



MINUTES of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms, Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Kerry Coldwell (Chair), Mervyn Eyles (Vice Chairman), Nick Kynaston, Anne Mitchel, Rachel Paton

In attendance: Mrs M Baker, Parish Clerk; Shropshire Councillor Robert Jones; 3 members of the public.

60/25 Welcome by the Chairman

61/25 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Paul Dean, Luke Penton, and Tamarin Bibow

62/25 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

63/25 Public Session

A resident advised that they had recently moved into the village, and was quite shocked at the speed of vehicles travelling along Church Road. The resident went on to say that they are aware that in other areas that the Police have been issued with new speed tracking equipment that generates speeding tickets.

64/25 Minutes of the meeting held:

It was **RESOLVED** to defer approving the minutes from the meeting held on **2nd September 2025** to the meeting scheduled for 4th November, as the Clerk did not have the minutes available for signing.

65/25 Reports

Council to consider and note any reports received:

- i. County Councillor Representative Rob Jones presented a report this evening. **Appendix A.**
- ii. SNT Police – The Police report was circulated prior to the meeting. **Appendix B**
- iii. Clerk's Report – the Clerks report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. **Appendix C**

66/25 Parish Matters

- i. **The Stone Cross** – the meeting was advised that it is likely that this matter will now be escalated to the Insurance Ombudsman and that the Parish Council are pushing for final settlement within a three-month deadline.
- ii. **Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall –**
 - a) **Appointment of Parish Council Representative to Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Committee** – The meeting was informed that Councillors Paton and Bibow had resigned from their positions. After a discussion with Councillor Paton, the Parish Council determined it was important to clarify the responsibilities associated with this role prior to nominating a new representative. There is a need for clear guidance regarding the expectations of both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will email the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to formally request that representatives from the Parish Council, including any interested Councillors, be invited to attend a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee to discuss the scope and requirements of the role.

- b) **Accessibility Ramp** – Parochial Church Council (PCC) – The conveyance for the Churchyard was received. Deliberation was given to accurately identify the specific parcels of land included and excluded from the Churchyard, with particular emphasis on how these boundaries could influence the placement and effectiveness of the proposed accessibility ramp. It was observed that the pathway connecting the Church to the road is not part of the included area; therefore, it is possible this land is reflected in the Church deeds. Councillor Eyles noted that, based on recent Parish Council meetings attended by the Village Hall Management Committee, there appears to be a consensus to take no further action regarding the old building, in light of the community's preference for pursuing a new village hall. Councillor Eyles informed the meeting that the PCC would like the Parish Council to take on a lease for the castle, along with all associated responsibilities. The meeting noted that, by entering into a lease agreement, any necessary restoration work for the castle would become the responsibility of the Parish Council. The council needs to fully understand this commitment, and having a copy of the conservation maintenance programme would provide greater clarity. The meeting then discussed the condition of the wall behind the Village Hall, which is in very poor repair; three-quarters of the brickwork lacks mortar. Councillor Paton mentioned she may be able to arrange an informal assessment by a conservationist to help the council understand what work is required to the wall.

RESOLVED that:

- The clerk adds to the email to be sent to the village hall as discussed in Agenda item 66/25 ii a) - that the Parish Council would like to discuss the access ramp and how the Village Hall wishes to progress.
- Cllr Eyles will ask the PCC for a copy of the PCC's castle maintenance programme.
- Cllrs Paton will ask the conservationist to provide an informal assessment of the wall.
- To include the item for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

