



MINUTES of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms, Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Kerry Coldwell, Paul Dean, Mervyn Eyles, Nick Kynaston, Anne Mitchell (Chairman), Rachel Paton.

In attendance: Mrs M Baker, Parish Clerk; Shropshire Councillor Robert Jones & 2 members of the public.

28/26 Welcome by the Chairman – a welcome was given by the Chairman.

29/26 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors Luke Penton & Rob Hamlett.

30/26 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None.

31/26 Public Session

None

32/26 Minutes of the meeting held 2nd June 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 2nd June 2026 and these were approved and signed.

33/26 Reports

Council to consider and note any reports received:

- i. County Councillor Representative: [Appendix A](#)
- ii. SNT Police Report - [Appendix B.](#)
- iii. Clerk's Report – [Appendix C](#)

34/26 Parish Matters

- i. **New Village Hall Working Group** –an update following the meeting held on 18th June 2026. The meeting was advised that questionnaires were collated on Sunday and majority delivered to residents by Tuesday with the exception of one or two which will be delivered this week.
- ii. **The Local Plan** –an update by the Chairman of the Parish Council following a recent meeting held by SALC re the Local Plan. The meeting was advised that land identified is not yet a certainty. Councillors were circulated a copy of Transformation and Oversight Scrutiny Committee Report – April 2026 slides. Consideration was given as to whether the Parish Council wishes to make a formal response to the consultation. Cllr Eyles felt that there are 4 key points that perhaps the Parish Council should be mindful of responding to the consultation. 1) Ruyton XI Towns classification as a Primary Village - as with Bomere Heath, we have connectivity issues with Highways - we are not near a main truck road. We do not have good connectivity; we rely on B roads. 2) Connection to services and the methodology. Connectivity to existing services dose not look at capacity. 3) Grey Belt does not apply to here. Cllr Rob Jones confirmed that Development Boundaries will be redefined when sites are identified. Scoping should be clearer. 4) Windfall developments – how many are there? Is this part of the plan and how is the % of windfall decided. It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors wished for the Parish council to make a formal response to the consultation, Cllrs would email their comments, for inclusion. Cllr Eyles would draft a response based on responses and the draft to be circulated to members before submission.

- iii. **Asset Inspection Schedule** –consideration was given to the schedule and the allocation of personnel. [Appendix D](#)
- iv. **Bridge Field** –consideration was given regarding action required following a resident’s report that the gate catch is not securing properly, resulting in the gate being left open. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Nick Kynaston would look at it.
- v. **Wildflower Meadow** – consideration was given as to whether the area should continue to be maintained as a wildflower meadow, given the absence of flowers. The meeting felt that the soil is too rich for any wildflowers to grow. It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be written to Dave Shearan to advise that the Parish Council proposes to remove the wildflower area.
- vi. **River Perry** – the Clerks report on weed clearing and who is responsible – landowner/British waterways was received and noted.
- vii. **VE Day 80 Commemorative bench** – consideration to the installation of the memorial bench at a cost of approximately £1740.00 plus VAT (including delivery and stainless-steel plaque). It was **RESOLVED** approval of the previously circulated design of red poppies.
- viii. **Informal Councillor – Parishioner Drop-In Sessions** – the Chairman provided an update to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman will arrange new dates and Councillors will be advised.
- ix. **Village Hall Show** - consideration was given to a request from Ruyton XI Towns Village Hall Committee requesting if the Parish Council would sponsor this year’s event. It was **RESOLVED** that the council would sponsor £475.00 with a £30.00 book voucher and the Chairman would purchase a metal trophy engraved with Sponsored by Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council.
- x. **Parish Council Action List** –the circulated latest working document was received and noted.

35/26 Financial Reports

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements dated 0th June 2026. [Appendix E](#)
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments dated 7th July 2026 and note receipts:
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 1st Quarter Accounts and Budget Review for 2026/27. [Appendix F](#)

Payments:

