RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 4th February at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Tamarin Bibow, Kerry Coldwell (Chair), Mervyn Eyles (Vice Chair), Nick Kynaston, Rob Hamlett, Kate Mayne, Rachel Paton
In attendance: One member of the public and Mr C Furnival (Locum Clerk/RFO)
Absent: Cllrs Dean, Mitchell and Penton.

130/25 Welcome by Chairman
The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everybody and confirmed the housekeeping arrangements.

131/25 Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs Dean and Mitchell. Cllr Nick Bardsley (County Councillor) also sent apologies.

132/25 Declarations of Interest
None declared.

133/25 Public Session
No members of the public wished to address the Council.
Cllr Rob Hamlet arrived at 19:06

134/25 Minutes of the meeting held 7th January 2025
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting on 7th January 2025 and these were approved and signed.

135/25 Reports
a) Shropshire Council: Cllr Nick Bardsley provided a written report for this meeting. **Appendix A**
b) West Mercia Police: The Locum Clerk read out the police report. **Appendix B**
c) Clerks Report: The Locum Clerk read out the outgoing clerk's report. **Appendix C**

136/25 Place Plan
There have not been any updates to the Place Plan.

137/25 Community Infrastructure Levy update
There were no updates from the Roads Working Group.

138/25 Stone Cross Repair Update
The Chair reported that at the last meeting tenders were received and these were submitted to the insurers. Unfortunately, the insurers have recently indicated that the parish council need to go to the vehicle insurers as the claim was over 12 months ago. However, this is being disputed because these conversations have been going on with the insurers for longer than 12 months and the insurers have not raised this matter yet. To date, the insurers have made an initial payment, thus accepting the claim. It was noted that the vehicle insurers have admitted liability also.

This will unfortunately cause a further delay but the Chair is in regular contact with the insurers and disputing this matter in order to progress this issue. The Locum Clerk will support on this matter.

139/25 To approve any policies

There were no policy updates to consider.

Cllr Tamarin Bibow arrived at 19:27

140/25 Parish Matters, updates from councillors

a) To consider a response from Severn Trent Water – STW have reported that after investigating, their engineer reported that the issues raised by the parish council are related to standing water only which is the responsibility of the local Highways Authority. Councillors will therefore report this on FixMyStreet for Shropshire Council to address. However, the Locum Clerk will write to STW as they have not addressed anything the parish council asked regarding future infrastructure and repairs.

b) To review and approve letter to residents regarding hedge cutting – It was agreed that the Locum Clerk will draft a letter to residents whose hedges are overgrown to inform them that local contractors will be cutting these hedges for them. This letter needs to be hand delivered before end of February.

c) To plan the installation of new noticeboards – D. Peate (Grounds Contractor) has received parts of the noticeboards and expecting delivery of the remaining items soon. D. Peate (Grounds Contractor) to install in liaison with Cllr Eyles.

d) VAS Signs – Action is needed to address the maintenance of batteries and enable the council to access data to the VAS Signs. Locum Clerk to look into this and liaise with Cllrs Hamlet and Mervyn on the matter.

e) To confirm venue and arrangements for Annual Parish meeting on 26th March – The Chair noted that the topics that will be discussed will be the school's status of joining the MAT, VE Day celebrations, local planning topics and the future of the village hall. The Chair encourages all councillors to attend this meeting and ask that they encourage residents to attend.

f) To consider arrangements for VE Day celebrations on 8th May – The Chair reported that the WI have expressed interest to merge their "Thank You Day" with celebrations for VE Day. Members agreed that they would like to light a beacon in the village on the evening of the 8th May and would like to involve the school. It was preferred that a street party event would take place on the 10th May potentially in Doctors Meadow. Members noted interest in holding a scarecrow festival event and "Best decorated house" competition as some ideas for the celebrations. There needs to be a working group to liaise all of this.

g) Introduction to new email accounts – It was agreed for the Locum Clerk to resend all email addresses and passwords to Councillors. All Members are encouraged to get access to their new parish council email address as soon as possible.

141/25 Training

Cllrs Mitchell and Paton will be attending Fundamentals for Councillors training on 11th February.

142/25 Finance reports

a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements. These were circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting and signed by two Councillors at the meeting.

143/25 Planning Decisions and Applications

a) There were no planning applications to consider at this meeting.

b) Members noted the follow decision:

Reference: 24/04574/FUL (validated: 04/12/2024)
Address: 1 Meadow Court Barns, Wykey, Ruyton XI Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1JA
Proposal: Timber stable building for private use
Decision: Grant Permission

Cllr Eyles noted that the planning link on the parish council's website is now live.