- iii. **Shropshire Council – A New Way of Working Together** –correspondence from the Executive Director of Shropshire Council regarding a new collaborative initiative was received and considered. The Parish Council was invited to review and consider whether to endorse the circulated draft Memorandum of Understanding. Councillor Eyles informed the meeting that the contract does not carry any legal obligation; rather, it is an understanding that the council will collaborate with Shropshire Council to share assets. Councillor Mitchel expressed concern that the agreement might be one-sided. Councillor Eyles noted that Ruyton XI Towns already maintains a working partnership with Shropshire Council by providing financial support for projects such as the maintenance of the Cliffe, which is important to the community. Cllr Eyles added that the Parish Council might be mindful to offer additional support, including a suggested contribution to the wall, but felt it would be unacceptable if expected to take on all these responsibilities completely. Therefore, Cllr Eyles recommended against signing the memorandum. Councillor Coldwell suggested deferring the matter to the next meeting so councillors can review the documentation and its implications thoroughly. Councillor Jones was then asked whether this Memorandum was related to Shropshire Council's current financial situation. Councillor Jones replied that he believes the initiative is not entirely financially motivated, but also aims to foster relationships between Parish and Town Councils across Shropshire. The plan involves Town and Parish Councils managing Street Scene and Maintenance, with partial support from Shropshire Council. While this may have less impact on smaller parish councils, it would be more significant for town councils. It also serves as a measure to protect assets in case Shropshire Council declares bankruptcy—if assets are handed over, they cannot be affected. This approach could offer greater financial certainty and enable communities to exercise more control over local assets. Cllr Kynaston said that Shropshire Council does little in Ruyton ix Towns in maintaining verges. Cllr Jones then went on state that it might be best to wait and observe for now, however signing the document does not obligate the council to take on new responsibilities, and it may not be appropriate way forward for everything. Councillor Eyles pointed out that if Parish Councils assumes certain roles, there could be a loss of economies of scale and expertise. **RESOLVED** to defer until next meeting when Councillors had further time to consider the document.

- iv. **Tree Removal – Church Bank Wall** - consideration of approval for tree removal as a preventative measure by Dave Peate, with an estimated cost of approximately 2 hours of labour. **RESOLVED** approval.
- v. **Land Registry entry for Cafe XI and the Village Hall** - the Chairman, Cllr Coldwell advised the meeting that there is still a struggle to locate the deeds for the Café XI building. The Parish Council's solicitors have advised

that there could be a link to the Village Hall Trustees and the charity. It is important that the asset stays with the Parish Council for future safeguarding.

RESOLVED that the Chairman would contact the Councils solicitors to see if the deeds could be transferred to the Village Hall Charity and then immediately the Village Hall Charity transfers the deeds to the Parish Council.

- vi. **Policing Priorities for 3rd Quarter – RESOLVED** that the councils three Community Priorities for the third quarter would remain the same.
- vii. **VE Day Celebrations – commemorative item** – the Clerk advised that presently she has not been able to speak to the appropriate department at Hay-On-Wye council to ascertain the supplier of their memorial benches.
- viii. **Historic Parish Council Documents** – The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had been handed 3 boxes of historical paperwork, but has yet not been able to go through them. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has a Document retention policy in place. **RESOLVED** for document retention to be added to the Action List; to cross reference documents to the Asset list Register and deal with the historic documents in accordance with the Document Retention Policy.
- ix. **AED Checks – School Holidays – RESOLVED** that Cllrs Kerry Coldwell, Rob Kynaston & Rachel Paton would be added to the rota and a What's App group would be set up for ease of communicating.
- x. **Health Update** – Cllr Ane Mitchel gave a report - Appendix D.
- xi. **Grass cutting on byways – RESOLVED** to defer to the next meeting.
- xii. **Appointment of Internal Auditor – RESOLVED:** approval for retaining the current Internal Auditor for 2025/26 at £200, plus travel costs and £25 per hour for extra work.
- xiii. **Remembrance Sunday** – consideration was given to the laying of the Parish Council Wreath and lighting the Lantern of Peace. **RESOLVED:** Cllrs Luke Penton & Nick Kynaston will put up poppies, and replace VAS batteries on 25th & 26th October. Dave Peate will take down the hanging baskets. Cllr Rachel Paton will attend the remembrance service at the Church, lay the wreath, and ask Cllr Bibow to join. Cllr Coldwell will email Kate Mane about lighting the lamp on 9th November.
- xiv. **Christmas** – consideration was given to the purchase of a Christmas Tree, decorations, and the organisation of any events. **RESOLVED** that a budget of £100.00 would be set aside for decorations and tree; a suggested date for the Carols – Saturday 20th December from 4.00pm. Cllr Kerry Coldwell would speak with Cafe vi regarding the Community Carols.
- xv. **Street Lighting – Electrical Testing Contract 2026/27 –RESOLVED** approval of acceptance to the circulated contract for 2026/2027.
- xvi. **Parish Council Action List** –the circulated latest working document was received and noted. **RESOLVED** to add archives on to the list for the next meeting.

