree to be ordered for delivery in the autumn. Carry over 7.4 Old Road Beech Trees – Clerk to arrange revised quotes for height reduction. 7.5 Planning actions all complete 7.6 Finance actions all complete 7.7 Wildflowers – Cllr. Graham mentioned that she and Alex would hand-pull perennial weeds – possibly plant some more yellow rattle. Tree suckers to remove. Carry over 7.8 Cllr. Graham agreed to contact the member of public who has offered a wooden bench regarding size etc. – Action complete. 7.9 -Clerk to elevate Parish Maintenance further up the agenda. Complete.	JO JO JO AG
8.	Edgehill Quarry updates. There is continuing concern about lorries driving through Edgehill, despite the recent installation of the new weight restriction signs. Although the issues with Quarry traffic and lorries coming from the Kineton School works appear to have abated, there have recently been many reports of heavy vehicles driving through the village again. Cllr. Berry's view was that the best next step in resolving the issue was to establish where the current spate of vehicles are coming from / going to. If this can be achieved the issue could be taken up with the vehicle owners / operators and/or the organisation(s) that are using their services.	
9.	Parish Maintenance 9.1 General 9.1.1 Cllr. Berry had reported some potholes by the church. He reiterated that WCC Highways have a lovely app that works very well. 9.1.2 The Clerk reported that the Robbie McFarlane bench on the rec has now been repaired.	

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10.	Planning Applications 10.1 26/00951/FUL Cromwell Cottage – retrospective – front vehicular access The Applicant and his agent presented the case for this application. The Parish Council have no objections to this application and the Clerk was asked to post active support on the Planning portal, and recommending that a white line is painted outside the entrance to discourage parking, and to protect visibility splays as much as possible.	JO
11.	District and County Councillors reports 11.1 – District Council report This had been previously sent to Councillors and is shown in Appendix 1 11.2 County Councillor’s report. This had been previously sent to Councillors and is shown in Appendix 2	
12.	Parish Plan 12.1 Communications Sub-Committee. Cllr. Berry mentioned that he could not find any Minutes of annual minutes on the PC web site – Clerk to investigate. 12.2 Environmental sub-committee No items	JO
13.	Correspondence 13.1 246 emails and 2 printed communication received since the last meeting .	
14.	Finance 14.1 Invoices for Payment 7 transactions had been approved by Councillors and paid by the Clerk since the last meeting - See Appendix 3 for details. 14.2 2026/27 Accounts – extracts of these were presented and discussed. See Appendix 3 for details. 14.3 – Bank Statements – these were presented and discussed. Statements reconcile with Accounts spreadsheet presented. 14.4 Grants and Honoraria a) The payment of an honorarium of £100 (in line with agreed budget for 2026/27) to John Hopkins for cleaning the bus shelter was proposed by the Chair seconded by Cllr. Berry and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange payment. b) The payment of a maintenance support Grant of £1,000 to Ratley PCC, in line with agreed 2026/27 budget, was proposed by Chair seconded by Cllr. Payne and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange payment	JO JO

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	c) The payment of donation of £1,000 towards maintenance costs, in line with agreed budget for 2026/27, to Ratley Village Hall was proposed by Cllr. Payne, seconded by Cllr. Berry and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange payment. 14.5 –2025/26 Audit. The Clerk reported that Monika Morgan has completed the internal audit. AGAR to be approved at next meeting.	JO
15.	Urgent Business No items.	
16.	Next meeting. The next meeting will be held in Ratley Village Hall on June 25th Dates of later meetings:- September 3rd October 22nd (This will need to be moved) December 3rd Meeting closed at 20:25	

Signed (Chair) _____

Date_____

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Appendix I – District Councillors Report

Ward Report and Ward Member Annual
Report – Tysoe Ward. Report covering April 2026

Health screening events across Stratford District

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has joined together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) to offer a series of health screening events for both men and women across the District.

The tests on offer cost £14 each, subsidised by the District Council and are:

- For men over 40 - PSA (Prostate Screening)
- For men and women aged 18 and over - diabetes and cholesterol

The next event takes place on Saturday 9th May at The Graham Adams Centre, Saint James Road, Southam, CV47 0LY

- **The accessible sport of padel coming to Stratford Leisure Centre**

Everyone Active is partnering with padel centre operator PadelStars to construct the courts at the centre, which is run by award-winning operator Everyone Active and Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The new padel courts will sit next to the existing outdoor courts, replacing the 2G Multi- Use Games Area. Customers will have access to three football courts and three padel courts by the end of the project. There will be two doubles courts for padel and one singles court.

Construction begins toward the end of May, with courts for matches and training expected to open by June.