144/25 Future agenda items:
Cllr Eyles noted that there needs to be a discussion about getting quotes for the different possibilities for tracks or surface for land at Doctors Meadow Playing Field and solutions and funding needs to be investigated also.

Cllr Hamlet noted that there is a damaged roadside mirror near Victoria Rooms, D. Peate (Grounds Contractor) is going to look into costs for repair but Members agreed to have this on next the next agenda to see if we want to repair this mirror or remove it.

It was RESOLVED that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted:

145/25 Confidential Item: To receive an update on QE2 Field (in commercial confidence)
The Chair provided an update to members with regards to the QE2 Field.

146/25 Confidential Item: Employment
The Chair noted that the parish council had received applicants for the vacancy of Clerk. These applicants are being interviewed on Friday 7th February 2024 with Cllrs Coldwell, Eyles and Bibow conducting the interviews.

Mr C Furnival will be supporting the parish council in the interim as the appointed Locum Clerk from SALC.

147/25 Next Council meeting
4th March 2025 (Full Council), 7:00 pm at Victoria Rooms

The meeting closed at 21:14

Appendix A

Report from Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley

Parish Council: 4th February 2025

I'm afraid I shan't be at this evening's meeting. I was out walking the dog on Sunday afternoon and fell heavily on a steep slope coming down from a hump back bridge on the Montgomery Canal. I spent most of Sunday evening in A&E. Back home early on Monday morning - but only after promising to stay away from work for the rest of the week!

Baschurch Railway Station Project

The Railway Station campaign group met on the evening of January 30th to appraise the most recent report from railway consultants, SLC Rail. There is a meeting with the representatives of SLC next week, on February 10th at 1.00pm on Teams.

The Chair of Baschurch Parish Council proposed the view (which I support) that we should actively seek and promote additional housing development on land adjacent to the site for the new/reopened station.

The whole Parish Council meets on Monday February 3rd and will have the opportunity to discuss/endorse this proposition.

Planning/Highways

Formal enforcement action was commenced in respect of The Grange, Brownhill by SC Officers on December 11th, 2024. An Appeal has now been lodged which effectively suspends the Enforcement Notice for the time being.

The outcome of the current planning application at the "sandpit" Olden Lane (24/03767/OUT) is still undecided. I have been in email correspondence with the case officer. The applicant is preparing additional information to submit in support of his application.

The recent and very significant changes in national and local policy are also having an impact. I'm afraid that applications like this are much more likely to be approved in future. The Government has made it clear that achieving its objective of 1.5 million houses built before the next election is a very high priority and that so called "nimby" objections to development proposals should be disregarded.

I'm afraid that entirely reasonable concerns, e.g. over highway access might well be regarded as "nimby'!

Appendix B – Police Report

Parish – Ruyton XI Towns Report for the month of January 2025

Community priorities: 1. Speeding, 2. Theft, 3. Drugs

Priority 1.

No incidents directly reported about speeding

One RTC reported 03/01/25 – non-injury

Priority 2.

Nothing reported over this period.

Priority 3.

We have received information about drugs in the area and this information has been processed. Nothing further is disclosable about this.

We can take reports via West Mercia's website https://www.westmercia.police.uk/

Crimestoppers https://crimestoppers-uk.org/ or 0800 111 555

Or via us on SNT – oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Emerging trends - Requests for information - other.

We had a report from Packwood about a van attending and offering unsolicited work. They were turned away. No offences and no further reports. We have increased out patrols around there

We have dealt with one anti-social behaviour report – this is a neighbour issue

And there has been one crime; which is bound by data protection, but has no implications for the wider community.

Appendix C

Outgoing Clerk report February 2025

1. The Clerk has been informed about two sessions of training for 'Rules of debate at meetings'. These take place on Wednesday 19th March 2025, 6.30pm – 7.30pm or Wednesday 4th June 2025, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

2. The Clerk has contacted Highline to ask about the possibility of an inventory with what3words so that Council can confirm locations of streetlights. The inventory will take place in May at the same time as the testing of all the lights. The master spread sheet will then be updated.

3. The Clerk has submitted a VAT claim for £1043.26 for payments up to 31st December 2024. A further claim will be submitted by the new clerk for payments up to 31st March 2025.

5. The outgoing Clerk would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Councillors for their help and support during her employment with the Council. The Clerk has really enjoyed getting to know the Councillors, and the village, and will miss working with everyone. The Clerk would especially like to thank Cllrs Coldwell and Eyles who have worked so hard over the last year to stabilise the Council, ensure that it runs smoothly and is open and accountable to the residents of the Parish.