Ent Date:	Payment Method	Inv No:	Description of Payment	Amount	VAT Amount
15/06/2026	DD	18	TESCO MOBILE	10.60	1.77
26/06/2026	DD	19	Shropshire Council	373.79	62.30
29/06/2026	DD	20	HUGO FOX	35.99	
30/06/2026	BP	20	Kerry Coldwell (reimbursement)	308.55	
30/06/2026	DD	21	Unity Bank	7.00	
07/07/2026	BP	22	SALC	75.00	
07/07/2026	BP	23	SALC	686.16	
07/07/2026	BP	24	Maxine Baker (June Wages - 3)	905.87	
07/07/2026	BP	25	HMRC (Tax & N.I. - 3)	347.80	
07/07/2026	BP	26	Nest (Pension - 3)	82.78	
07/07/2026	BP	27	J Guest (Hanging Baskets)	288.00	
				£3,121.54	£64.07

Receipts:

Ent Date		Amount
30/06/2026	Nationwide - Interest	18.94
		£18.94

36/26 Planning Decisions and Applications

- i. To note planning decisions:
 - a) [26/00849/LBC – The Cross, At Junction Of Church Street And School Road](#) – **Approved**
 - ii. To consider and agree responses to planning applications:
 - Reference: [26/01758/AG1](#)
 - Address: Hall Farm, Church Street, Ruyton Xi Towns
 - Proposal: Steel portal framed building for storage of agricultural crops and machinery
- Matter of report.**

37/26 Future agenda items: NHS - A Marathon a month; Brownhills – Trees, left hand side near VAS.

38/25 Date of the next meeting

To note that the next meeting shall be held on September 1st, 7pm at the Victoria Rooms.

[20.48pm meeting closed]

Cllr Robert Jones

Shropshire Councillor for Ruyton and Baschurch
07913377617 / robert.jones@shropshire.gov.uk

Report to Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council: July 2026**Litter and Dog Waste Bin on Little Ness Road**

Following enquiries with Shropshire Council's StreetScene team, it has been confirmed that the dog waste/general litter bin on Little Ness Road was removed in April 2025 due to persistent misuse. Officers reported that the bin was regularly being filled and overloaded with large quantities of bagged and loose dog waste, believed to be originating from a nearby puppy-breeding operation. The volume of waste was considered unreasonable for collection crews to manage.

After the bin was removed, residents in the vicinity were informed that misuse would not be tolerated and enforcement action could be pursued. However, officers subsequently observed large bags of dog waste being left elsewhere around Ruyton, including beside other bins. The Council's dog warden was asked to undertake patrols and install additional signage in the area.

The StreetScene team has advised that it is currently reluctant to reinstall a bin at the same location because of the previous problems. However, officers are exploring whether there may be licensed dog breeders in the area who should have appropriate commercial waste disposal arrangements in place, and discussions are ongoing with Environmental Health colleagues.

Local Transport Plan Consultation

Cabinet approved in June plans to begin a public consultation on a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) covering the period 2027-2037. The plan will set out the long-term approach to managing and improving the county's highways and transport network and is a statutory requirement under the Transport Act 2000. It will also play a key role in securing future government funding and supporting the emerging Local Plan.

The draft LTP will cover a wide range of areas, including road safety, highways maintenance, public transport, rural accessibility, freight, and climate resilience. The consultation is intended to gather views from residents, businesses and stakeholders across Shropshire to help shape the final document.

Next steps and key dates:

- Pre-consultation engagement: Summer 2026
- Public consultation (6 weeks): September–October 2026
- Review of feedback and revisions: Late 2026
- Final plan adoption: Early 2027

Commissioning, procurement and contract management

Cabinet approved in June a new three-year strategy to overhaul how Shropshire Council plans, buys and manages contracts. The *Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management (CPCM) Strategy* is intended to strengthen oversight, improve value for money and ensure services deliver better outcomes for residents. It places greater emphasis on understanding local need, using evidence to guide decisions, and actively managing contracts to improve performance.

A key feature is a stronger focus on "social value", meaning contracts will be used not just to deliver services, but also to support local jobs, apprenticeships, small businesses, community organisations and environmental priorities.

The strategy reflects a clear shift under the Liberal Democrat administration towards tighter control of commissioning and contract management, with a more consistent and transparent approach aimed at ensuring public spending delivers measurable, long-term benefits for Shropshire communities, particularly in the context of rising demand, tighter budgets and new procurement rules.

Shropshire Council's Next Steps Towards Sustainability

Shropshire Council has published a refreshed draft *Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2027–2032*, setting out how it intends to improve its financial position and reduce its reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The revised plan updates assumptions made earlier in the year around inflation, pay costs, borrowing costs, service demand and savings delivery. It also begins to set out how the Council intends to rebuild its financial reserves over the coming years.

