

# RUYTON XI TOWNS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## TUESDAY 21st MAY 2024 MINUTES

This meeting was held at Victoria Rooms, Ruyton XI Towns at 7 pm on Tuesday 21st May 2024.

**Parish councillors in attendance:** Mr T Allison, Mrs T Bibow, Mrs K Coldwell, Mr Paul Dean, Mr M Eyles, Mr R Hamlett, Mr N Kynaston, Mrs K Mayne, Mrs A Mitchell, Mr L Penton.

**Also in attendance:** Sarah Windridge (Clerk), Nick Bardsley (Shropshire County Councillor), Carol Aspinall (Village Hall Committee).

**Public:** 10 members of the public were present

**Meeting started at:** 7pm

### **P1/24. Chairman's welcome and apologies**

Mrs Coldwell, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Paul Dean and Anne Mitchell, Mrs Julie Ball (Head, St John's School).

### **P2/24. Confirmation of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting minutes were accurate, and these were signed by the Chairman.

### **P3/24. Annual Reports**

#### *a) Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council*

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr Coldwell read a detailed Chairs' Annual report which is attached as an appendix.

Cllr Eyles thanked Mrs Coldwell for her service as Chairman and for putting in so much time into the Parish Council.

#### *b) Annual Police Report*

No Police report was received. A monthly report will hopefully be shared at the June meeting.

#### *c) St John the Baptist C of E Primary School report*

The Clerk read out a report from St John the Baptist CofE School, which will be available as an appendix to the minutes.

#### *d) Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Committee – Annual Report.*

Carole Aspinall, Treasurer read out an annual report for the Village Hall Committee, which will be available as an appendix to the minutes. Cllr Nick Bardsley mentioned the Community Infrastructure

Levy for local funds which may be able to help with fund raising for the village hall and offered to make contact with a representative from Oswestry who can help with a possible grant.

e) *Basnett Mathew & Minton Trust – Annual Report*

The Clerk informed those present that a receipts and payments accounts report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 had been received by the Parish Council and would be available as an appendix to the minutes.

f) *Reports from local organisations*

No other reports were received.

**P4/24. Annual Report from Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley.**

Cllr Nick Bardsley had shared physical copies of his report, which is attached as an appendix, and welcomed any questions from members of the public.

Cllr Bardsley mentioned the importance of planning in the village and drew the attention of those present to suggested changes to the local plan. Nick stressed the importance of being alert to the impact that local plan could have on small local communities. Once these suggested policies are in an approved and adopted plan, it is very difficult to do much about any subsequent planning applications. The consultation date ends in June and Cllr Bardsley urged residents to submit any objections to the Local Plan by the end of the consultation period.

Regarding the scheme for traffic calming, Cllr Bardsley spoke to Emma Walker in Shropshire Highways who has confirmed that technical difficulties are likely to be resolved. These include lighting changes to pedestrian crossings.

The Northwest Relief road will benefit rural communities as traffic will not be using the village as a 'rat run'. The relief road will not solve all traffic problems but will result in reduction of traffic through the village.

A member of the public asked about a previous survey that was done in the parish and questioned whether this survey been superseded by the Local Plan. Cllr Bardsley was not sure about the previous survey that was completed and re-iterated that anything in local plan will go ahead which is why it is important to make any objections known now.

Cllr Eyles confirmed that a previous survey and proposed plan suggested that 100 new houses would be built in Ruyton, including 15 infill houses. The new Local Plan contains plans for 125 houses, some of which have been built, which includes the dairy site as a main area of development. Out of 125, 25 have been allocated to 'windfall' which means that a location for these houses has not been determined. Cllr Eyles confirmed that each new plan supersedes any previous surveys that have been completed.

A member of the public asked about infrastructure in the local area, particularly regarding hospitals. Cllr Bardsley replied that hopefully development will be properly planned and result in a good level of infrastructure.

A member of the public stated that traffic is also an issue, as another 100 houses will result in more traffic. Cllr Bardsley stated that the relief road will help to reduce this.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Coldwell suggested that the agenda move to the public session to continue receiving questions.

## **P6/24. Public session**

A member of public asked about traffic in the village and asked any there is no white line in middle of village.

### **(One Member of the public left the meeting at 19:50)**

Cllr Eyles stated that whether there is a white line or not in the road, this is down to lack of driver education and disregard of the highway code.

