RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council meeting held at Victoria Rooms Ruyton XI Towns on Tuesday 7th January at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Trevor Allison, Tamarin Bibow (arrived 7.25pm) Kerry Coldwell (Chair), Paul Dean, Mervyn Eyles (Vice Chair), Rob Hamlett, Luke Penton, Anne Mitchell, Kate Mayne, Rachel Paton.
In attendance: 3 members of the public, Cllr Nick Bardsley SC
Absent:
In the absence of the Clerk, the minutes were taken by Cllrs Coldwell and Eyles, then by Cllr Bibow.

113/25 Welcome by Chairman
The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everybody and confirmed the housekeeping arrangements.

114/25 Apologies
None

115/25 Declarations of Interest
None received
116/25 Public Session
No members of the public wished to address the Council.

117/25 Minutes of the meeting held 3rd December 2024
Copies of the minutes have been distributed to members of the Council and displayed on the website. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting on 3rd December 2024, and these were approved and signed.

118/25 Reports
a) SC Cllr Nick Bardsley, see appendix a)
Cllr Bardsley reported that the government is seeking to rationalise the number of Local Authorities which may lead to Shropshire Council being merged with another neighbouring Authority
b) Police report: No report received
c) Clerk's Report, see appendix (b)
Noted that streetlight near Victoria Rooms is still not operational.
19:24 Cllr Hamlett arrives
19:25 Cllr Bibow arrives

119/25 Place Plan
The clerk reported that there have not been any updates to the Place Plan.

120/25 Community Infrastructure Levy update
Update from Roads Working Group. No update, Cllr Bardsley has again written to urge an early project board meeting.

121/25 Stone Cross Repair Update
Tenders were received within the time frame from two of the three companies invited to tender. It was **RESOLVED** to send the 2 tenders and Phil Whites quotes for listed building application and project management to the Loss Adjuster for approval/comment from the insurance company.

122/25 To approve any policies
No policy updates to consider

123/25 Parish Matters, updates from councillors
a) Street Lighting –It was **RESOLVED** to approve full testing of PC streetlights at cost of £325. Will ask maintainer for full inventory of lights with What3 Words locations

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b) Village Hall

i. –Cllr Bibow and Cllr Paton volunteered to attend the Village Hall Committee AGM on 8th January with a view to being considered and elected to Village Hall committee. If both are elected one would be the Parish Council representative. Cllr Eyles will update PC

ii. Quotes from solicitors to complete the Land Registration for the Village Hall. It was **RESOLVED** to instruct Katie Jones at Gough-Thomas and Scot Solicitors Oswestry

c) School

i. Understood that Scholl will join MAT in February 2025. Current Projects are All-Weather Playing Surface and update to EYFS area. Current head will be moving to new post in the MAT. PC will need to understand new communication channels. Also will need to discuss how any funds given to the MAT can be ring-fenced for Ruyton school. **RESOLVED** to ask the new MAT contact to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to give briefing on new set-up.

ii. AED maintenance discussed under Finance Section below

20:00 Cllr Mayne leaves

124/25 Training

It was **RESOLVED** to book 5 councillors, Cllrs Mayne, Paton, Mitchell, Dean and Bibow onto Fundamentals for Councillors training with SALC

125/25 Finance reports

a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the latest reconciliation of banking statements and schedule of payments. These were circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting and signed by two Councillors at the meeting. Chair will check with Clerk that two payments of same amount to SC were not duplicates

b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment of invoices received, totalling £786

07/01/2025	Highline Electrical	£63
07/01/2025	Dave Peate	£345
07/01/2025	Victoria Room Hire	£378
07/01/2025	Café XI Carol Expenses	£68.76

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £423.60 to St John Baptist School to contribute to the running costs of the defibrillator.

c) The budget for 2025-2026 was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that the precept would be increased to £33,744 for 2025-2026. Chair signed request which will be scanned and mailed to jameswalton@shropshire.co.uk

Another signatory was needed for financial transactions. Cllr Paton was nominated and accepted. Forms were completed and will be sent to Nationwide

126/25 Employment

The resignation of the Clerk was noted. Last day is 3rd Feb. Chair in contact with SALC to obtain locum for February meeting. Vacancy has been advertised and Staffing Committee will handle applications and interviews.