67/25 Financial Reports

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements dated 30th September 2025.
- Appendix E**

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve following payments and note receipts.

Payments:

Ent Date:	Payment Method	Inv No:	Description of Payment	Amount	VAT Amount
18/09/2025	DD	57	Tesco Mobile - Clerks Mobile Phone Contract	£10.00	1.66
19/09/2025	DD	58	Shropshire Council - joint energy costs - 2nd QTR	£360.96	60.16
26/09/2025	DD	59	Hugo Fox - Website Hosting	35.99	6.00
26/09/2025	DD	60	Unity Trust - Bank Charges	6.00	
30/09/2025	BP	61	Maxine Baker - wages (September)	885.55	
30/09/2025	DD	62	HMRC - Tax & N.I. payments	333.65	
30/09/2025	BP	63	Nest -superannuation	£80.39	
07/10/2025	BP	64	PKF Littlejohn	£252.00	42.00
07/10/2025	BP	65	Ruyton Village Hall (repair Grant)	£2,552.00	
07/10/2025	BP	66	Highline Electrical (Annual Electrical Testing)	£660.00	110.00
			Total Payments	£5,176.54	£152.00

Receipts:

Ent Date		Amount
01/09/2025	Nationwide - Interest	
		£0.00

- iii. Consideration was given to the External Auditors closing letter; the completed signed off AGAR, the Report and Certificate for 2024/25 and the external auditors qualifying opinion. The Council had put in place an Audit Action Plan following the councils Internal Audit and noted from the External Auditor that that there had been a failing of the External Auditors for not identifying that over consecutive years the Accounting Statements did not balance.
Received and noted.

68/25 Planning Decisions and Applications

- i. To note planning decisions made since the last meeting: None.
- ii. To consider and agree responses to planning applications:
Reference: 25/03598/FUL
Address: The Grange, Brownhill, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1LR
Proposal: Installation of retaining wall (retrospective)
RESOLVED that the supporting documents are of such a technical nature, the Parish does not have expertise to comment. However, since the planning appeal was rejected on a technical basis, the original opinion of the planning officer should still hold weight.

69/25 Future agenda items: Policy Review

70/25 Date of the next meeting

To note that the next meeting shall be held on November 4th, 7pm at the Victoria Rooms.

[9.00pm the meeting closed]

Cllr Robert Jones

Shropshire Councillor for Ruyton and Baschurch

Tel. 01939262875 / 07913377617

robert.jones@shropshire.gov.uk

Report to Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council: October 2025

Ruyton Road TRO

It is a continuing source of frustration for myself and residents on Ruyton Road and Parry Close in Baschurch that Shropshire Council has yet to fulfil their obligation to implement a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30mph along Ruyton Road, despite promise after promise.

The next step, before the speed limit can be lowered, is a formal public consultation on the proposed TRO which we have been promised will begin this week. I will be seeking to hold officers to account if this does not happen.

Planning Issues

24/03767/OUT (Proposed Residential Development Land North Of Olden Lane Ruyton Xi Towns Shropshire) – The Highways team are withholding formal comment on the proposed build-out until they have completed their assessment. Following the September meeting, I wrote to the case officer to convey the concerns raised at the meeting, and to specifically request that, should the application be approved, that a condition be attached to ensure the build-out or any other highways works are carried out before any development can occur on the site.

25/03598/FUL (Installation of retaining wall (retrospective) at The Grange) – I note the submission of a 'new' application to regularise the retaining wall installed at The Grange in 2022 without planning consent. It is for the Parish Council to decide on its response to this, however I have submitted a request for the determination to be made by the Planning Committee should the officer be minded to approve it.

