

RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Ripple Parish Hall, School Lane, Ripple, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 6EU

RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 20 January 2025 at Ripple Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs. M Peters (Chairman), I Davis, M Davis, P Turner CC M Allen(left at 19:35), D Cllr J Owenson

Attendees: Clerk/RFO M Hinde and 1 member of the public

Minutes of Ripple Parish Council Meeting

- 20.01.25.1 **To note apologies for absence and to confirm meeting is quorate**
Cllr I Davis sent apologies and the meeting was declared quorate
- 20.01.25.2 **To receive comments from the public – no decisions will be made on issues raised. Any items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting (NB Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that are not specified on the agenda (LGA 1972 Sch 12, paras 10 (2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)**
The Clerk advised that an email had been received from a resident who advised that the council could possibly attract more councillors if it reverted to splitting the meetings between the Village Hall and the community room at Beechwood Home. Councillors advised that due to a change in clientele since Covid Beechwood Home are now reluctant for meeting to be held there. The clerk also advised an email had been received from a resident regarding overgrown vegetation and the loss of a view from their kitchen. – Councillors advised there was nothing they could do about this as the vegetation was on private land. A resident raised the issue that a bin was going to be installed in Holly Green and it had not yet appeared. – Councillors explained that we have the bin but are struggling to find a suitable location for installation.
- 20.01.25.3 **To receive declarations of interest on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011)**
None
- 20.01.25.4 **To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2025**
COUNCIL APPROVED minutes from parish council meeting on 18th November 2024. The date on the agenda is incorrect.
- 20.01.25.5 **To receive Clerks Report and agree actions**
The Clerk advised that the .gov email addresses had been set up and an autoforward had been set up on the old emails so nothing is missed. The website template had been received and once it has been tweaked it will be sent out to councillors for approval.

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- Natural Networks grant has come through to cover the costs of the meadow area on the recreation ground.
Mainly been working on the budget
- 20.01.25.6 **To receive County Councillors report and agree actions**
The County Councillors report was received as per **APPENDIX 1**
- 20.01.25.7 **To receive District Councillors report and agree actions**
Cllr Owenson confirmed that it was all change at MHDC with a new leader. MHDC will be taken into a unitary authority. Councillors who have been at Malvern Hills for years are looking to leave a legacy. They will be looking at projects to help local areas to use up any reserves so they are not all absorbed by unitary authority. MHDC will be looking at Net Zero initiatives and whilst they know this is not possible as one of biggest contributions to emmissions is Malvern Splash they are looking to offset them. Finally the Rowing Lake plans will be at Upton Town Council next week to understand how to best use the land around it. Extraction should be finished by August 2026.
- 20.01.25.8 **Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting:**
- a) **To approve Payment of January 2025 payment list below and those paid since last meeting, to note receipts and agree actions**
COUNCIL APPROVED payment list totalling £1158.30 as per **APPENDIX 2**
 - b) **To approve bank reconciliation up to 3rd January 2025**
COUNCIL APPROVED bank reconciliation up to 3rd January 2025 as per **APPENDIX 3**
 - c) **To approve budget monitoring report up to 3rd January 2025**
COUNCIL APPROVED budget monitoring report up to 3rd January 2025 as per **APPENDIX 4**
 - d) **To approve 2025/26 Budget and agree actions**
Council APPROVED the budget as per **APPENDIX 5**
 - e) **To set precept for 2025/26**
COUNCIL AGREED to keep the precept at £31180 which would be a 0% increase.
- 20.01.25.9 **To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge**
COUNCIL AGREED to sign up to the civility and respect pledge
- 20.01.25.10 **To review the planning working group and agree actions**
COUNCIL AGREED for the whole council to be on the planning committee
- 20.01.25.11 **To review Cemex Liasion group and agree actions**
To be deferred to the next meeting
- 20.01.25.12 **To discuss the recruitment of new councillors and agree actions**

