

RUYTON XI TOWNS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUES 23 MAY 2023 MINUTES

This meeting was held at Victoria Rooms, Ruyton XI Towns at 6.30 pm on Tues 23rd May 2023.

Parish councillors in attendance: Mr T Allison, Mrs T Bibow (arrived:19.02), Mrs K Coldwell, Mr M Eyles, Mr N Kynaston, Mrs A Lister (Vice Chairman), Mr L Penton

Also in attendance: Lydia Bardsley (Clerk), Stuart Carroll, Oswestry Police, Nick Bardsley (Shropshire County Councillor), Tracey Darke, **Head of Planning Services**, Shropshire Council, Mr C Case (Treasurer VHC),
Public: 12

Meeting started at: 6:35pm.

P1/23. Chairman's welcome and apologies

In the absence of the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Spicer, it was **AGREED** that Vice Chairman Cllr Lister should be elected to chair this meeting. Cllr Lister took the chair and welcomed all to the meeting. Chairman explained this is not a parish council meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs David Spicer, Scott Denyer, and Rob Hamlett, and Mrs Julie Ball (Head, St John's School). Cllr Tamarin Bibow had given notice that she would be late to the start of the meeting.

P2/23. Confirmation of 2022 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting minutes were accurate, and these were signed by the Chairman. A copy can be found on the PC's website [2022 Annual Parish Meeting minutes](#).

P3/23. Annual Reports

a) Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr Spicer had shared a detailed **Chairs' Annual report** which the clerk summarised for those present. The Clerk gave the **PC Financial Report for 2022-23**. Copies of these reports will be included as appendices to these minutes.

b) Annual Police Report

Copies of the **police report** will be available as an appendix to the minutes.

Stuart Carroll introduced himself. IT reports don't go into great detail unfortunately. Figures fairly healthy representation, crime fairly low compared with other areas. Rural crime never goes away unfortunately. Police can only continue preventative work, patrols, smartwater still available and free through police. SW has high figures in crime reduction. Report summarises incidents over last 12 months. Highways matters represent fairly large portion of incidents in parish. Q-Stats for recovery of property if SW used? SC didn't know off top of head. Police in Oswestry tend to only see the first part of process, other depts deal with matching owners back up with stolen and recovered property. Neighbourhood matters, email based messaging service with local alerts.

Chairman, value support of police. Police keen to continue good relationship with parish.

MOP asked about trends in Shropshire we should be aware?

Car key burglaries, stealing high performance cars. Targetted specific vehicles. Spike on that across West Mercia. Stolen to order. Unfortunately initially successful thefts – but work behind scenes is doing well to

counteract this. Suggest alarm systems, doorbell CCTV, don't leave keys near door, or in view. Things you can do to reduce the risk of falling victim to this.

Chairman mentioned issue with registered sex offender in community back in Dec. Tried to communicate with police and probation service to try to mitigate risk of situation deteriorating. Sadly involved difficulties within members of community before that person moved on. Since that time info in press is that another registered sex offender is within local community. Asked can we have rep from police at a subsequent meeting to talk about this in more detail. AL will send an email to formally request representation.

Thanked Stuart who left meeting at 19.00.

It was **AGREED** to bring forward agenda item P4/23.

P4/23. Shropshire Council – Annual Report by SC Cllr Nick Bardsley.

NB introduced TD, who had suggested coming to meeting, re. property in parish (The Grange). TD is willing to accept retrospective planning application from applicants.

TB arrived at 19.02.

TD introduced herself – assistant director for economy and place, includes planning services. Deal with local plan, planning apps, and enforcement, also services like business support, major projects, regeneration, e.g. Riverside, NWRR, major highways works etc.

Is professional planner by trade, about 40+ years, worked at no. of local authorities, SC about 2 yrs, doesn't live in area. Thought it would be useful to come to meeting and get out and see some of the parish and town councils.

The Grange, Emma Green (head of enforcement) unavailable to join meeting on this occasion. Would be open to coming to future meetings to talk about enforcement matters in general.

Issues like Grange are difficult when work happens, if confusion around whether planning permission needed or not. Works can be grey, particularly engineering works, fine line as to whether planning permission needed or not. Initial judgements thought planning permission was not needed, which was shared with owners. Case has been reviewed (by TD herself), planning permission is needed, and that has been relayed to owners and are working with them to get that regularised. It's not an offence to build something, only if you don't get retrospective planning permission that they can be prosecuted. When application comes in, there will be an opportunity to comment. Can't put things back exactly as they were. Will be difficult to plant things on the steep slopes that had been created by the owner. There is potential around slope, ways to potentially screen the slope. Neighbours expressed concern about what mature planting would be possible, this needs to be addressed. Loss of privacy. What can be done to mitigate impact of work, can the slope be adjusted. Have to allow owners to try to figure out with discussions with SC how that can be done. Opportunity to comment with suggestions for planting would be much appreciated.

Concerns about choice of materials e.g. concrete, vs red stone which is prevalent in village. Concerns about allowing concrete will set precedent in what will be acceptable in parish for future amenity in village.

Fear what has been created, that superficial changes will not address that huge impact on neighbours, and impact on streetscene. Other mops agreed it is eyesore.

Really needs to be understood how it will be rectified for neighbours and for community. R is not a conservation area, not a listed building, so there are fewer restrictions. There is a lot to do to make it significantly better. SC won't be able to demand specific materials in this case.

TD agreed it needs to be in keeping with streetscene, and SC will look at that as part of app process.

