



**MINUTES of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms,
Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Kerry Coldwell (Chairman), Tamarin Bibow; Rob Hamlett, Nick Kynaston, Anne Mitchell, Rachel Paton.

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

117/26 Welcome by the Chairman

118/26 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Paul Dean; Mervyn Eyles; Luke Penton.

119/26 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

120/26 Public Session

None

121/26 Minutes of the meeting held:

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 3rd February 2026 and these were approved and signed.

122/26 Reports

Council to consider and note any reports received:

- i. County Councillor Representative: Cllr Rob Jones presented a report this evening [Appendix A.](#)
- ii. SNT Police - none.
- iii. Clerk's Report: [Appendix B.](#)

123/26 Parish Matters

- i. **VE Day Commemorative Bench** – It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Rob Hamlett would ask CES Welding Ltd for a quote, and the Clerk would email James Plant for another quotation. All quotes will be reviewed at a future meeting.
- ii. **Police Priorities** – It was **RESOLVED** for the three local police priorities for the next quarter to remain the same: Speeding; County Lines and Rural Theft.
- iii. **Village Signage** - Rob Hamlett mentioned foliage that is blocking the 30mph sign by the bridge. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would email Shropshire highways team.
- iv. **Parking Problems in the Village** – consideration was given to addressing locations within the village where parking is a concern. It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to Shropshire Councillor, Cllr Rob Jones, and M.P, Helen Morgan to invite them to a site meeting by the school at 8.30am on a school day to see the issues first hand.

- v. **Internal Action Report from 2024/25 Audit** – The Clerk updated the meeting on progress regarding the required actions, informing that all but one of the actions previously agreed by the Council have been completed.
The remaining action, which concerns the Asset Register, will be implemented during the council's review of the Asset Register scheduled for May 2026. **Matter of report.**
- vi. **War Memorial – Tree Removal** – The meeting was advised that Seth Bradbury has agreed to undertake the tree works.
- vii. **Parish Council Action List** –the circulated latest working document was **received and noted.**

124/26 Financial Reports

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements dated 28th February 2026. [Appendix C.](#)
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments and note receipts:

Payments:

Ent Date:	Payment Method	Inv No:	Description of Payment	Amount	VAT Amount
06/02/2026	Credit	79	Nest (Superannuation Oct Return Refund)	-£24.30	
16/02/2026	DD	98	Tesco Mobile - Mobile Contract Clerk	£10.00	1.67
20/02/2026	DD	99	Shropshire Council - Grounds Maintenance Marches Meadow	£553.70	
28/02/2026	DD	100	Hugo Fox	£35.99	6.00
28/02/2026	BP	101	Clerks Wages (Month 11)	£861.25	
28/02/2026	DD	102	HMRC (Tax & N.I. - Month 11)	£326.50	
28/02/2026	DD	103	Nest (Superannuation February Month 11)	£79.18	
28/02/2026	BP	104	Amazon (reimbursement - M Baker VAS Batteries)	£288.72	48.16
28/02/2026	DD	105	Unity Bank - Service Charges	£6.00	
03/03/2026	BP	106	Dave Peate - Land Maintenance	£140.00	
			Total Payments	£2,277.04	£148.11

Receipts:

Ent Date		Amount
28/02/2026	Nationwide Interest	17.59
		£17.59

The meeting noted that the Direct Debit payment deducted by Shropshire Council for £553.70 has been made in error and requests for a full refund have been made.

125/26 Planning Decisions and Applications

- i. To note planning decisions:
 - A) [24/03767/OUT - Land North of Olden Lane](#) - Land North of Olden Lane – Chairman Councillor Kerry Coldwell, provided an update on the recent North Planning Committee Meeting and the associated site inspection. She reported that the application for Land North of Olden Lane was refused by the committee due to the visibility splay not meeting the required standards. It was noted that this decision

was primarily influenced by a specific request made during the site meeting for the planning committee to thoroughly assess the visibility concerns.

126/26 Future agenda items - an update from the New Village Hall Group; Training for Councillors

127/26 Date of the next meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting shall be held on April 7th, 7pm at the Victoria Rooms.

07/04/2026

Cllr Robert Jones

Shropshire Councillor for Ruyton and Baschurch
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Report to Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council: March 2026

Shropshire Council Budget and Financial Strategy 2026/27

Shropshire Council has approved its budget for 2026/27 alongside a five-year financial plan to 2030/31. This follows the declaration of a financial emergency in September 2025, reflecting sustained pressure on council finances from rising demand, inflation and reduced government funding, particularly affecting rural authorities.

The main drivers of the financial challenge are increasing demand and complexity in adult social care, children's social care, SEND provision and home-to-school transport. Independent benchmarking shows Shropshire's costs are broadly in line with similar councils, meaning the issue is the scale of need rather than inefficiency.

To balance the budget in 2026/27, the Council agreed an **8.99% increase in council tax**. This brings the Shropshire Council element of Band D council tax to **£1,969.09**, excluding parish, police and fire service precepts. The increase follows special government permission and is intended to reduce borrowing and longer-term costs.