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- Council AGREED** to advertise the positions with a poster to try and catch more peoples eye. Cllr Peters advised he would make some changes and send the finished product to the Clerk.
- 20.01.25.13
20.01.25.13a
20.01.25.13b
20.01.25.13c
20.01.25.13d
20.01.25.14
- Planning
- Application No.** M/24/01605/LB. Associated
Ref:M/24/01606/HP
- Location** - Ryall Hill House, Ryall Lane, Ryall, Upton
Upon Severn, Worcester, WR8 0PN
- Description of Proposal** - Cabling associated with the
installation of 20no solar panels ground bearing
ballasted panels in containers within gardens (Listed
Building Consent)
- Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application
- Application No.** M/22/00883/OUT
- Location** - Land At (Os 8585 4093), Holly Green, Upton
Upon Severn
- Description of Proposal** - Outline planning application
with all matters reserved for the erection
of up to 70 residential dwellings.
- Council have sent an email to planning officer 02.01.25 asking
questions before they can make a response.
- Application No.** - M/24/01565/LB.
- Location** - Naunton Farm House, Naunton, Upton
Upon Severn, Worcester, WR8 0PZ
- Description of Proposal** - Installation of internal stairlift
- Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application
- Application No** - M/24/01663/FUL
- Location** - Station House, Station Road, Ripple,
Tewkesbury, GL20 6EY
- Description of Proposal** - Change of use to a mixed
use of dwellinghouse and events venue
- Council **OBJECTED** to this application
- To receive items for the next agenda
Moving Defib at The Beeches
Date of Next Meeting – 17th February 2025 changed to 24th February

Meeting Close – 20:02

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APPENDIX 1

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN

REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY 2025

Good evening and happy new year.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

UNITARY AUTHORITY'S

We now know that the government are instructing Worcestershire's district and county councils to become a Unitary Authority.

Currently, there are 57 County Councillors, their number would be increased to about 100 to 120 assuming that Worcestershire becomes its own Unitary Authority. This could well be the case; because the size of a Unitary Authority is 500K residents or more, and this fits in with the numbers for Worcestershire which are about 600K residents.

I understand that by April 2027 at the very latest all new unitary authorities are to be delivered.

The Conservative leader and the CEO have submitted a letter to the government requesting that Worcestershire is included in the first round. If this request is accepted, the May 2025 WCC elections would be cancelled, and Unitary Authority elections would take place in May 2026. We will know by the end of Jan 2025 if we are to be in the first wave. If so, a plan must be in place by the end of March this year. If we are not accepted into the first wave, a plan must be in place before the 1st of September 2025, otherwise the government will impose a decision upon us.

Maybe this is the time to seek what assets your council would like to either obtain or rent on a 99 year lease with a peppercorn rent.

COUNTY COUNCIL COULD GO BUST

It has been announced in the Council's Cabinet papers that Worcestershire County Council are facing a funding gap of £33.6 million for the next financial year, rising to £43.6 million the year after. The leader of the WCC has had to go cap in hand to the government asking for a bailout. Are vanity projects one of the main causes of the black hole?

The council may have to issue a section 114 notice, which is how an authority effectively declares itself bankrupt. Councils can't actually go bankrupt, but a section 114 notice, issued by its finance officer, means it cannot commit to new spending and makes service cuts more likely.

There are 20 odd councils also in the same boat, of which 4 are Unitary Authorities, of which I believe 2 were formed in 2023.

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Interestingly, any debts that current councils have would be passed to a new Unitary Authority.

COUNTY HALL

You may have heard that WCC are not going to move back into county hall. The costs to repair appear to be very high, and with the finances so perilous, no repairs are to be made. Currently, I don't know what the administration will do with the building and land.

KEPAX BRIDGE IN WORCESTER

This cycle and pedestrian bridge has now opened. It initially cost was just under £5m, I am very disappointed to say that it has in fact now cost the taxpayer approximately £18M, although the final total has not been calculated and is expected to rise. I am very disappointed that the current administration was unable to keep a grip on the finances. I believe there should be a public enquiry so that WCC can learn from this terrible financial blunder.

