

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Tamarin Bibow, Kerry Coldwell (Chair), Paul Dean, Mervyn Eyles (Vice Chair), Rob Hamlett, Luke Penton, Anne Mitchell

In attendance: 2 members of the public, Sarah Windridge (Clerk), Police Officers Mabe and Wright

Absent: Kate Mayne, Cllr Nick Bardsley (Shropshire Council)

96/24 Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everybody and confirmed the housekeeping arrangements.

97/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mayne and Cllr Nick Bardsley (Shropshire Council).

98/24 To consider an application for a Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council

Ms Rachel Paton was nominated by Cllr Eyles, and this was seconded by Cllr Coldwell. The appointment was approved by a show of hands and Mrs Paton signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

99/24 Declarations of Interest

None received.

100/24 Public Session

No members of the public wished to address the Council.

101/24 Minutes of the meeting held 5th November 2024

Copies of the minutes have been distributed to members of the Council and displayed on the website. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting on 5th November 2024, and these were approved and signed.

102/24 Reports

- a) **SC Cllr Nick Bardsley.** The report is attached as appendix a) to the minutes.

Cllr Allison wanted to add to the report that two Conservative MPs have resigned, meaning there is no overall majority on Shropshire Council, although the Conservative Chairman has a casting vote. Cllr Allison also mentioned that there has been a second planning application for the riverside development in Shrewsbury which was published last week. Despite being contacted by Cllr Bardsley, Cllr Coldwell and the Clerk, Emma Walker has not re arranged a meeting regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy. **Action: Clerk to continue chasing this.**

- b) **Police report.** The report is attached as appendix b) to the minutes.

Regarding the reporting of drugs offences, PC Carroll confirmed that anyone concerned about drug dealing in the village needs to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team directly and report the concern to 101 or Crimestoppers. PC Mark Wright was introduced to the Parish Council as the newest member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Mabe asked Councillors to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters for the latest news and updates from West Mercia Police. **Action: Clerk to email Councillors to ask five of them to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters.**

- c) **Clerk's Report.** The report is attached as appendix c) to the minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for the new noticeboards.

Cllr Allison mentioned a streetlight on Little Ness Road which is now not working. **Action: Clerk to report this to Highline.** (19:32 – Tamarin Arrived)

103/24 Place Plan

The clerk reported that there have not been any updates to the Place Plan.

104/24 Community Infrastructure Levy update

This was discussed earlier in the meeting. No update has been received.

105/24 Parish Matters, updates from councillors

(The order of items was re-arranged to wait for Ms Aspinall to arrive to provide an update on the Village Hall).

a) Other Parish Matters

i) To consider writing to residents regarding hedge cutting on Brownhill Road

Regarding hedge cutting, Cllr Penton asked if it was possible to have a letter drafted by the Clerk to all residents who have private hedges that need cutting to clear the pavements. Cllrs Hamlett and Penton will undertake the hedge cutting themselves and will ask for a donation to the local school or church.

Action: Clerk to report any hedges which are not privately owned to Streetscape.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will send a letter to residents to confirm that hedge cutting will be taking place.

Action: Clerk to draft a letter to send to residents and circulate to Councillors.

Cllr Eyles mentioned the concept of a 'Lengthman's Grant, which is an arrangement between County Councils and Parish Councils to arrange for minor carriageway jobs. **Action: Clerk to research this further, as well as looking into other grants available to assist with hedge cutting.**

(19:47 Ms Aspinall from the Village Hall Committee arrived)

ii) To consider possible action regarding water leaks and other drainage matters in the village.

Cllr Penton asked if the Council could write to Shropshire Council regarding leaks in the village which are resulting in road closures. Cllr Penton has heard that roads that are damaged should be repaired all the way to the white line which is not happening in the village. Cllr Eyles confirmed that you can report leaks on the Parish Council website which takes you to a map showing the leaks in the area. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would write a sternly worded letter to Severn Trent Water to note that increasing repairs are being carried out on Ruyton Road and confirm whether there are plans to complete a wholesale replacement to the pipe. **Action: Clerk to draft the letter and circulate to Councillors.**

b) Village Hall

i) It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Bibow and Paton would be the Parish Council representatives for trustee on the Village Hall Charity Committee and would attend the Village Hall AGM on 4th December.

ii) Ms Aspinall has applied to the Charity Commission regarding the Village Hall Charity Committee and has been informed that the wording on the deeds still stands, despite being told that the wording is out of date and therefore illegal. Cllr Coldwell confirmed that she has received an updated quote for registering the deeds for the Village Hall from one of the three solicitors originally approached. Cllr Coldwell provided a verbal report on the quotes received. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would wait for the two further quotations to be received before instructing solicitors.