TA – serious concerns about serious weather event, in terms of road safety. TD – it will be a consideration, but have to be mindful that can't protect against everything that might never happen.

SC will need to consider drainage onto the road, if site can be drained adequately, and if risk of landslide is low (which they think it is). Trees that were there previously definitely helped with stopping rainfall. These are things that SC will look at in terms of mitigation.

Planning permission could be refused, need to work together with applicant to get it to a point where it is acceptable.

MOP – concerns about lack of stabilisation of soil, couldn't see house from road before with mature trees. Now it is monstrosity. Sets precedent for others. Loss of nesting sites for birds and bats. Trees weren't specimens, but environment is gone now.

TD – removal of trees doesn't require planning permission, what SC are concerned with and what planning app will deal with is engineering works. There is some structural support but residents are concerned these are not adequate.

If it gets planning permission, it may not need building regs. Planning doesn't deal with structural stability unfortunately.

SC have to work within the system.

Enforcement is retrospective, have to wait until someone does something. SC could refuse planning app – if that happens, there is another decision point about whether to take enforcement action. Is it expedient and proportionate to take action.

Chairman thanked TD for giving her time and answering Qs and she left the meeting.

Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley continued to give the rest of [Annual report for Shropshire Council](#) which will be available as an appendix to these minutes.

- CIL local road safety project (nearly 3 years ago). Frustratingly slow, but in recent weeks, made progress. Hopefully v soon will be public info session which PC will be closely involved with.
- Boundaries – present proposal for electoral divisions leave Ruyton and Baschurch almost unchanged. Concerns that elsewhere in Shropshire proposals are quite controversial, so there are likely to be calls for changes to these areas. PC may want to comment on consultation to say they are happy with proposals.
- Difficulties over lack of info and slightly complacent attitude from some bodies about tenants in Birch Close/Birch Grove. This will be on June 1st. No easy answer to situation.

It was agreed to resume the order of agenda items.

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.

Treasurer read out a [Chairman's report for the VHC](#), which will be available as an appendix to the minutes.

Have had quite a few parties for children as well as regular events (tall enough for bouncy castles).

Heating is an issue as all in ceiling and it goes straight out the roof. But making progress on smartmeters. Will hopefully be able to remove one meter to reduce standing charges.

This year – pleased to have few more trustees, bringing youth to the committee. Already bringing in new ideas, e.g. halloween party. Next quiz 17th June. Yoga is proving very popular with attendees.

e) Basnett Mathew & Minton Trust – Annual Report

The Clerk reported that the 2021 accounts had been restated as an error had been discovered when preparing the 2022 accounts. The updated accounts for 2021 would be published on the PC's website. Cllr Lister gave an update as one of the trustees, in addition to **2022 charity accounts** which will be available as an appendix to these minutes.

Cllr Lister explained what BMMT does and who Trustees are. Money is used to help local people, quite flexible what form help can take. Focused on cost of living crisis over last year. Done quite discretely, names aren't published. Rely on school, PC, and for referrals, the Trust does appreciate being made aware if anyone who knows someone who is struggling so they can direct their effort accordingly. In good position financially. Support is not always financial, it can be support with filling in forms for benefits as well as practical support.

f) Safer Roads group - Annual Report

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr David Spicer had prepared an **Annual Report for the Safer Roads Group** report which the clerk summarised, and which will be available as an appendix to the minutes.

Members of the public expressed concerns about time to question proposals as it seemed some proposals might have been decided ahead of time. MOPs expressed concern about how far the £225k is going, it was felt that proposals mentioned did not seem like a lot for the amount of money.

SRG members clarified that professional fees e.g. WSP, are included in cost of project which will be very expensive.

Concerns raised about timing of roadworks and clash with harvest, which has been raised with SC previously, but unfortunately SC's stance is that work needs to be done during summer holidays and it will be intended to do the resurfacing work and installing traffic calming measures at the same time and over one period of time, as this is much more cost-effective, and will also minimise disruption for community.

It was clarified that PC reps had been pushing for relevant materials for months, and the original hope was for information events to take place in November 2022, but delays on SC end had led to situation with very little time for consultation with community, which was not at all what PC had hoped for. It was clarified that members of the public would be strongly encouraged to send any comments they had about the proposals, but given the timing constraints and the risk of the project being pushed back again, it was very unlikely that it would be possible for any new proposals to be considered in this scheme. However, if there were considerable concerns within the community about any particular proposals then SC may decide to remove those proposals from the scheme.

Clarified that SC officers and WSP will be available at some info sessions to answer questions. The expectation is that community will end up better off than it is now.

g) Reports from local organisations

Reports were received from the following local organisations:

Carol Aspinall, school PTA – thank you to PC for support for finishing playground. Request for shelter for bumblebees, if accepted by PC can it go through Friends of School group as they are a charity. Colin mentioned on VHC report, her and Liz have joined committee. Really keen to get involved. Have set up new FB page, please share will update as much as can, will advertise things can do, raise profile.

Rainbows/Brownies – children from Myddle, Basch, Nessclif, West Felton. Numbers pretty good.

P5/23. Countryside Working Group (update and call for projects)

No updates at this stage.

P6/23: Climate Emergency Working Group (update, call for members and projects)

The Clerk gave an update: read from DSp report, and mentioned sign up sheet.

1 x mop left meeting at 20.04.

P7/23. Public session

Chairman really thrilled with large number of residents who have joined this public meeting. Thanked mop for continued support of PC and 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 20.06 pm.

Confirmed as accurate: _____ Date: _____