On Demand Bus

This is now free for Veterans from 0930 each day. Also, you can now use the bus to go to Ledbury.

RYALL EAST QUARY APPLICATION & RIPPLE SCHOOL LANE QUARY FOR MINERALS APPLICATION (CEMEX)

The earliest the application can now come before the planning committee at County Hall is February.

RYALL GROVE FOOTWAY

I have finally got a break through with the pavement in Ryall Grove. WCC have now agreed to refurbishing the pavement as per the map I sent you on 06.01.25. I am a little concerned that this work depends upon a budget that has not yet been produced.

GULLY IN NAUNTON #8644 AND SEVERN TRENT

I have reported a blocked/damaged gully in Naunton adjacent to telegraph pole number 222. Also, I met residents about the Severn Trent sewage issues.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

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70 HOMES AT THE MARINA/HOLLY GREEN NOV

70 Homes on the A4104 at Holly Green – This has again gone out to consultation; this site is in the SWDP allocation and has received planning permission in the past. This application is outlaying only and it will not determine the type and exact location of any properties.

LAND AT HOLLY GREEN FOR 27 HOMES AND 1 X SHOP

I still have no more news; this is progressing through the planning process.

SWDP-R UPDATE

The team have done an excellent job in getting the evidence to the Inspectors by the 31.12.2024 deadline.

The Councils have now submitted:

1. All transport modelling including the Statement of Common Ground with the County Council and National Highways
2. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan
3. The Viability Report
4. The GTAA Intensification Report
5. Two additional topic papers on specialist forms of housing
6. The response to the Inspectors' 5YHLS note

The Hearing dates have now been published and will commence on Tuesday the 4th of March 2025; it is only programmed in for 4 weeks.

Once that hearing is completed, the SWDPR will gain considerable weight.

NPPF

The government have produced a new version.

PAVEMENT LICENSING POLICY

In late December I sent you a copy of an email I had received from MHDC about Pavement Licensing Policy. You have until the 29th of January to respond. If you haven't already done so, could I urge you to complete the questionnaire. I do believe that local councils should have a say on any pavement licence application or change.

Warmest Regards

Cllr Martin Allen

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APPENDIX 2

Payment Made since 18.11.24

PKF Littlejohn	252
Portch Services	132
Portch Services	1098
PCC Ripple	200
Lengthsman	330.35
Parish Online	342
lonos	19.2
three	6
Clerk	917.02
three	6
lonos	19.2
Lengthsman	335.75
Clerk	917.02
TOTAL	4574.54

RECEIPTS SINCE 18.11.24

WCC	478
WCC	1220.98
TOTAL	1699.43

PAYMENTS TO AUTHORISE

Clerk Mileage	£6.30
Portch Services	£1,152
TOTAL	£1,158.30

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APPENDIX 3

19 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Ripple Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Bank Reconciliation at 14/01/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		22,241.35
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 14/01/2025		31,735.25
			53,976.60
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 14/01/2025		23,210.57
A	Cash in Hand 14/01/2025 (per Cash Book)		30,766.03
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/12/2023	0.00	
	Current Account 14/01/2025	15,374.41	
	Deposit Account 14/01/2025	15,391.62	
			30,766.03
	Less unrepresented payments		30,766.03
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		30,766.03
	A = B Checks out OK		