Plane Plan updates – Neighbourhood projects which the Parish Council wish to add to, update, or remove from the area Place Plan can be done so via a form on the Shropshire Council website. Place Plans are now maintained on a rolling basis, meaning they can be updated as required, rather than on an annual basis as was the case previously. Once amendments are submitted, officers will consult with partners to ensure there are no reasons not to include a project before proceeding to make the requested changes to the Plan.

The link for reviewing place plans is: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/place-plans/reviewing-place-plans/>

Prescott Surgery

I am concerned that the previous meeting with stakeholders in the summer was cancelled and no further meeting has been scheduled. A visit by the ICB Chief Executive did not proceed as expected. I believe that it is essential that momentum be kept and continue to grow towards completing a business case and securing funding from next year.

Financial Emergency

Since our previous meeting, Shropshire Council declared a financial emergency. The Council is facing a challenging financial situation requiring urgent measures to control spending and increase income to avoid an £889k overspend and commence rebuilding reserves.

Cabinet accepted the Chief Financial Officer's recommendation to declare a financial emergency. Without urgent action, the authority risks triggering a Section 114 notice, which would effectively hand control of the council's finances to government-appointed commissioners. That could result in deep cuts to local services from which it could take many years to recover, as well as substantial increases in Council Tax.

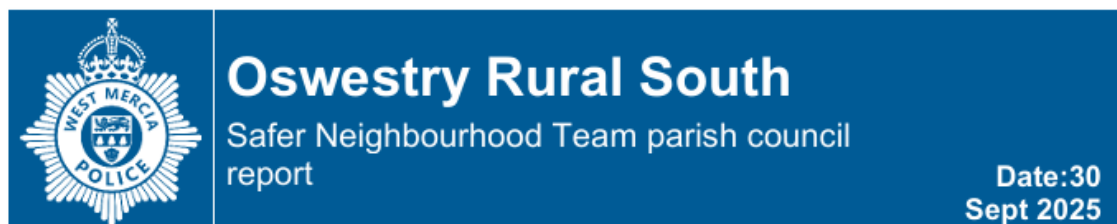
Whilst measures have already been taken to reduce spending, the declaration of a financial emergency means the stopping of non-essential spending and the establishment with the LGA of an independently chaired Improvement Board. The cabinet has supported and begun implementing recommendations to eliminate the predicted budget overspend and start to rebuild the General Reserve Fund to the needed safer level of above £10m.

Corporate Peer Challenge

After the May elections, Shropshire Council invited the Local Government Association to conduct a Corporate Peer Challenge. This was completed in the following months with a report and recommendations presented to the Council in September. The report was compiled by a team of senior local government peers and offered a detailed and sobering assessment of Shropshire Council's previous leadership, governance, and financial resilience.

The CPC team found that the Council is facing significant and urgent challenges, including a projected £60 million budget gap over the next two years. The report highlighted a lack of strategic clarity, fractured relationships between elected members and officers, and a pressing need to rebuild trust and confidence across the organisation.

It also noted that while there is a strong commitment from staff and a desire to improve, the Council's internal culture has been marked by uncertainty and low morale. They noted that many officers and members are unclear about the Council's priorities and decision making. The report called for a more coherent and inclusive approach to leadership, with clearer communication and a renewed focus on shared goals.



.Oswestry Rural South

Team email: oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

PC: Wright **Mobile:** 07977957689

PCSO: PCSO Carroll **Mobile:** 07870166222

PCSO: PCSO Mabe **Mobile:** 07870219669

Parish – Ruyton XI Towns

Community priorities:

- 1. Speeding**
- 2. County Lines**
- 3. Rural theft**

Priority 1.

We have had one report ref an accident on the A5. This was due to a driver panicking and braking heavily when an ambulance came past with its emergency lights and sirens on. The car behind was too close, swerved and hit the street sign on the approach to the crossroads. Non injury so police attended to facilitate the removal of the car,

Priority 2.

Nothing reported over this period.

Priority 3.

Nothing reported over this period.

