

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 5th November at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Tamarin Bibow, Kerry Coldwell, Mervyn Eyles, Kate Mayne, Luke Penton

In attendance: 3 members of the public, Cllr Nick Bardsley (Shropshire Council), Sarah Windridge (Clerk)

Absent: Cllrs Paul Dean, Rob Hamlett, Nick Kynaston, Anne Mitchell

80/24 Welcome by Chairman

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

81/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paul Dean, Rob Hamlett, Nick Kynaston and Anne Mitchell.

82/24 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

83/24 Public Session

The Chairman of the Parish Council suspended standing orders at 7.06pm.

Mrs Rachel Paton addressed the Council to express her interest in joining the Parish Council. Cllr Coldwell confirmed that Mrs Paton's application would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Two members of the public asked about planning application 24/03767/OUT. Cllr Coldwell agreed to move the planning agenda item forward for clarity. The members of the public have a concern regarding splays and visibility. The members of the public asked Cllr Bardsley to confirm why the application can continue to be put into the Local Authority. Cllr Bardsley confirmed that the application will be considered as it is a valid application. Cllr Bardsley would like the application to be considered at a Planning Committee and will ask for this.

Another member of the public asked about the planning enforcement officers' involvement in previous applications at the property and expressed concern that this would be the case with this application. Cllr Bardsley stated that the development is outside the development boundary of the village which is a further reason to object to the application. Cllr Allison mentioned that the houses will be 'self-build' houses which puts the onus on the builders to fulfil the requirements set out by the Parish Council. Cllr Coldwell agreed that having 5 different contractors building their own houses could result in problems with foundations. Cllr Mayne particularly objected to the term 'brownfield' used in the application and stated that the site should not be classed as brownfield. Cllr Eyles stated that this application asserts that this site is on an SLAA plan, therefore could be considered for future development. All Councillors agreed that there are alternative sites in the village that could and should be considered for future development.

Cllr Mayne asked whether the Parish Council can re-iterate the previous objections. Cllr Eyles confirmed that the 'self-build' aspect of the application should be included in the objection.

The public session ended at 7:24 pm and standing orders were re-instated.

84/24 Planning Decisions and Applications

a) To consider and agree responses to planning applications

Planning Reference: 24/03767/OUT

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land North Of, Olden Lane, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shropshire

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 5No. self-build dwellings (to include access and scale)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would object and submit the following comments:

The Parish Council objects to this planning application and requests that the application is presented to the planning committee. Due to subsidence issues, this site is not a suitable site for self-build. The Parish Council also feels that it is incorrect to classify the site as brownfield.

b) **To note planning decisions**

No updates on planning decisions were received.

(Two members of the public left at this point and two members of the public arrived).

85/24 Minutes of the meeting held 1st October 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 1st October 2024, and these were approved and signed.

86/24 Reports

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

The Parish Council will respond to the next letter received regarding the Local Plan in order to ensure that any concerns are raised with Shropshire Council.

Regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy, Cllr Allison reported that there was news that Shropshire Council have postponed eleven projects across the County which suggests that Shropshire Council are not taking on new projects at this time.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the three police priorities will be speed, theft and drugs. The Clerk has confirmed with the policing team that these priorities can be in place for the next six months.

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

87/24 Place Plan

There were no updates regarding the Place Plan. The Clerk will report back with an update when one is received.

88/24 Community Infrastructure Levy update

The Clerk reported that a virtual project board meeting has been scheduled for 12th November at 1pm to obtain an update.

89/24 Parish Matters, updates from councillors

- a) The Stone Cross. The Clerk reported that Cllrs Eyles and Coldwell will be attending a Zoom meeting with Phil Cross to obtain an update on the tender process.
- b) It was confirmed that Cllr Bibow will organise the laying of the wreath.
- c) Cllr Dean has proposed that a new safety mirror be put up opposite the church, as the existing mirror is too small and not fit for purpose. The Clerk reported that she has contacted Fiona Leighton and Highways, and the request has been forwarded to the traffic team. The Clerk will confirm further details regarding this when information has been received and any decisions will be postponed until then.

Cllr Coldwell mentioned a faulty streetlight in the village. Cllr Allison confirmed that he will check whether the light belongs to the Parish Council or Shropshire Council and confirm this with the Clerk. The Clerk will then report this.

Cllr Coldwell mentioned Christmas arrangements for the village. Cllrs are going to organise a tree, decorations and a possible event.

It was **RESOLVED** to add Christmas arrangements to the December agenda, including a proposal for the Parish Council to fund a portion of the electricity bill to support Café Eleven.

90/24 Finance reports

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements and schedule of payments.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of three noticeboards, at a cost of up to £2211 (total cost).
- c) The published local government services pay agreement had been circulated prior to the meeting and was reviewed by Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to approve backdated payment to the clerk.
- d) Three quotes for internal audit services were circulated to the Council. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Rebecca Turner as the internal auditor for 2024-25.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the cost of £150 for one third of the SLCC fee for CiLCA training.

f) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Date	Payment to	Descriptions	Net	VAT	Gross
05.11.24	Dave Peate	Annual grounds maintenance	£1,412.75	£0.00	£1,412.75
05.11.24	SLCC	CiLCA training (1/3 of costs)	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
05.11.24	Sarah Windridge	Reimbursement Printer cartridge	£19.17	£3.83	£23.00
			£1,581.92	£3.83	£1,585.75

91/24 Budget for 2024-2025

Copies of the draft budget were previously circulated to Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that the budget would be reviewed by the finance committee and a report produced ahead of the meeting in December so that a draft budget can be agreed.