Action: Chair, Cllr Coldwell, will chase up the two remaining quotes.

iii) Ms Aspinall reported that the village hall is urgently in need of rewiring, repointing the chimney, fixing the front wall, repainting and fixing new fire doors, as well as some further improvements which are required. Ms Aspinall stated that the Hall needs to be made more accessible. There have not been any concrete plans regarding this, so an architect has visited the hall and confirmed that the options are putting in an upstairs toilet, improving the staircase, and a lift. The cost of researching this has been estimated at £5000 to do a full survey including feasibility studies. Ms Aspinall is looking into applying for grants however the necessary work on the chimney and repointing, estimate £5000, and the feasibility study also estimate £5000, are unlikely to be funded by a grant. The Village Hall Committee would be looking to apply to the Parish Council for help with this. Ms Aspinall confirmed that these options would be considered at the Village Hall Annual General Meeting and the Parish Council would be informed of the outcome. Cllr Eyles suggested that a £5000 grant to the village hall for improvement works, as well as £5000 for the village hall feasibility study could be added in the upcoming budget for 2025-26. This will be considered under finance and budget items on the agenda.

Cllr Eyles suggested that the next Annual Parish Meeting could be held at the village hall to bring the future of the Village Hall to the attention of the village

Cllr Allison stated that, in the event that the village decided to sell the current village hall to help fund building a new one any future planning works would be affected by the lack of parking at the current village hall.

Cllr Hamlett asked whether a meeting could take place between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee before the Annual Parish Meeting, and this was agreed as a good idea.

106/24 Finance reports

a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements and schedule of payments.

b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment of invoices received, totalling £3,359.97

04/12/2024	Shropshire Council Energy Costs	£339.52
04/12/2024	Highline Electrical	£462
04/12/2024	The Noticeboard Company	£2558.45

c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment for the Christmas tree up to £100. It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment for refreshments at a village carol event up to £150.

d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve a contribution to fund a portion of the Café Eleven electricity bill for Christmas lights. This payment will be deferred to the January meeting.

e) It was **RESOLVED** that £5000 of grant assistance for Village Hall Charity Committee would be considered within the budget.

107/24 Budget for 2025-2026

Cllr Eyles detailed changes to the budget for 2025-2026. (Cllr Bibow left the room at 20:40 and returned at 20:43)

Cllr Eyles confirmed that ideally the precept should cover the operational costs of the Parish Council so that remaining funds could be used to start and/ or complete projects in the village. This is particularly important in the light of possible budget cuts by Shropshire Council, resulting in the Parish Council having to fund maintenance and repairs in the area. The proposed budget is included in appendix d). The Clerk advised that recent communication from Shropshire Council suggests that there may be further changes in funding in the area. Cllr Eyles stated that this should not result in any changes. It was **RESOLVED** that the precept would be increased to £33,744 for 2025-2026.

108/24 Policies

There are no policy updates to consider.

109/24 Planning Decisions and Applications

a) To consider and agree responses to planning applications

Reference: **24/04287/FUL**

Proposed Development: Rear single storey extension.

Location: 7 The Quillets, Brownhill, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not comment on the application.

Reference: **24/04375/FUL**

Address: Cliffe Cottage, Little Ness Road, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1NB

Proposal: Internal re organization and new side orangery to replace conservatory.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not comment on the application.

b) To note planning decisions

Reference: **24/03695/FUL** and **24/03585/LBC**

Proposed Development: Erection of a single storey rear extension. Amendments following former consent.

Address: Ruyton Hall, Olden Lane, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1JD

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: **24/03482/FUL** and **24/03483/LBC**

Address: The Dog, Church Street, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1LA

Proposal: Change of use and conversion of the existing outbuilding from function room to guest accommodation providing 3no. duplex rooms and an accessible suite

Decision: Grant Permission

110/24 Future agenda items

No items were added but Councillors were reminded that they can email the Clerk ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Coldwell confirmed that tenders for the Stone Cross will be received by the date of the next meeting to be reviewed by the Parish Council.

111/24 Next Council meeting 7th January 2025 (Full Council), 7:00 pm at Victoria Rooms

The meeting was closed at 8:55 pm.

112/24 Closed Session

Exclusion of the Press and Public It is considered in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, that the following item(s) will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to the establishment and contractual matters and it is therefore RECOMMENDED that: pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded. The PC considered a proposal and agreed a way forward. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would act in accordance with the agreed proposal.

Appendix a) Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council Report from Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley

Parish Council: 3rd December 2024

Local Plan

The “detailed letter” referred to in my report to your November meeting has still not been received.

The delay in making progress is a matter of concern, of course, but the suggestion that the draft Plan may not be “sound” is potentially very worrying. It raises the prospect of the Minister deciding that SC does not have a Five-Year land supply. Some of us will remember the “free for all” that followed almost exactly ten years ago, the last time the Council failed this critical test.

The Housing and Planning Minister, Matthew Pennycook, has recently admitted that there are difficulties in achieving the Government’s promise to build 1.5 million houses by the end of this parliament.