A member of public asked what the technical issues are regarding the village roads. Cllr Bardsley suggested that he thinks these are changes to pedestrian crossings, including the lighting of the pedestrian crossing. Hopefully new, fully costed proposals will be presented to the project board very soon. Cllr Bardsley will be asking Emma Walker at Shropshire Council for a meeting in June if possible.

Another member of the public asked if the original amount of money for the project will be ringfenced. Cllr Coldwell confirmed that out of the £225,000 for the project, £100,000 has been spent. The remainder of the money will be ringfenced and the scheme will not be withdrawn. The Parish Council need the final details of the project.

A member of the public asked if this meant that the rest of the road surfacing will be delayed and Cllr Eyles confirmed that there is a planned date for that, however this is still unconfirmed due to potential changes to the pedestrian crossing.

A member of the public asked whether it is possible to change bus services and routes in the village. Cllr Allison suggested that this was very challenging and that routes might change anyway due to further traffic in the village. Another member of the public agreed that a bus service which calls at Morrisons would be very useful. Another member of the public suggested that an hourly bus service to Shrewsbury would be useful for the village.

Cllr Coldwell asked whether the Parish Council can do anything to help with this and Cllr Bardsley suggested that this could be addressed with Shropshire Council although it can be very difficult, and residents of the village are very lucky to have a regular bus service.

Cllr Coldwell suggested that local supermarkets might be persuaded to provide a local shuttle service for residents, although this might have to be as a result of a petition.

A member of the public asked about the loss of the village shop. If a change of use goes ahead to the existing shop, the village will be left without a shop which is a shame. Cllr Coldwell confirmed that a planning application has not been submitted yet. Cllr Eyles has confirmed that the shop has been sold. The Parish Council will respond to any planning applications that are submitted.

A member of public asked if the Parish Council to remind people to cut their hedges to allow pedestrian access along the roads. Cllr Coldwell stated that whilst it is important that pedestrians can use paths and roads safely, hedges cannot be cut between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August due to nesting birds.

The Chairman thanked Members of the Public for their continued support of the Parish Council and the community and invited everyone present to join them for some light refreshments after the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.11 pm.

Confirmed as accurate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## APPENDICES

### a) Chairman report

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to welcome you all to the Annual Parish meeting.

This year has been a difficult year with a number of issues following the resignation of both the Chair and Vice Chair at the beginning of September. Following a period of sick leave our Clerk also resigned thus leaving me to act as both Chair and Clerk for a number of months. I am very grateful for the support I received during this time from our advisory body Shropshire Association of Local Councils, SALC, particularly Dianne Dorrell who attended some of our Parish meetings to assist. I also thank my Vice Chair Cllr Mervyn Eyles for his assistance and Cllr Tamarin Bibow for taking the minutes during our time without a Clerk.

We were able to obtain some Locum Clerk services through SALC and I am pleased to report that despite the issues our yearly return was submitted in a timely fashion. Thanks to both Ian Cruise-Taylor and Lee Jakeman for their services.

We have now appointed a new clerk and I would like to welcome Sarah Windridge who commenced employment with us on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

I would also like to welcome the three new counselors, Cllrs Paul Dean, Kate Mayne and Anne Mitchell however there is still one vacancy on the council if anyone would like to apply.

Parish issues: please note that many road issues can be reported direct to Shropshire Council via Fix My Street and do not need to go through the Parish Council.

- Water leaks, there have been numerous water leaks and the Parish Council are working to put pressure on Severn Trent Water to rectify these. The PC are also trying to address the issues caused by the lack of notice and confusing signage. Thanks are due to Cllr Trevor Alison who is consistent in his help in arranging timetables and keeping the bus companies on their toes when there are diversions for road closures where notice has been given.
- The road through Ruyton has been resurfaced and many pot holes have been repaired however progress on the CIL road project has been slow.
- CIL. Following public response to the information session in September, the CIL road safety improvement project was put on hold by Shropshire Council while they reconsidered their proposals. We are currently still waiting for a timescale for the road safety measures to be put in place possibly a result of turmoil at Shropshire Council due to the £65,000,000 deficit and subsequent redundancies that have had significant impact. We were, however, surprised to find that half the budget had already been spent in administration.
- Platt Bridge has now been successfully repaired unfortunately the Cross is still awaiting attention.
- Cross monument. Following the accident that damaged the Cross Monument there was a proposal to move the Cross along with the repair. This unfortunately complicated the situation and caused delay. Having established that the Cross is to remain in its current position we are in communication with the relevant parties and are keen to facilitate the repair as soon as possible.
- The wall on Church Bank is in need of repair and we are chasing this.
- Planning: There have been fewer improvements however we have faced challenges with

unauthorized developments that the council are keen to see addressed. The New Shropshire Local Plan is going through review and includes West Midlands Overflow housing proposals that will impact in Shropshire and will have a ripple effect across the County.

