

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

No	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr. Slocombe</p>
2.	<p>Present Cllrs. A Berry (Chair), D Lamb, A Jones, M Grinnell-Moore, S Jackson (SDC), C Williams (WCC) and J Obbard, Clerk. 7 members of the public were present – John Hopkins, Robin Flintoff, Sue Flintoff, Mark Orr, Gwen Thornton, Carol-Ann Mahler and Val Ingram from Shotteswell PC.</p>
3	<p>District Councillors Report Cllr. Jackson presented his annual report This is shown in full in Appendix 1.</p> <p>County Councillors Report</p> <p>County Cllr. Williams précised his annual report. This is shown in full in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Questions:- There is already a ‘mini fire station’ at the Jaguar Landrover site – Yes, this is understood, however the station will be upgraded but will still not be a ‘full station’ in the normal sense.</p> <p>Is there any coordination between the Fire Service and the MOD fire service? - yes if there is an incident the MOD will assist. WCC are in close cooperation with them.</p> <p>Do WCC have any influence regarding the ‘Superfast Broadband’ roll out? – Cllr. Williams shared the frustration being shown with this project, particularly as it did not seem to be fulfilling the expectations for many communities such as Ratley, Edgehill and Upton. He expressed his belief that the project management and delivery was improving but, alas, WCC had little influence regarding the choice of communities for implementation.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2013 These were proposed by Cllr. Lamb, seconded by Cllr. Grinnell-Moore as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings. This was agreed by all.</p> <p>The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising from previous meeting The Chairman summarised the minutes from the last meeting. There were no matters arising as all actions from that meeting had been transferred to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting to enable more rapid resolution</p>
6.	<p>Annual Financial Statement. The Clerk presented the annual accounts for April 2013 to March 2014 and pointed out that these were provisional as they had not yet been fully audited. For the eighth year running the Precept had been kept at the same level of £10,000.</p> <p>The largest expenditure was, again, grass cutting of playing fields, verges etc., followed by Clerks Salary, donations to Village Hall and Ratley PCC.</p> <p>The closing total balance was £10,619.26 which was an increase of £994.10 from the previous year due to VAT refund imbalances. Total end of year balance is in line with March 2012 (which was £10,625.03 – a movement of only +£5.77 over 2 years). It was pointed out that would change for the following year due to a number of additional</p>

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	<p>expenses, including street light replacement.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council accounts were public documents. The 2013/14 accounts will be available for inspection between 2nd June and 15th June at the Clerks address (7, Grange Close, Ratley – 07748903260)</p>
7.	<p>Local Community Reports</p> <p>7.1 Ratley Village Hall. This was presented by Robin Flintoff, Chair of the Village hall Committee. The full report is attached in Appendix 3.</p> <p>7.2 - Ratley Parochial Church Council This report was prepared and presented by Mark Orr. The full report is attached in Appendix 4.</p> <p>7.3 - Ratley Youth club. This report was prepared by Shona Walton and read by the Chairman. The full report is attached in Appendix 5.</p> <p>7.4 – Tysoe School This report was prepared by Judith Walsh, Chair of Tysoe C of E Primary School Governing Body – read by the Clerk. The full report is attached in Appendix 6.</p> <p>7.5 - Welfare Trust. Cllr. Lamb gave a brief overview of the activities of the Welfare Trust and presented the accounts. These are shown in Appendix 7.</p> <p>7.6 - Ratley WI This report was prepared and presented by Sue Flintoff, President of Ratley & District WI. The full report is attached in Appendix 8.</p> <p>7.7 – Ratley Table Tennis Club. Cllr. Lamb reported that it was disappointing year as we had previously been promoted to a league in which we were outclassed – relegation looms again. Next year we are hoping to run a second team and run some practice sessions weekly. On a more positive note I can report that we finished runners-up in the handicap cup tournament.</p>
8.	<p>Chairman’s Report The Chairman presented his annual report of the activities of the Parish Council and the community. This is précised in Appendix 9.</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Business Mrs Mahler took the opportunity to promote the Summer Fete – 21st June on the Recreation Ground – A battle re-enactment group will be performing and will be camping out on the Rec. There is a meeting to discuss arrangements in the Rose and Crown on 13th June.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 20:20</p>

Signed (Chairman) _____

Date _____

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Appendix 1 – District Councillors Report.

A major pre-occupation for the District Council over the last 12 months has been the preparation and delivery of its Core Strategy – or its planning ‘blue –print’ over the next 20 years.

After a number of setbacks and delays (not always of the Council’s making) the final draft of the Strategy was approved for submission by the Council on 12th May – meaning that it will now be subject to a further 6 weeks public consultation before going forward for an examination in public presided over by a member of the Government’s Planning Inspectorate.