127/25 Planning Decisions and Applications

a) To consider and agree responses to planning applications

Reference: **24/04574/FUL**
Address: 1 Meadow Court Barns, Wykey, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
Proposed Development: Timber stable building for private use

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application

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b) To note planning decisions

Reference: **24/04287/FUL**
Proposed Development: Rear single storey extension.
Location: 7 The Quillets, Brownhill, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
Decision: Permission granted

Reference: **24/04375/FUL**
Address: Cliffe Cottage, Little Ness Road, Ruyton Xi Towns, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1NB
Proposal: Internal re organization and new side orangery to replace conservatory.
Decision: Pending

128/25 Future agenda items

Cllr Penton to write new hedges letter for approval

Maintenance kit for VAS signs

Plan installation of new noticeboards

Update on QE2 Field (in commercial confidence)

Severn Trent on response to letter

Venue and arrangements for Annual Parish meeting on 25th March

129/25 Next Council meeting 4th March 2025 (Full Council), 7:00 pm at Victoria Rooms

Meeting closed at 20:25

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Appendix A

Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council

Report from Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley

Parish Council: 7th January 2025

New Medical Centre: Prescott Surgery, Baschurch

A further meeting of the small group referred to in my report to your October 2024 meeting took place on December 13th.

There was a productive discussion, much of it focused on a scheduled visit to the existing surgery premises next month (on February 7th) by Helen Morgan MP.

Our MP is additionally the Lib Dem spokesperson on Health and Social Care. I'm sure she takes a particular interest in the provision of primary care in North Shropshire.

As Parish Councillors are aware, the Group Practice serves important areas outside Ruyton and Baschurch, in North Shropshire but also in the Shrewsbury constituency, particularly in Great Ness, Little Ness, Nesscliffe and Bomere Heath.

It is important therefore for Julia Buckley, Labour MP and for neighbouring SC Councillors to be kept in the loop. I'm hoping to arrange a further meeting with Julia Buckley MP in the near future.

Planning/Highways

The Parish Council may not be aware of the departure from Shropshire Council of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place, early in December 2024.

His responsibilities, pro tem, rest with the Chief Executive. Day to day management is delegated to two Assistant Directors:

Andy Wilde - infrastructure & growth
Jane Trethewey - homes & communities

I have written to Andy Wilde to express my concern at the continuing and very lengthy delay in progressing the project for CIL funded improvements in the village. There is still no date for a meeting of the Project Board which will need to be held before the updated scheme can be considered by the Parish Council.

Formal enforcement action was commenced in respect of **The Grange, Brownhill** by SC Officers on December 11th, 2024.

Local Plan, Planning Committees, NPPF

The Government's programme for accelerating the grant of planning permissions (particularly for housing estates) moved forward rapidly in the run up to Christmas and the New Year with:

- the start of consultations on the future of local planning committees. It is likely that in future the great majority of decisions will be made by Officers.
- the publication of the NPPF final document and the confirmation of a significantly increased annual housebuilding requirement for Shropshire, up from 1073 to 1994.

There is still no further word about the delayed examination of the draft Local Plan.

English Devolution White Paper

This is a lengthy and radical proposal which, when enacted, would abolish:

- all two tier LAs and create unitary authorities
- all existing unitary authorities with a population at or below 500,000.

Shropshire Council will therefore have to merge with at least one neighbouring LA.

The new unitaries will then be required to come together into a combined LA under a mayor who will also be the Police and Crime Commissioner and political head of the fire service.

There is a marked absence of detail in the White Paper and little on time scales - but there has been talk (by Government Ministers) about postponing 2025 Council elections, so that the delayed elections will be to the new Unitary LAs.

NB 250107

Appendix B

Clerk report January 2025

1) The SNT have asked 5 Councillors to complete a police survey form. The Clerk has circulated this to Councillors ahead of the meeting.
2) The Clerk and Chairman have been liaising with the ICO regarding an ongoing Freedom of Information Request. The ICO has confirmed that they are satisfied that the Parish Council did everything it reasonably could to provide the information requested however, due to staffing issues at the time, the Parish Council was in breach of the time limits for complying with the request. There is nothing further for the Parish Council to do at this time and we will be notified of any appeal.
3) Stone Cross update: It has been confirmed that Listed Building Consent will be required and a quote for a listed building application has been received from Phil White. Two quotes have been received for the work itself. All quotes will be considered under another agenda item
4) The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint regarding missing monkey bars at the Doctors Meadow and has reported this on Fix my Street.
5) The streetlight reported as broken has been repaired by Highline. The Clerk has received an inventory of the streetlights which will be compared to the existing asset register, and updated.
6) The Clerk has been contacted by St John Baptist School with a request for help with funding replacement batteries and pads for the defibrillator. The cost is £423.60. This will be considered as a finance agenda item.
7) The Clerk is working with Abbie Sylvester from Shropshire Council to complete the migration of emails over to outlook. Further updates will be provided once they are received.
8) The Clerk has received an interim audit report from the internal auditor. This has been sent to the Chairman and Vice Chair and any recommendations will be considered.
9) Fundamentals for New Councillors Training has been organised by SALC for February and June, and Cllr Paton will confirm whether she is able to attend one of the sessions.
10) The Clerk has complied a potential list of meeting dates which will be confirmed at the Annual meeting. These are as follows:

<u>2025 Meetings</u>

4th February
4th March
25th March Annual Parish Meeting
1st April
6th May
3rd June
1st July
2nd September
7th October
4th November
2nd December
6th January 2026

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