- Draft Shropshire Local Plan: Comments on this can still be submitted up to 11<sup>th</sup> June and I would encourage individuals to consider adding their voice.
- War Memorial: Due to the tireless work of Irena White we now have a new plaque for the war memorial to recognize the names of those previously omitted. We are hoping to arrange the cleaning of the war memorial at the same time as the new plaque is fixed. This will hopefully be at the same time as Severn Trent Water have the road closed in July to repair the sinkhole, one of many repairs.
- Broadband: Over the last few weeks signs have started to appear to inform of a Fibre Broadband service that is at long last being rolled out to Ruyton. Please check the council website as there is a link to the location of the proposed poles for this and while location can be altered slightly to please residents once they are in they cant be moved. This service will be good news for residents, local businesses and those who work from home and has been long awaited.

Going forward we face challenges with our community resources, the village shop is being considered for potential change of use to residential. Our local pub has had a number of changes in management during the year and the Village Hall has had changes in its committee. We value community participation and this is important if we are not to lose valuable village amenities.

Our finances are, however, good and we use our funds to benefit the community. We kept the precept costs to the community at the same level as last year. The Ruyton Amateur Dramatic Society, RATS, successfully applied to the Parish Council for funding to promote their activities among a larger audience.


We also gave £3000 to St Johns the Baptist School for the outdoor reading shelter for the children. We support the Local Home Grown Show and this year also donated a special award for young people. We are also continuing to fund the Church clock maintenance.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the maintenance of the village by putting up the commemorative poppies, donating and decorating the Christmas Tree, cutting hedges, mowing public areas and caring for the hanging baskets as well as reporting issues in a timely fashion so they can be rectified.

Dave Peat is employed by the PC to maintain some areas however particular thanks should go to David Shearan and his crew of volunteers who continue to maintain various countryside and wildlife areas in the village and carry out butterfly surveys on the Cliffe.

I would also like to thank our local Shropshire Council representative Cllr Nick Bardsley who attends every meeting and works tirelessly to help resolve issues in the community. In a recent Chairs Network meeting it became apparent that not every PC is fortunate enough to have a very pro-active Shropshire Council representative.

Cllr Kerry Coldwell



## Parish report

### St John the Baptist CE Primary School, Ruyton XI Towns

We are delighted to have finished the key stage two SATS for another year. Our pupils continue to excel and show sheer determination and effort throughout these tests. We are very proud of them all.

Our thanks to the parish council for their support in funding towards our shelter in the nursery area and, previously, with the trim trail. Both have been invaluable. We are pleased to report our pupil numbers continue to increase. We have welcomed new pupils from both the local area and abroad over the past year.

Our nursery continues to benefit from growing numbers as we are admitting a number of children as they turn two years old now. This, in turn, feeds larger numbers into the reception class.

We continue to maintain four classes plus the nursery with class sizes all being less than 30 into next year, allowing us to add in new pupils should they need arise through the year.

We will be sending out Year four children on their residential to Liverpool after half term and the Year six children to Arthog. Both of these residential visits provide excellent learning and social opportunities for our pupils.

We are always delighted to hear from past pupils who return with news of excelling in the navy, in sport and in music as well as other areas too numerous to mention.

In other news,

Recognised for achieving high standards in our schools, the governing body of our federation have recently been approached by Bicton CE Primary School's Governing Body with a request to provide Executive Leadership to their school from September 2024 when their current headteacher leaves her post. Having carefully considered this request, our governing body have confirmed that they will enter into a service level agreement to share our executive leadership. We are delighted to be able to agree to support this over the coming year, building on the strengths of our present federation team.

Whilst Bicton School is not formally joining our federation, and will retain its own governing body, we believe that more formal collaborative working will benefit children and staff across all schools. Our Federation is committed to 'school-led' school improvement and, particularly as a Church of England School Federation, we recognise our responsibilities to all children not just those who attend our current schools. We are welcoming of all forms of school-to-school collaboration as a vehicle for upskilling and developing staff, developing curriculum provision, promoting wider pupil engagement and engaging with our wider community in order to improve outcomes for all children. We have realised these benefits within our own federation over recent years. Through this arrangement with Bicton governors, Mrs Ball will also have Executive Headship responsibility to Bicton CE Primary School and the talented staff team within our federation will also contribute to the continued development of Bicton School through extending our existing professional development opportunities to Bicton staff.