The Core Strategy does identify Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath as a key strategic site capable of delivering up to 2,500 homes over the period up to 2031 as well as providing sufficient industrial land to satisfy Jaguar/LandRover’s development plans.

The total house building programme proposed for the entire District over the period up to 2031 is 10,800 , equivalent to an average build of 540 homes per annum.

This aside, your District Council for the third year running has delivered a nil increase in its portion of our Council Tax making it still the lowest charging local authority in Warwickshire and amongst the lowest nationally. This is despite a further reduction of 11% in central Government funding, and even so, the Council is endeavouring to maintain its essential front line services at their current level – including our refuse & recycling service which thanks to residents’ participation and practice continues to achieve very high levels of disposal meaning that far less of our rubbish is consigned to landfill – an environmental plus.

Reduction in operating costs is a continuing priority for your District Council and to this end other initiatives include extending the programme of joint working with other Councils and the reduction of the number of D/Cllrs from 53 to 36; and accompanying this, to introduce all out elections throughout the District in 2015 on a 4 yearly cycle instead of 1/3rds as at present.

Against these economies of scale, the Council remains committed to providing more affordable homes for local people where the opportunities to do so arise, will continue to support tourism across the District, and do the same for voluntary organisations such as Citizens Advice within the bounds of affordability.

At a more local level, the Chairman’s Report will I’m sure give a good summation of everything that has gone on in the Parish over the last 12 months and I commend the Parish Council for all

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its dedication and good house keeping. Likewise, the other village organisations who contribute so importantly and effectively to the continuing vitality of this community.

Just picking up on a couple of planning related issues – firstly, I remain aware of some unresolved enforcement cases in the Parish that will continue to receive my close attention.

Secondly I just want to touch on the matter of onshore wind turbines. Some will recall the rejection of a wind farm application between Bishops Itchington and Knightcote that was appealed against, the result of which is still awaited. And then more recently, the application for a single 77m high wind turbine at Mollington which has been rejected by Cherwell DC and may be appealed.

I hold the view that as a consequence of wind turbines' universal unpopularity, and indications of some retreat of further proliferation of them on the Gov't's part, that we may see more applications coming forward for less visually intrusive Solar Farms – for example one such recently was at Deppers Bridge which was only narrowly rejected at Planning Committee.

On a personal level may I just report and confirm that this is the last occasion on which I shall address the Annual Meeting of this Parish as I do not intend to stand for re-election in 2015 when the Parish under the revised boundary review, coupled with the reduction in the number of Cllrs, will become part of the Red Horse Ward comprising the villages and communities of Avon Dassett, Compton Wynyates, Farnborough, Oxhill, Radway, Shotteswell, Tysoe, Warmington and Whatcote.

In the meantime I am being proposed to become Chairman of the District Council for the 2014/15 Council Year and although this may mean that my attendance record at your regular meetings will not be all that I would wish, residents can count on my continued support and commitment to represent their best interests through, and at, the District Council.

I conclude as I always see fit to do which is on behalf of the District Council to thank the Parish Council for all it does in such a conscientious and professional way for the benefit of all the residents, and for contributing to making this such a pleasant place to live in.

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Appendix 2 – County Councillor’s Report

This is a relatively quiet period for the County Council with little happening that would have a direct impact upon Ratley & Upton. We have already been preparing our strategy for the financial implications of the restrictions placed upon the operation of all the services offered by the County Council.

A year ago I reported to the Parish that having just completed a four year £60 million savings plan, it was predicted that we could be asked to save a further £70 million. The harsh reality is that Warwickshire, as with most County Councils, has been asked to find savings greater than the original projections. We have been told by government to find some £92 million savings over the next three years. I am afraid it is not a light at the end of the tunnel, rather a train coming the other way. This scenario has led to a complete re-think as to how local government can be funded. One suggestion is that County Councils should consider forming Unitary Authorities with other Districts and Boroughs in their County. On the face of it, this is a good idea. However, delivering such an amalgamation is harder than one first imagines, although the savings through efficiencies, over a three year period, could clearly equate to the sum Warwickshire County Council is being asked to find. There will be much debate before any decision is taken and the earliest, I believe, any recommendation could be put to the public would be 2017.

Among my many responsibilities, I have specific responsibility for Corporate Parenting which covers such things as Children’s Centres, Fostering, Adoption and Children in Care. Our Children’s Centres have just gone through a period of re-organisation and I am pleased to say that our local Children’s Centre at Lighthorne Heath has established a network of outreach workers who work away from the Centre and help parents in their own homes enabling their children to prepare for school. Warwickshire is recognised as having a fine Adoption Service and we are recognised as the leading authority meeting all government targets and are considered the best in the West Midlands. Currently, we have some 750 children in care and the search for Foster Parents is a never-ending task.