- **Free memberships for people with Parkinson's in Stratford-on-Avon District**

Free gym memberships are being offered by local leisure centres to people living with Parkinson's.

Stratford Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester, run by award-winning operator Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, offer the initiative co-designed with the charity Parkinson's UK.

Now in its fifth year, the Everyone Active and Parkinson's UK free membership provides access to gym, swim and group exercise classes, as well as online Synergy Dance classes.

A free membership will also be given to up to three carers to provide additional support if needed.

Currently, Everyone Active supports 96 individuals in Stratford-on-Avon District with Parkinson's.

World Parkinson's Day, which took place on Saturday 11 April 2026, raises awareness of the progressive neurological condition that currently has no cure.

Parkinson's affects around 145,000 people in the UK and there are more than 40 symptoms, from tremor and pain to anxiety.

Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. Those living with the condition can find various activities, such as swimming, walking and dance, beneficial in managing their symptoms.

Clinical waste disposal

We are seeing an increase in **needles and other clinical sharps** being found in recycling and household waste bins. This is dangerous and puts residents and waste crews at risk.

Any clinical sharps such as needles, syringes and prick sticks boxed up to 1 litre can be taken pharmacies across the District. Sharps boxes over 1 litre should be returned to your doctor's surgery.

By-election in the adjoining Ward of Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton

For information purposes with the resignation of Cllr. Nigel Rock (LibDem) due to ill health the local by-election will take place on the 7th May. This will not have any direct effect on your Parishes but depending upon the outcome could change the political balance within SDC and change the membership of the working committees, especially for the minor parties and independent members. Good luck to all candidates.

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Appendix 2 – County Councillors Report

Ratley & Upton Parish Council Meeting 28th May 2026

Raising of threat level to severe

The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board are sharing this statement from Warwickshire Police on the raising of the terrorism threat level to severe.

Deputy Chief Constable, Ben Smith said:

“You will have seen in the news that the UK terrorism threat level has been increased from substantial to severe – meaning an attack in the UK is highly likely.

“This change comes following a series of recent incidents targeting Jewish communities in London, and our thoughts very much remain with all those impacted by these horrific attacks. “The raise in threat level will no doubt be a cause of significant concern. I therefore wanted to give some information and reassurance about what this means for us all here in Warwickshire.

“The change in the threat status is in response to those recent events and is a precautionary measure, not based on any specific threat.

“But we do all need to be vigilant.

“Warwickshire Police will continue to be visible in our communities, and will be working with partner agencies, local businesses, and faith groups to share information and advice on security, what to be on the look-out for and how to report any concerns.

“Communities defeat terrorism, and we are asking you, the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

“Your support is essential, and communities across the country continue to show they stand together against anyone who tries to divide them.”

If you do see anything that doesn't feel right, please report it via www.gov.uk/ACT. In an emergency, always call 999.

More information about what to do if you are concerned about the behaviour of someone close to you can be found on the <https://actearly.uk> website, including how to spot the signs of radicalisation and where to go for support.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/news/warwickshire/news/2026/may/raising-of-threat-level-to-severe--statement-from-deputy-chief-constable-ben-smith>

Strengthening local social care and health support

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has endorsed an £80.1 million plan to support residents to live healthier, more independent lives for longer. Find out more: The Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2026/27 continues to bring together NHS and council funding to make health and social care services in Warwickshire simpler to access, better coordinated and more focused on prevention. Funding through the BCF directly supports older people, disabled residents and those with long-term or more complex health conditions by providing care and support closer to home.

This may include:

Help to remain independent at home for longer

Faster, better-coordinated support when people return home from hospital

Adaptations to homes that make everyday living safer and easier

Joined-up local services so individuals don't have to repeat their story or navigate multiple organisations

By supporting people earlier and in the right setting, the funding also helps to reduce unnecessary hospital stays and avoid long term care where it's needed.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7621/cabinet-endorses-80-million-plan-to-strengthen-local-social-care-and-health-support-in-warwickshire>

Enhancing school facilities in Warwickshire

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£1.66 million in funding has been announced to deliver improvements to safeguarding, accessibility, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision within Warwickshire's schools. A £1.66 million addition to the 2026/2027 Education Capital Programme was approved at the latest meeting of Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet.

The funding will be used to deliver improvements to safeguarding, accessibility, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision, with a significant focus on reducing travel times for vulnerable students. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7626/significant-investment-agreed-to-enhance-school-facilities-and-specialist-education-provision>

Warwickshire SEND newsletter

The latest Warwickshire SEND newsletter is out now.

This month's edition includes updates on the new ADHD and Autism policy for Coventry and Warwickshire, and information on the support available for families waiting for ADHD assessments.