Clerks Report – 07/10/2025

Agenda Item: Appointment of Parish Council Representative to Village Hall Committee

Background:

The Parish Council has received formal notification from the Village Hall Committee that both Rachel and Tamarin have stepped down from their roles as committee members. Their resignations are due to personal and other commitments which have impacted their ability to attend meetings and fulfil committee responsibilities. The Village Hall Committee has expressed understanding of their circumstances and confirmed that both have stepped down with immediate effect.

Committee Request:

The Village Hall Committee has invited the Parish Council to consider nominating a new representative to be co-opted until the next AGM. Alternatively, they are happy to continue providing regular updates to the Parish Council if a representative is not appointed.

Committee Expectations:

The management committee's primary role is to maintain both village halls for community use. This includes:

- Organising and participating in maintenance work
- Supporting significant fundraising activities
- Attending brief check-in meetings to align progress and vote on spending

The committee has emphasised that active participation is essential and that the role differs from more debate-focused organisations.

Recommendation:

That the Parish Council considers appointing a new representative who is enthusiastic and able to actively contribute to the committee's work.

CIL – Shropshire Council has directed the Parish Council not to release the outline plan to the public until costings and quotations are finalised. The Council has requested an update, as work planned for October half term is still not scheduled on the live map.

Fix My Street:

Dave Peate reported that the church bank road chevron sign is damaged and will report it on Fix My Street.

The fly tipping reported on FMS in the lanes around Eldbridge/Weirbrook area has now been cleared.

A resident informed the Chairman that the Church Bank wall is deteriorating and poses a hazard due to falling debris. Mervyn and the Chairman met with a Shropshire Council representative, noting the wall is their responsibility and suggesting the Parish Council might consider a donation to expedite repairs. We have not received further updates. The Chairman recommended reporting it on Fix My Street .

Light near Victoria Rooms:

The light referred to in the recent check has been non-functioning for well over a year – this has been reported to Scottish Power.

Place Plan:

On 27 July 2024, various items were included in the Place Plan for Ruyton, such as the Church Bank wall. However, a recent review found that only Dr's Meadow Playing Field remains listed. I will contact Shropshire Council to ascertain whether the other items have been removed and, if so, the reasons for this action. It should be noted that the minutes from the October meeting indicated that the Parish Council had submitted a request for the removal of certain items.

Pevery Close Land issue:

The Chairman has received a from the owner of Inglenook, part of the Pevery Close land issue, they wish to liaise with the Parish Council on this matter.

The Cross – Insurance Claim Repairs

An email has been sent to our Insurance broker asking a 3-month deadline is given to the insurance company of the car owner to accept the original claim amount or we will go to the insurance ombudsman.

Site Meeting – Dr's Meadow

Jayne Ayers has been on leave. Jayne is due back on 30th September. The case file was passed to someone else in the department, however they have not been fully briefed by Jayne therefore the reality is that Jayne will end up picking it back again when she gets back and catches up.

1. Press release from ICS on 29.9.25:

Relating to changes proposed to repeat prescription ordering service. 70% of GP practices in STW use a system called Prescription Ordering Direct (POD). This is being reviewed due to duplication of functionality (can be done via NHS App) and costs. Proposal is that repeat prescriptions will be ordered via NHS App or directly from GP Practices, with additional support available for patients who are not digitally enabled. Suggestion has been made to ICS chief pharmacist that digital clinics be held in rural areas to enable people to learn how to use NHS App for this reason. There is a public survey on ICS website, which closes on 9 November 2025.

2. Winter Preparedness:

Health and care services across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin are preparing for the busy winter months with a package of improvements designed to help people get the right care, in the right place, as quickly as possible.

The plans, agreed by NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, the Integrated Care Board (ICB), aim to keep people well at home wherever possible, reduce unnecessary hospital visits, and make sure those who need urgent or emergency care can be seen quickly and safely.