In order to facilitate the fact that Mrs Julie Ball, our experienced Executive Headteacher, will be taking on this strategic role over the three schools, we will be putting in a slightly different leadership model from September across our schools.

We are delighted to be promoting the following staff to new roles within the federation;

Mrs Sallie Roberts will become Acting Head of School at Bomere

Mrs Katie Farmer and Mrs Kate Gregory will share becoming Acting Head of School at Ruyton

As Acting Head of School in their respective schools, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Farmer and Mrs Gregory will be responsible for the effective day-to-day running of their school, much like a traditional headteacher. The Head of School works under the strategic leadership of the Executive Headteacher. The Head of School will be the main point of contact from the leadership team, for staff and parents and will be based full time at their school.

Mrs Ball will be working across all three schools (Bomere Heath, Ruyton and Bicton) but will no longer be the main point of contact for parents and staff.

Our governors continue to work hard in supporting and challenging the leaders in the school with external validation of their work rating them highly.

Our friends group had been exceptional in its work over the past few years. We have been very excited with their recent purchase of a history timeline and world map for the shared areas. Our visitors love them too. I know they would love to see you all at their annual fun fest on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

We will be finishing off our half term with our sponsored fun run on Friday organised by the friends too.

Fingers crossed the weather holds out until then!

Julie Ball



c) Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Annual Report for Parish Council AGM – 21st May 2024

It's been a year of change for the Village Hall with us saying a very grateful farewell as David White stepped down as Chair and from the Committee after many successful years of service, and we wish him well in his much deserved retirement. In his place I have stepped in as Chair with Colin Case remaining as Treasurer and Colin Gittoes still as a trustee with the new additions of Liz Beddoes and DJ Humphreys onto the Committee. We have also said a fond farewell to Karen in Café Eleven as she has also retired and are extremely pleased that Ruth Corfield has taken over in the café and will continue a much loved village asset into the future and help keep the Memorial Hall maintained. This year we have had another extremely successful sell out panto put on by the RATS and for anyone not already got a ticket, soon to have the Murder on the Overnight Express from 6-8th June. We ran a new addition of a Halloween Disco back in October that was also very popular and totally full so we need to consider how we make this bigger for next time while within max capacity of the hall. Yoga, Rainbows and Brownies continue as regular hires as normal. We have set up a Facebook page for the village hall (for anyone not already joined it) so we can better communicate our events and advertise the hall for hire and we have a brand new website under construction and coming soon that will in time run the booking process and Century Club to make the admin easier as well as increasing our visibility as a facility for hire. We have also installed baby changing facilities to ensure we are catering for as many people as we can. This year we intend to re-launch the Home Grown Show as the Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Show on 14th September. The aim is to have something for everybody in the village to enjoy from a BBQ and Bar, tombolas and activities, trails and scavenger hunts for the children and a general knowledge quiz as well as the traditional craft, fruit and veg, baking, photography, flowers and floral art competitions and tea and cake refreshments with a raffle for all and rounding up with a little disco for the children. We are hoping it will be a chance for the whole village to get together, have some fun and raise some money for the village hall which is quite expensive to maintain each year and we hope to see you all there – save the date! To run this we are going to need some volunteers and helpers on the day so if you are able and willing to help please do let me know and also please do enter the competitions, it makes for a much better show! I also have a formal letter for you asking if you will continue to support us with your sponsorship of the event. Into the future we are looking at putting on a village garden trail. I think the last one in the village was about 7 years or so ago and would really like to do this again so will be reaching out to all our keen gardeners who would be willing to open their gardens for this event hopefully some time next June – watch this space! On the subject of maintaining the hall, we have had a fire survey done this year that has generated a long list of advisory recommendations that we are working our way through. Some we have managed to put in place already; additional emergency signage in the toilets, asbestos survey (none present), additional emergency lighting on the outside of the building, replacing damaged ceiling tiles etc. However, for some of the others we need to source some grants or funding first as there are some sizeable projects we will need to address; a new fire and smoke alarm - £1,250, which requires the hall to be re-wired to modern standards at approx. £10,000, Fire painting the stairway - £100 and replacing the doors at the top of the stairs with fire doors - £1,000. In addition to this we really need to address the heating in the hall which is dated, inefficient and costly and have got a quote for the best solution of air con heating but this is another £9,300 and also requires the wiring to have been completed first. I am in the process of looking into grants that are available and am pleased that there are many options I can explore but it has identified an issue with our charity governance that needs to be resolved. Our registered governing document is currently the deeds for both the village hall and memorial hall but these are very dated and don't include the clauses that would be in a modern constitution that organisations who provide grants and funding require for you to be eligible to apply. I know this is a long standing issue that only becomes more outdated and problematic as time passes and if anyone can help with this or knows a solicitor who would be able to look into it for us (without costing the village hall precious funds) then it would be a big help. As such, I