Even with this increase, the Council **cannot balance its budget without government assistance**. Shropshire has been granted **£121 million of Exceptional Financial Support**, which allows borrowing to fund day-to-day services. This is acknowledged as a **temporary and unsustainable measure**, designed to prevent immediate failure while longer-term solutions are developed.

The budget is a "reset" rather than a return to normal. Spending assumptions are extremely tight and the Council is clear that significant change is unavoidable in future years. Public consultation has shown strong support for protecting local services such as libraries, leisure facilities and community provision, particularly in rural areas.

A major emphasis is now on **transformation**. The Council is developing a Financial Sustainability Strategy focused on changing how services are delivered, reducing demand through earlier intervention and prevention, making greater use of technology, increasing income where possible, and working more closely with partners. From 2027/28, zero-based budgeting will be introduced to reassess spending from first principles.

Alongside this, the capital programme is being refocused on statutory services, highways, schools and SEND provision. Some regeneration and leisure schemes have been paused or put under review, and an accelerated review of council-owned land and buildings is underway, with asset sales expected to play a larger role in future financial planning.

North West Relief Road

At the Full Council meeting on Thursday, councillors voted to officially cancel the North West Relief Road. The cancellation will not be welcome news for many residents in Ruyton and Baschurch who are rightly concerned about the ongoing pressure on communities and infrastructure from through-traffic, and the challenges of connectivity to key sites around Shrewsbury which is often dependent on inadequate and overcapacity country lanes. I have and will continue to make the case for upgrades and improvements along the existing A5, in particular at Shotatton junction.

Cancellation of the scheme allows the Council to move forward with the process of negotiating with the government over the costs incurred, and to begin thoroughly scrutinising the decision-making and governance of the scheme which has cost taxpayers £32m since 2018. It also releases £41m of capital grant funds from the Department for Transport for spending on road and infrastructure projects around Shropshire which were previously allocated to the NWRR.

Potholes and Road Maintenance

Shropshire has experienced a very wet start to 2026, with prolonged periods of rain through January and much of February. This type of persistent winter weather is in line with expectations linked to climate change, which is bringing wetter winters and more frequent rainfall. One of the most visible impacts has been on the county's roads, where saturated ground, water penetration and repeated freeze-thaw conditions have accelerated wear and tear, leading to a significant increase in potholes.

January saw 2,113 new potholes reported, compared to just 1,216 in January last year – a 77% increase. Shropshire Council has responded by creating 3 new pothole repair teams which are working throughout the county at pace to repair our roads. In the medium term, Council has received an increase in funding for highways and is moving to improve our highways maintenance and management program. We expect to have 140 roads around Shropshire resurfaced or applied surface dressing – double the number in the previous year.

Clerks Report – 03/03/2026

Doctors Meadow – An email has been sent to Shropshire Council asking for an update on the Football Clubs request for use of the field.

The Cross Repairs – Our contractor is being extremely thorough in preparing the information required to support the Listed Building Consent application. They are currently producing:

- A detailed conservation philosophy
- A comprehensive method statement
- Stone and mortar samples for approval

This level of detail is intended to fully address all requirements set by the Conservation Officer and ensure the works proceed smoothly once consent is granted.

I will keep you updated on this ongoing matter.

Year End and AGAR Readiness – works are being undertaken in preparation to finalise the year end and in readiness for the preparation of the Internal Audit & AGAR

Accessibility Statement as a Public Body, there is a legal requirement to publish an accessibility statement. The statement, based on Hugo Fox's guidance, is now on the website and included in the document review schedule. It forms part of assertion ten checks for the internal auditor.

VAS - Batteries have been ordered at a total cost of £288.72 (£240.56 excluding VAT). The VAS data has been cleared. Regular monthly downloads will take place between the 19th and 22nd of each month, depending on how the dates fall. This approach ensures the data is included on the agenda and circulated accordingly.

Archive – I have contacted Shropshire Council Archive via their contact form to plan to take items to the archive.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party

To advise that, unfortunately, I missed the submission deadline for the nomination form, which should have been completed by noon on the 13th February.

Unfortunately, I mistakenly diarised the task for 13th May — a subconscious crossing of dates on my part — and only realised the error when Kerry advised me. I fully appreciate the importance of adhering to deadlines, and I am genuinely sorry for any inconvenience this oversight may have caused.

Please be assured that I have put additional checks in place to prevent a similar mistake in future, and I hope that you can accept my sincere apologies.

BANK RECONCILIATION as at 28th February 2026

		Balances
Unity Trust Bank- Current a/c		105465.43
Nationwide		15831.69
		<u>121297.12</u>
Less Unpresented Cheques / Deposits		
Maxine Baker (Wages February)	861.25	
HMRC	326.50	
Nest	79.18	
M Baker (Refund VAS Batteries)	288.72	
Hugo Fox	35.99	
	<u>1591.64</u>	1591.64
	Total	<u><u>119705.48</u></u>
Brought forward start of year		74875.61
Receipts for year		80516.21
Less payments for year		35686.34
		<u>119705.48</u>