Key improvements this winter include:

- **Extended Urgent Treatment Centre opening hours** – now open 8am–midnight daily, treating more patients without the need to go to Emergency Departments.
- **Integrated Community Front Door** – a team of nurses, GPs, therapists, and social workers helping people get same-day support at home or in the community. Now operating 8am–8pm, 7 days/week.
- **Enhanced Urgent Community Response** – the service which provides rapid home-based care to prevent hospital admissions extended to midnight.
- **Two-hour Domiciliary Care Bridging** – care workers providing urgent short-term home care to help people return home quickly and safely after hospital discharge.
- **Care Transfer Hub (CTH)** – the CTH coordinates safe hospital discharge from hospital to the community. Operating hours have been extended 5pm–8pm, 7 days a week and a new CTH system manager has been put in place. This will help ensure smoother, faster hospital discharges with extra weekend and evening cover.
- **Extra hospital capacity** – more beds and reconfigured wards at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital to support seasonal demand. 56 beds via modular wards at RSH (38 to be available year-round and 18 winter flex beds). At PRH, 10 beds on Apley Ward and 24 beds on ward 36 where previous function has been moved off site.
- **British Red Cross A&E support scheme** – practical and emotional support to help patients leave hospital safely and avoid readmission.
- **System-wide communications campaign** – “Think Self-Care, Think Protection, Think Which Service” to help the public stay well, get vaccinated, and know where to go for the right care.
- **Enhanced Discharge Medicine service** – Increase the number of referrals and targeted support to community pharmacies to increase completion rates.

JHOSC was assured by SaTH that workforce planning was on schedule and finance in place for extra provision.

3. Hospital Transformation Plan:

New Hospital provision is scheduled for completion in 2028. Briefly, RSH will concentrate on Emergency Care, whilst PRH concentrate on Planned Care.

Both RSH and PRH will continue to provide urgent treatment centres (**Type 3 urgent treatment centre**, also known as a **minor injury unit** or **urgent care centre**, that treats minor injuries and illnesses that are not life-threatening. These centres can be accessed without an appointment and provide medical help for conditions that are too urgent for a GP appointment but do not require a Type 1 Emergency Department.

RSH will also have a Type 1 - Core Emergency Department (EDs). These are **24/7 Service and Consultant led**. They include full resuscitation and other facilities to treat serious and life-threatening conditions.

Further information on Hospitals Transformation Programme can be found on the SaTH website, giving more details of the plans. The most recent local HTP publication was in Spring/Summer 2025, found on SaTH website. <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/about-us/hospitals-transformation-programme/>

4. Integrated Care Board Changes:

The way the NHS is organised in the Midlands is changing. We are seeking to make clinical services as productive as possible and to reduce duplication, particularly in support services.

At national and regional level, NHS England, which oversees the health service, will be amalgamated with the Department of Health and Social Care. At a local level, the 11 integrated care boards (ICBs) in the Midlands, which commission the majority of health services, are also changing.

A first step, with the aim of making the most of capacity and resources, will see the 11 ICBs cluster together in five groupings:

- NHS Birmingham, Black Country, and Solihull
- Coventry and Warwickshire and Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICBs
- Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Staffordshire, and Stoke-on-Trent ICBs
- Derby and Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire ICBs
- NHS Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Rutland ICBs

The clusters were agreed by the 11 ICBs, and endorsed by ministers, based on a series of criteria including ability to:

- meet statutory functions.
- improve outcomes for local people.
- address inequalities
- work effectively at neighbourhood level.
- operate sustainably with their financial limits.

5. Health Hero

- now providing Out-of-Hours GP services for STW instead of Shropdoc. We are told several Shropdoc employees have “Tupied” over to Health Hero. Too early for any feedback as to how this is going.

BANK RECONCILIATION as at 30th September 2025

		Balances
Unity Trust Bank- Current a/c		71577.28
Nationwide		15714.13
		<u>87291.41</u>
Less Unpresented Cheques / Deposits		
HMRC	294.39	
Maxine Baker	885.55	
HMRC	333.65	
PKF Littlejohn	252.00	
		<u>1765.59</u>
		1765.59
Total		<u><u>85525.82</u></u>
Brought forward start of year		74875.61
Receipts for year		37186.58
Less payments for year		<u>26536.37</u>
		<u><u>85525.82</u></u>