The Council says that while financial pressures remain significant, early progress has been made through tighter spending controls, more realistic budgeting and the delivery of savings already identified. As a result, the Council expects that it may require less EFS than previously forecast. However, demand for services - particularly those supporting vulnerable residents - continues to rise, and the Council stresses that difficult decisions will still be required to place the authority on a sustainable long-term footing. A Financial Sustainability and Recovery Strategy has been developed to guide those decisions, with Cabinet due to consider the proposals on 8 July.

Shropshire Council Corporate Peer Challenge Update

A follow-up review by the Local Government Association (LGA) has found that Shropshire Council has made significant progress since its Corporate Peer Challenge in 2025. The review highlighted improvements in financial management, governance, leadership and working relationships across the organisation, alongside a more positive and collaborative culture.

The LGA noted that while progress has been encouraging, the council is still at an early stage of its improvement journey and must maintain momentum, deliver planned changes and reduce its reliance on Exceptional Financial Support from government over time.

	Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team parish council report Date: 29/06/ 2026
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Oswestry Rural South

Team email: oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Police Community Support Officers:

PC Wright **Mobile:** 07977 957689

PCSO Carroll **Mobile:** 07970 544372

PCSO Mabe **Mobile:** 07870 219669

Parish – Ruyton XI Towns

Community priorities:

1. Speeding
2. County Lines
3. Rural Theft

Priority 1.

Nothing to report

Priority 2.

Nothing to report on.

Priority 3.

Emerging trends - Requests for information - other.

We received a report of a car being driven on the road at speed by a concerned resident.

The registered keeper was contacted who informed us that he had sold the car the previous month.

Local enquiries were made, the new owner found and the car was seized.

We recommend that the council look at www.police.uk for a fuller picture of incidents reported.

Clerks Report 7th July 2026

The Cross – I have chased up and spoken to CBS who said they would email a progress report Friday just gone – I have not received it but I will chase up.

Right to Inspect – Notices have been published and are on the Parish Council's website.

34/26 vi - Briefing Note: Weed Clearance Responsibilities – River Perry & River Dean (Main Rivers) – Information from CPRE

The River Perry and River Dean run through parts of Ruyton XI Towns Parish and are confirmed **Main Rivers** under Environment Agency (EA) designation

2. Responsibility for Weed Clearance

Riparian Landowners (Primary Responsibility)

Even on a Main River, **riparian landowners** retain the legal duty to:

- Maintain the river channel and banks
- Clear excessive vegetation and weeds
- Remove obstructions to flow
- Manage invasive species (e.g., Himalayan balsam)
- Ensure their stretch of river does not increase flood risk to others

This includes **routine weed clearance**, fallen branches, and overgrown banks.

Environment Agency (Regulatory Role)

The EA's responsibilities on Main Rivers are:

- Flood-risk management
- Regulation of works in, over, under or near the river
- Enforcement where riparian owners fail to maintain their section
- Intervention only where vegetation or obstructions pose a flood-risk concern

The EA **does not carry out routine weed clearance** for amenity or general maintenance.

3. Permissions Required

3.1 Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP)

Works that may affect the river channel, banks, structures, or flow often require a FRAP from the EA. This includes:

- Cutting or removing in-channel vegetation
- Dredging

- Bank reinforcement
- Works within 8 metres of the riverbank (the “byelaw margin”)

Minor hand-pulling of vegetation on the banks may not require a permit, but in-channel works usually do.

3.2 Vegetation-Cutting Exemption

In some cases, cutting vegetation in the watercourse may be exempt from permitting if strict conditions are met, including:

- Adequate flow to carry cut vegetation
- No pollution caused
- Advance notification to affected parties
- Record-keeping for 5 years
- Registration of the exemption with the EA

If flow is insufficient, vegetation must be removed and treated as waste under waste-exemption rules.

3.3 Invasive Species (e.g., Himalayan balsam)

- Pulling balsam is permitted without a FRAP.
- Material must be left on site to compost (illegal to move off-site).
- If pulling occurs in-channel, EA notification is recommended.

34/26 ix – Grants for Village Hall - Summer Show: 2021/22 - £200.00; 2022/23 £200.00; 2023/24 £230.00; 2024/25 £500.00 plus £30.00 book voucher.

**RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL ASSET INSPECTION
LOGS - 2026/2027**

Asset	Location	W3W reference	To check	Date Checked	Assigned person
War Memorial Cave	Brownhill, underneath Rock House	///spenders.central.kingdom	1. Visual check of interior and exterior for signs of damage or deterioration, including engraving above cave, stone benches, carved cross, and plaques. Avoid handling damaged/flaking areas which may cause further deterioration. 2. Check memorial plaque firmly affixed to wall. 3. Check for discolouration on plaque. 4. Check for sharp edges. 5. Check for broken glass or rubbish in vicinity of memorial.		Cllr Paton

Stone Cross Memorial	Junction of School Rd and Church St	///command.laugh.bicker	ual check for signs of ge or deterioration. handling ged/flaking areas which ause further oration. 2. Check any es firmly affixed. 3. for sharp edges. 4. for broken glass or sh in vicinity of orial. 5. Check ground ns of recent ment. 6. Very gentle with hand to check for ment. [Check with SD if prieate given height of		N/A
Older bus shelter	Little Ness Rd junction	///landlady.liked.contained	1. Check for visible signs of damage or deterioration. 2. Splinters and sharp edges 3. Soft/rotting wood 3. Check firmly affixed to ground/base 4. Check joints for movement. 5. Check any metal work for rust, flaking. 6. Check for broken glass or rubbish in vicinity. 7. Check for ivy/vegetation that may need removing/trimming		Cllr Eyles

			back. 8. Check tiles on roof.		
New bus shelter	Brownhill/The Marches	///knowledge.publisher.snail	1. Check for visible signs of damage or deterioration. 2. Splinters and sharp edges 3. Soft/rotting wood 3. Check firmly affixed to ground/base 4. Check joints for movement. 5. Check any metal work for rust, flaking. 6. Check for broken glass or rubbish in vicinity. 7. Check for ivy/vegetation that may need removing/trimming back.		Cllrs Eyles & Paton
Streetlights	Various locations	n/a	Annual structural survey and annual cleaning by maintenance contractor (Highline Electrical Ltd). Electrical survey every 6 years (last tested		Lighting contractor

			during LED upgrade in 2019)		
3 x benches on Cliffe	Bench 1 - Extreme South end of open area of Cliffe, before woodland. Faces Little Ness Road, Baschurch etc.	?	1. Check for visible signs of damage or deterioration. 2. Splinters and sharp edges 3. Soft/rotting wood 3. Check firmly affixed to ground/base 4. Check joints for movement. 5. Check metal work for rust, flaking. 6. Check for broken glass or rubbish in vicinity of bench.		Cllr Kynaston
	Bench 2 - Exposed sandstone ridge in middle of Cliffe, facing Baschurch.	?			Cllr Kynaston
	Bench 3 - North end of Cliffe, nearest to Ruyton, where bridleway opens up at junction with another track.	?			Cllr Kynaston
1 x Memorial bench	Outside St Johns school, Church street	///wildfires.scans.prefer			Cllr Kynaston
1 x Bench on Fiveways	Grass verge at junction of Little Ness Rd and Startlewood, and Big Walls	///shimmered.neat.doctor			Cllr Kynaston
5 x Notice Boards	1. Birch Grove Notice board (verge adj. Little Ness Road)	///slugs.indicates.marmalade	1. Check glass/protective screen for cracks 2. Check for water inside 3. Check doors can be opened		Cllr Eyles

	2. Doctors Meadow	///twinkling.braced.dramatic	and closed easily. 3. Check lock works. 4. Check frame for cracks, splinters, sharp edges. 5. Check supporting legs are stable in ground. If wall mounted, check if firmly affixed with no movement.		CLlr Eyles
	3. St John's Primary School	///clarifies.masses.reissued			CLlr Eyles
	4. Platt bridge bus shelter	///knowledge.publisher.snail			CLlr Eyles
	5. Foot of Cliffe				CLlr Eyles
	Olden lane entrance to village, both sides of road	///consoles.gravitate.meal and ///oval.wings.embellish			N Kynaston
	Brownhill	?			