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APPENDIX 4

Ripple Parish Council

Budget Monitoring Report

	2023-24	2024-25	Income	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	% Budget Used
Subscriptions/Association Membership	£1,013.00	£1,200.00			59.5	1124.98										1184.48	98.71
Newsletter/Adverts/Flyers	£301.00	£350.00						69								69	19.71
Insurance	£700.00	£750.00								661.66						661.66	88.22
Grass Cutting/Trees	£7,300.00	£5,460.00				2340		780		1300						4420	80.95
Langthorpe	£4,385.00	£3,200.00	£2,963.50	332.15	415.3	328.55	411.25	331.21	331.25	328.1	330.35		335.75			£180.41	5.68
Chairmans Allowance	£100.00	£100.00														0	0.00
Prof Fees/Audit	£230.00	£260.00									252					252	96.92
Clerks Expenses	£756.00	£800.00		6	6	477.19	6	135.88	78.3	69.4	31	47	31			887.77	116.51
Clerks Salary, including payroll costs	£10,479.00	£11,500.00		888.92	888.92	888.72	888.92	888.72	961.22	893.97	1078.66	891.02	891.02			9160.09	79.65
Donations										20	200						
Annual Public Meeting	£257.00	£300.00				150										150	50.00
Hall Hire	£114.00	£160.00														0	0.00
Repairs	£662.00	£700.00														0	0.00
Recreation Ground Maintenance	£2,000.00	£2,000.00						750.89			1025					1775.89	88.79
Tree Survey/Maintenance	£1,500.00	£750.00														0	0.00
Website	£1,000.00	£500.00		19.2	38.4	19.2	38.4	19.2		32	342		16			524.4	104.88
Admin/Training	£100.00	£200.00								84	43.19					127.19	63.60
Clerks Equipment	£131.00	£200.00														0	0.00
Diffs	£0.00	£500.00														0	0.00
Bus Support	£150.00	£500.00														0	0.00
Handyman	£0.00	£250.00														0	0.00
Waste Bins	£2,000.00	£1,500.00				243.88										243.88	16.26
Total	£33,176.00	£31,180.00		£1,246.27	£1,408.12	£5,422.52	£1,494.57	£2,974.90	£1,370.77	£3,389.13	£3,302.20	£938.02	£1,273.77	£0.00	£0.00	£100,000.00	62.98

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APPENDIX 5

Bushley Parish Council Budget 2025-26						
EXPENSES						
Cost Code	Budget 24-25	Actual Expenditure 24-25	Forecast 24-25	Total Forecasted Expenditure 24-25 Actual + Forecast	Variance to budget	Proposed Budget 2025-26
Subscriptions	1200.00	1184.48	0.00	1184.48	15.52	1215.00
Newsletter/Adverts/Flyers/Media	350.00	69.00	0.00	69.00	281.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00	-220.00	223.00
Insurance	750.00	661.66	0.00	661.66	88.34	678.00
Grass Cutting/Trees	5460.00	3900.00	0.00	3900.00	1560.00	3998.00
Lengthsman	3200.00	4129.56	1321.40	5450.96	-2250.96	3016.00
Chairmans Allowance	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Prof Fees/Audit	260.00	252.00	0.00	252.00	8.00	259.00
Clerks Expenses	800.00	327.78	125.00	452.78	347.22	356.00
Clerks Salary	11500.00	7092.50	3629.16	10721.66	778.34	11378.00
Annual Public Meeting	300.00	150.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	154.00
Hall Hire	160.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	5.00	159.00
Repairs	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00
Vehicle Activated Sign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tree Survey/Maintenance	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
Website	500.00	470.00	0.00	470.00	30.00	385.00
Admin/Training	200.00	127.19	0.00	127.19	72.81	200.00
Clerks Equipment	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	100.00
Defib	500.00	29.99	0.00	29.99	470.01	230.00
BUS	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
HANDYMAN	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
Waste Bins	1500.00	243.88	0.00	243.88	1256.12	250.00
Recreation Ground	2000.00	1650.74	0.00	1650.74	349.26	1692.00
Bench	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll charges	0.00	103.35	92.10	195.45	-195.45	0.00
HMRC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1400.00
Association Memberships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Software	0.00	460.58	0.00	460.58	-460.58	487.00
Election fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Continuation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00
TOTAL	31180.00	21072.71	5322.66	26395.37	4784.63	31180.00