do have to ask into this year if the Parish Council can also help with regards to the required upgrades to the hall as they are essential for us to continue to maintain our village hall and to be able to use it and hire it out to the public. The village hall committee fully appreciate the help and support that has previously been extended by the Parish Council and I look forward to continuing the work with you to maintain our village halls. Thank you. Carol Aspinall (Chair) On behalf of the Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Committee.

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d) Basnett Mathew & Minton Trust – Annual Report

**Basnett, Matthews and Minton Charity**  
**Receipts and Payment Account for year ending**  
**31st December 2023**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Opening Balance	5980.68	<b>6361.20</b>
COIF Dividends Received	357.86	<b>359.25</b>
Interest on COIF Deposit.	22.66	<b>102.74</b>
	£6361.20	<b>£6823.19</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Grants	Nil	<b>275.28</b>
Closing Balance	£6361.20	<b>£6547.91</b>
Balance of Funds held in Bank and Deposit Accounts on 31st December 2023		
	Lloyds TSB	4100.76
	COIF Deposit	2447.15
	Closing Balance	<b>£6547.91</b>

NOTES

The investment assets of the charity were as follows:

*31/12/2023 £13,086.19*

COIF Investment Fund on 30/12/2023

659.42 units @ 19.845p = Total value 31/12/23 **£13,086.19**

## **Parish of Ruyton XI Towns: Annual Parish Meeting: May 21st 2024**

### **Report of Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley**

#### **1 Planning - Development Management**

The Parish Council and I have been engaged with a number of planning issues over the last year, particularly in relation to development management.

The changes undertaken in the Autumn of 2022 at The Grange (formerly Yardley) have been controversial. The owners of the property made a retrospective planning application in August 2023. This was unfortunately unsuccessful, principally because critically important information requested was not supplied to planning officers. It was refused earlier this year.

Enforcement action is probable both at the Grange and at other sites in the Parish.

#### **2 Planning Policy**

##### **Consultation by Shropshire Council: Local Plan - further public consultation**

Shropshire Council is now consulting on a number of significant issues. Some of these principally affect Shrewsbury - but impact too on the rural villages in its "hinterland". The Parish Council is actively engaged in responding to the various consultations.

Currently important changes are being considered to the draft Local Plan for Shropshire. This consultation runs until June 11th and will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on June 4th.

One of the more significant matters is the proposal to include elements of "overspill" housing from Birmingham and the Black Country. This of course impacts on the overall requirement for additional housing land in Shropshire.

Whilst much of this additional land will be found in the market towns, there will be increasing pressure on rural villages such as Ruyton XI Towns and in open countryside via the exception site policies in the draft plan.

It is important that we all *appreciate that once policies are enshrined in the Local Plan, subsequent applications which are said to meet policy requirements can be very hard to resist.*

### **3 Traffic and highway safety**

The Parish has secured significant funds via the CIL "Local" fund aimed at improving road safety, easing congestion and improving the environment in the village, mainly along Church Street and Brownhill.

A major change in the scheme was agreed by the Parish Council late last year following a local consultation in August/September.

The Project Board for the scheme was meeting on a regular monthly basis but has not done so this year. I have been informed that a number of technical issues still exist which have made it impossible to calculate a final costing for the revised scheme.

Most local residents will be aware that the project to build the North West Relief Road now has planning permission. I appreciate that there are local people strongly opposed to building the road. Whilst I respect their views my personal opinion is that Ruyton XI Towns (and other rural villages on the North side of Shrewsbury) will benefit greatly from a reduction in the "rat run" traffic now blighting local people - HGVs, trucks of all sizes and cars using entirely inadequate roads and narrow lanes as a short cut from/to the A5 and Harlescott, Battlefield etc in Shrewsbury.

The final Business Case for the road project is now being drafted with a view to construction beginning in the early part of 2025.

### **4 Shropshire Council**

I'm happy to answer questions on the matters mentioned above and other topics, as best I can!

NB 240520