2 x Welcome Gates	B4397/Church street (Junction of Olden Lane/School rd?)	?	1. Check overall structure and individual slats for cracks, splinters, sharp edges. 2. Check supporting legs are stable in ground, and check ground for recent signs of movement. 3. Gentle push with hand to check for movement. 4. Check for broken glass or rubbish in vicinity of gates. Do these checks for gates on both sides of the highway.		Cllr Coldwell
4 x Vehicle activated speed signs - (Solar Power/Data Capture)	Church street (outside school facing east)	?	1. Check for visible signs of damage or deterioration. 2. Check base of mounting post for recent signs of movement. 3. Check post for rust. 4. Check all components (e.g. batteries, solar panel) are present. 5. Check solar panel clean. 6. Check for exposed wires.		M Baker
	Church Street (near Grove Court, facing West).	?			M Baker
					M Baker
					M Baker

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL COMBINED ACCOUNTS RECONCILIATION

Item: _____ Date: 30/06/2026

	Unity Trust	Nationwide	
Opening Balance	100,295.24	15,851.18	116,146.42
Receipts (excl. TFRs)	35,027.85	57.38	35,085.23
Payments (excl. TFRs)	8,583.60	0.00	8,583.60
			<u>26,501.63</u>
Cashbook balance			116,146.42
			26,501.63
			<u>142,648.05</u>
Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00	
Bank statement balance			
(Open bal. plus rec., plus			
TFR, less cleared pmts)	- £127,446.39	15,908.56	
(Plus uncleared receipts)	0.00	0.00	
(Less uncleared pmts)	706.90	0.00	
Reconciled balances	<u>126,739.49</u>	<u>15,908.56</u>	126,739.49
			15,908.56
Combined reconciled balance			<u>142,648.05</u>
		Variance	<u>0.00</u>

Meeting date: 7th July 2026

Confirmed as reconciled by Councillor:

Prepared by Parish Clerk/RFO

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2026-27

Receipts & Payments, as at 30/06/2026

Balance b/f 116146.42

	Budget 26/27	Receipts & Payments 26/27	%Under over budget
Receipts			
Precept	33744	35027.85	3.80%
VAT refund	1000.00	0.00	
CIL	0.00	0.00	100.00%
Bank interest	200.00	57.38	
Other	0.00	0.00	100.00%
VE Day Donations	0.00	0.00	
	34944.00	35085.23	0.40%
Payments			
Wages	15000.00	3272.84	-78.18%
Administration costs (incl. bank charges)	1829.00	235.85	-87.10%
Audit fees	565.00	0.00	100.00%
Election Fees		0.00	
Affiliation fees & subs	800.00	0.00	100.00%
Insurance	1500.00	939.28	-37.38%
Training (incl. cllr mileage)	500.00	0.00	100.00%
Street lighting & maintenance	1000.00	373.79	-62.62%
Village and grounds maintenance	2550.00	405.00	-84.12%
Village floral displays	1200.00	0.00	100.00%
Local grants & Donations (s.137)	1000.00	25.00	-97.50%
Community Events (s.137)	1000.00	0.00	
Contingency	2000.00	0.00	100.00%
Safer roads	3000.00	0.00	100.00%
Cliffe maintenance	4000.00	3000.00	-25.00%
VAT	2000.00	23.31	-98.83%
Village Hall & memorial Hall Legal Fees	500.00	0.00	
Mobile Library	1000.00	0.00	100.00%
	39444.00	8275.05	-79.02%
s.137 (max total spend)	9403.71	25.00	
Earmarked Reserves balances	Current Bal.	Expenditure	
Cliffe	3000.00	0.00	100.00%
QE11 Purchase	2000.00	0.00	100.00%
QE11 Legal Fees	2000.00	0.00	100.00%
Roads	10000.00	0.00	100.00%

Neighbourhood/Drs Meadow Track	20000.00	0.00	100.00%
Village Hall Building Repairs	5000.00	0.00	100.00%
Village Hall Accessibility	5000.00	0.00	100.00%
New Village Hall	1000.00	308.55	-69.15%
War Memorial seats	3000.00	0.00	100.00%
The Cross Repairs (Ringfenced)	40281.93	0.00	100.00%
	£91,281.93	308.55	
Total payments		8583.60	
Receipts over payments		26501.63	
Uncleared receipts		0.00	
Uncleared payments		706.90	706.90
Cashbook balance			142648.05
Balance as Unity Trust Bank Statement			127446.39
Balance as Nationwide Bank statement			15908.56
Combined bank balance			143354.95
Uncleared Payments & Income total			706.90
			142648.05