92/24 Policies

Cllr Eyles confirmed that all policies are titled in the same way and do not have dates in the title, apart from policies that have used a standard template. The Terms of Reference format for working groups and sub-committees has also been standardised. The policy sub-committee have produced Terms of References for the Countryside and Roads (formerly 'Safer Roads') working groups and Staffing and Finance and Governance subcommittees. The Governance sub-committee also proposed the suspension of all other working groups and subcommittees until such time as new projects were identified. Applicable Terms of Reference document could then be produced. Updated policies and recommendations of the Governance sub-committee were circulated ahead of the meeting, and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the Governance sub-committee.

Action: Clerk to upload updated policies to the website. Cllr Coldwell mentioned that the Council should have a bio-diversity policy, and Cllr Mayne offered to help with this. The possible adoption of a bio-diversity policy will be added to a later agenda.

93/24 Future agenda items

Cllr Allison asked about two legally obstructed footpaths in the village, one is on a bridle way from Platt Bridge to Fiveways. According to national legislation this should be sorted by 2030. Cllr Allison also expressed concern that Gooseberry Lane does not legally exist and there is no official right of way. **Action: The Clerk will research this and this item will be added to future agendas.**

Cllr Penton asked if the cutting back of hedges on Brownhill Road and writing to local residents could be added to the agenda.

95/24 Next Council meeting 3rd December 2024 (Full Council), 7:00 pm at Victoria Rooms

The meeting was closed 8:42 pm.

Appendix A

Report from Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley

Parish Council: 5th November 2024

Planning

New Medical Centre: Prescott Surgery

A further meeting of the small group referred to in my report to your October meeting is now scheduled for December 13th. Hopefully we shall have more detailed information by then of the Government programme announced in last month's Budget for substantial capital investment into Primary Care.

Local Plan

I'm attaching a letter very recently received from the Examining Inspectors, announcing the cancellation of hearing dates this month and in early December.

I have not seen the "detailed letter" referred to, which may/may not have been received by officers.

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.

CIL funded traffic calming in Ruyton XI Towns

After a lengthy delay I'm pleased to say that we now have a firm date for a meeting of the Project Board - next week, on November 12th.

NB 241104

Ruyton XI Towns – August 2024

Community priorities:

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

Priority 1.

Although not speeding we only have one issue to report on one of your priorities.

This was an RTC at Shottaton X roads on the 4th October.

It involved a bus and Discovery.

Luckily there were no injuries to any children or driver.

Priority 2.

Nothing to report this month

Priority 3.

Any drug related issues which have been reported to us have been disseminated to the relevant departments.

Emerging trends - Requests for information – other

The other incident to report on is regarding the cat and kittens that were dumped.

Luckily the mother cat and two kittens have been rescued and reunited.

The gentleman who dumped them has been spoken to. The reason he gave is being checked, as he says he took advice from a professional organisation on the best option to deal.

As previously stated, crime statistics and details can be obtained through <https://www.police.uk/>

Appendix C

1. The Clerk reported that she has spoken to Cllr Mayne regarding the water quality reports. Cllr Mayne has explained that writing to the environment agency and the Angling Trust will not achieve anything at this time and more testing needs to take place. Cllr Mayne has volunteered to attend any subsequent meetings held by the water safety steering group in a private capacity to explain more about the water testing that is completed in the River Perry and answer any questions.
2. The Clerk reported that she is waiting for further information regarding appointing a Parish Council representative onto the Basnet, Matthews and Minton Trust.
3. The Clerk reported that a query was raised with Shropshire Council regarding the 0365 Exchange Plan. The cost is confirmed at £570.24 per year. The recent invoice received is for the upcoming year of using the licences. A list of email addresses and passwords has been created and the Parish Council will have to pay for one more as we currently only have 10 and need 11. The cost will be £43.56 per year and an invoice will be raised for this. If the Parish Council co-opts a new Councillor, then a further cost will be incurred. The email transfer will take place remotely using the Clerk's laptop and once it has successfully been completed, Councillors will need to log in with the provided email addresses and passwords and choose a new password. The Clerk will keep Councillors updated on this process.
4. The Clerk reported that the owner of The Dog public house in the village contacted the Parish Council regarding the Parish Council objections to the planning application. The Clerk responded to confirm that the Parish Council had responded based on valid planning concerns and invited the applicant to further Parish Council meetings.
5. The clerk reported that she has signed the Parish Council up to Warp It!, a portal that allows the Parish Council to claim and exchange items with Shropshire Council, other Town and Parish Councils, local schools and charities.
6. The clerk reported that, earlier this year, Shropshire Council contacted Parish Councils to open a discussion about different ways to support services in the local area. Shropshire Council has confirmed that it contemplated a uniform nominal uplift to the precept for town and parish councils, as unlike council tax, this charge is not capped by regulation and can be changed from time to time to meet local priorities. This suggestion was placed before a SALC Focus Group for initial discussion, and it was agreed that this approach would not meet the range and complexity of local priorities and preferences. Therefore, Shropshire Council will suspend its current interactions with local councils on this subject. The Clerk will keep the Parish Council informed if there are any updates. The Parish Council will still consider whether contributions to Church Wall Repair and Mobile Library will help those services
7. The Clerk reported that she has started the CiLCA training, and the first unit is due for assessment at the beginning of December. The Clerk is going to confirm how many extra hours this will entail as there will be a cost to the Parish Council (which will be divided into 3).
8. The Clerk is arranging the removal of the 3 trees in Jubilee Fields, with Cllrs Coldwell and Mayne, for some time in November. The Parish Council has received communication from Shropshire Council regarding the future of the land at Jubilee Fields and is awaiting their proposals for consideration.
9. The Clerk has received a quote for solicitor fees to register the village hall with the Land Registry. When further quotes are received these will be put to the Parish Council for approval.