I do fear that (in order to deliver on the manifesto commitment) the Government will impose fresh house building requirements on Shropshire, overriding any local concerns, however soundly based. I wish I could be reassuring to Parish Councillors. I’m afraid I can’t.

CIL funded traffic calming in Ruyton XI Towns

I’m afraid that the “firm date” for a meeting of the Project Board - on November 12th was postponed at short notice.

I have subsequently spoken to Emma Walker impressing on her the vital importance of the meeting being rearranged before Christmas, the risk failing this taking place is that it will not be possible for a report to be submitted to the Parish Council at your January meeting, on January 7th.

NB 241202

Appendix b) Parish – Ruyton XI Towns Police Report for the month of November

Community priorities:

- 1. Speeding**
- 2. Theft**
- 3. Drugs**

Priority 1.

We`ve had reports of Traffic/ broken down vehicle whereby the recovery agent required police attendance due to the fast road.

A report of a driver on his phone on the A5.

A vehicle was stopped due to his manner of driving.

Priority 2.

Nothing reported over this period.

Priority 3.

Nothing reported over this period.

Emerging trends - Requests for information - other.

I`d like welcome our new Safer Neighbourhood officer PC Mark Wright.

He has taken over from PC Bryant and joined the team 1st December.

We have had an email from Sarah regarding a report from a parishioner of drug dealing.

Our details are accessible on the West Mercia website but would advise that any intelligence such as this is sent to the West Mercia website as it would be coming first hand rather than third hand or via Crimestoppers 0800 111 555.

On another matter. We would like 5 councillors or members of the public to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters.

This is a platform where we can let you know what is happening in the area and also chat / reply to us via the app much like Facebook.

Appendix c) Clerk report:

1. The Parish Council has received an invitation to nominate a member of the community to attend the Lord Lieutenant Garden Party in June. Nominations close on 31st January.
2. Email switchover was due to take place today (3rd December) but due to a technical issue this has been postponed.
3. Cllr Eyles has checked the location and requirements of the three noticeboards and confirmed that the Parish Council needs to order: 1 x 1400x1050 Post mounted for the school, 1 x 1200x750 Post Mounted for Drs Meadow, 1 x 1200x750 Wall Mounted for the Bus Stop. The total cost is £2558.45 which is more than the £2211 specified at the previous meeting.
4. The Clerk has contacted Highline regarding the streetlights to check when a full test is due. This was previously undertaken by EON and the test is due in May 2025. The Clerk has asked Highline to confirm the cost of full testing of all lights.

Appendix d) Proposed Budget

RXIT PC Budget 24-25

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual (To date)	2024-25 Yet to be received
Income			
VAT recovery	£750.00	£0.00	£1,010.00
Precept	£31,920.00	£31,920.00	£0.00
Bank interest	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£0.00	£1,492.55	£0.00
Insurance Claim Stone Cross	£0.00	£1,420.00	
Total	£32,970.00	£34,832.55	£1,310.00
Reserves bought forward	£78,289.86	£78,289.86	
Total	£111,259.86	£113,122.41	

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual (To date)	2024-25 Forecast
Payments			
Salary	£14,500.00	£9,011.09	£5,487.95
Administration costs (inc bank charges)	£2,200.00	£1,776.18	£600.00
Training	£500.00	£150.00	£170.00
Audit	£500.00	£435.85	£0.00
Insurance	£1,500.00	£805.74	£0.00
Subscription Fees	£800.00	£584.81	£200.00
S137	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Street Lighting	£2,000.00	£565.86	£950.86
Grounds maintenance	£2,550.00	£1,140.00	£1,900.00
AED	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Village Floral displays (S.137)	£1,200.00	£1,104.75	£0.00
VAT	£2,000.00	£928.90	233.59
Contingency	£2,000.00	£0.00	0
Safer Roads	£2,000.00	£76.19	1000
Cliffe Maintenance	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	0
Local Grants	£1,000.00	£1,650.00	0
Total	£36,750.00	£21,229.37	£10,542.40
Reserves bought forward	£74,509.86	£91,893.04	
Total	£111,259.86	£113,122.41	

Earmarked funds

War Memorial	£	1,971.00
Notice Boards	£	3,000.00
Village Hall Legal Fees	£	3,000.00
		£7,971.00

Opening balance on 01.04.2024 £78,289.86

Outgoings £23,200.37

Income £34,832.55

£89,922.04

Current balance **£89,922.04**

Anticipated outgoings £16,542.40

Anticipated income £1,310.00

Projected balance at start of 2025 **£74,689.64**

2025-26

Council taxbase for 2024-25	474.77
Band D CT charge 2024-25*	£71.07
Band D CT charge for 2023-24	£67.87

% increase	4.72%
Real term increase	£3.20

Precept for 2025-26	33744
Precept for 2024-25	31920.00
£ increase	1824
% increase	5.41%
% increase in Band D charge	4.72%