Read more: <https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/send-may26-8833079?e=5782bec683>

Support available for families awaiting ADHD assessments

Parents and carers in Warwickshire whose children or young people are waiting for an ADHD assessment are being reminded that help and support are available without the need for a formal diagnosis. Warwickshire County Council and partners recognise that waiting for an assessment can be a stressful and uncertain time for families. Work is continuing across the county to improve waiting times, with partners committed to making progress as quickly as possible. In the meantime, families do not have to wait for an assessment or diagnosis for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), to access support. A wide range of advice, guidance and practical help is available, including: **Family Support**

- [Children and Family Centres](#) offer flexible support for families with young people aged 0-19 (or up to 25 years with additional needs).
- [IMPACT SEND Youth Forum](#) provides an opportunity for young people aged 13-25 years with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) to have their say and influence support in Warwickshire.

Advice and Signposting

- [Warwickshire Local Offer](#) - Here you'll find help, advice and information about the services available to support children and young people with SEND, from birth to age 25.
- [Warwickshire SENDIAS](#) - provides independent advice and support around various topics relating to SEND for children and young people aged 0-25 living in Warwickshire and their parents or carers.
- [Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice \(WPCV\)](#) - is an independent, parent carer led organisation for anyone with a child or children with SEND aged 0-25. WPCV ensure parent carers are involved when designing services for children, young people and their families.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7628/support-available-for-families-awaiting-adhd-assessments-in-warwickshire->

Cost of living webpages

Are you struggling with the increasing cost of living? Signposting and support is available here:

<https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/> For more information, visit the [Crisis and Resilience Fund pages](#) or call 0800

4081448 or 01926 359182.

Personal Assistant recruitment

Do you have the skills to be a personal assistant in the care industry?

Carers come from all ages and backgrounds, bringing unique experiences.

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Check out jobs near you: Including Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Shipston-on-Stour, Southam, Stratford and Warwick.

https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk/rcrPA16.php?recruitment_region=West+Midlands

Child car seat check events

A new series of free child car seat check events are taking place across the county over the coming weeks.

All events are free, drop-in, and there is no need to book. Each session will run from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the following locations:

Thursday 28 May – ASDA Leamington Spa, Chesterton Drive, Sydenham, CV31 1YD.

Friday 29 May – Stratford Leisure Centre, Bridgeway, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YX.

Tuesday 16 June – Tesco Warwick, Emscote Road, Warwick, CV34 5QJ.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7643/free-child-car-seat-check-events-returning-across-warwickshire>

Funded motorcycle training gives riders a safer start

Warwickshire Road Safety Education Team, in collaboration with the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency, is supporting new riders in Warwickshire to build safer riding habits. Learners gain an understanding of the Highway Code, how to anticipate the actions of other road users, and how to identify and respond to hazards early. Local trainers reported that learners arrived more confident, more aware of hazards and better prepared for practical riding.

Find out more about accessing RideFree Training:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7647/funded-motorcycle-training-gives-riders-a-safer-start>

Emergency contacts

Do you know who to contact in an emergency?

You can find your key contacts near you on the Warwickshire Resilience Forum website. Risks being: Industrial Accidents & Major fires, Cyber Attacks, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Extreme Cold Weather, Heatwave & Drought, Animal Disease, Loss of Gas or Electricity, Malicious Attacks, Pandemics and Flooding. Pick a risk and pop in your postcode at

<https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/emergency-contacts/>, and find out who's here to help where you are.

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Ratley & Upton

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Appendix 3 – 2026/27 Accounts

Current Account outgoings up to 28th May 2026

Payments					
Date	Who	Ref	VAT	NET	Total
20/04/2026	Banking Service Charge	481567872		£4.25	£4.25
20/04/2026	Npower - Elec Supply 2025_26	1753138033	£15.21	£304.24	£319.45
20/04/2026	WALC Subscription 2026_27	1753136294	£26.20	£164.00	£190.20
20/04/2026	Shipston Home Nursing - donation	1743186905		£200.00	£200.00
20/04/2026	Ratley Village Hall - Hire of Hall	1753134292		£200.00	£200.00
04/05/2026	Thomas Fox - Cuts 2, 3 & 4	1765973783	£249.45	£1,247.25	£1,496.70
04/05/2026	Thomas Fox - Temp fuel charge	1760876033	£3.20	£16.00	£19.20
04/05/2026	Clear Councils Insurance	1756106793		£508.25	£508.25
18/05/2026	Banking Service Charge	484066419		£4.25	£4.25
	Year 2025/26 Total		£294.06	£2,648.24	£2,942.30
	Current Balance				£557.67