‘Difficult Families’ Team - One piece of good news is that the team who look after ‘Difficult Families’ have been voted the most effective team in the West Midlands. There are currently 825 cases of ‘Difficult Families’ in Warwickshire and this figure has fallen in the past 12 months by some 200.

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The extraordinary wet weather during the winter has raised the fear of flooding. I am pleased to say that not one single property in Warwickshire was actually flooded. The definition of 'household flooding' is when water enters and covers the kitchen floor. Gardens might have been flooded but fortunately Warwickshire did not experience the problems of the Somerset Levels. Flood prevention has been a major cost centre for the County over the last 15 years and without becoming very apparent the measures that have been implemented over this time in conjunction with the Environment Agency has ensured that Warwickshire has shown a remarkable improvement in managing the threat of flooding.

Last winter, whilst extremely wet, was not as cold as usual but the persistent wet weather has produced a plague of potholes. With the aid of grants we have mounted a major project of identifying where the roads need repair and Warwickshire has again reached its rightly deserved accolade of the finest maintained highways in the West Midlands.

Broadband – Update on where we are.

The Fire Service has entered into Public Consultation on how savings of some £2.4 million can be effected. There will be no closure of any Fire Stations in Warwickshire. In essence, we hope to change how we use whole time Fire Fighters, the way we spend our money on prevention activity and a Review of our strategic management team. The principal proposals:

- (i) more fire engines and fire fighters available between the peak hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- (ii) change firefighters' shifts
- (iii) have one fire engine with whole-time duty system crew available 24 hours per day at various locations including an additional response team based at the Jaguar Land Rover facility at Gaydon
- (iv) changing the minimum access time to rural incidents which currently stand at 20mins to 10mins.

If anyone would like to complete our Consultation Form they can be found on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue

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Emergency Planning – A full day exercise was carried out on Tuesday based upon Kineton village. I know that Ratley & Upton is completing its Resilience Plan and whilst it is not yet adopted part of the exercise is ensuring that all local parishes have in place an up-to-date Emergency Plan.

Elections for European Parliament – These elections take place on Thursday 22nd May and the results will be declared on Sunday evening

I will, of course, be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division – WCC
21.05.2014.

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Appendix 3 - Ratley village Hall annual report

Ratley Village hall Chairman of Trustees report to Village meeting May 2014 (charity No. 522987)
We are now starting the fifth year into the "Hall for the Future" project. The hall continues to be a vital community resource. Users continues to grow slowly, as do the number of groups and activities that provide recreational, health and intellectual stimulation to all who use them. Local people continue to be inventive with their ideas for using the hall recreationally.

The rural cinema scheme is an abiding great success particularly the early showing of feature length cartoons to young children who represent nearly a third of our population of users. The fee for them is about a quarter the commercial cinema charges allowing large families to bring all of their small children for less than the price of one child at a 'Chain' venue. Adult showings vary in their attendance but have a growing following and some films are 'packed out'. Again the fees are less than half that of local commercial venues. Films are now shown at parties using the Friends of Ratley Village hall license.

Most of the clubs and societies are continuingly supported and are available throughout the week. These comprise Yoga on Monday, Karate on Tuesday, sewing on alternate Wednesdays and Table Tennis on ad hoc basis for matches. In addition the Mums and Toddlers have their own ad hoc events. The WI meet every month. This year has seen a round of annual and new events; a children's Christmas party, a Christmas Fair, a New Year's Eve party, a WI dinner, a Harvest Supper and a Flower and Produce show.

The Youth club continues to thrive and use the facilities for club nights and special events The 'Youth Wing' association with the Village hall directly benefits both organisations and provides much appreciated support for local young people in the community.

Hiring's for private and community open invitations for family and friends to celebrate a Christening, a birthday or the passing of the life of a loved one or a wedding have continued to develop in the newly refurbished hall. Increasingly the Trustees see a market for these events and recognise the advantage they have in a facility of such quality in attracting hiring's from outside if the fees can be set at an appropriately competitive level to subsidise local activities. Tables and chairs are also hired for other community outside events in the local area such as the Gliding club and the Avon Dassett fete. Chairs continue to be 'on loan' to Balscote village hall for their long term benefit. The hall is used by the local Vets for organising and hosting regional meetings and talks.

There are still avenues to pursue such as healthcare and information and the Trustees are aware of the benefits they should bring to the community with such services locally centred at the hall.

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The hall is fully engaged with the community and continues to progress. The more people who use the hall the more knowledge about what a wonderful facility it is spreads abroad. Several outside bookings have been made and continue to be made on the basis of the impact it has on first viewing. Letters are often received post event commenting on the quality of the hall and how much people have enjoyed taking part in an family celebration there; almost a home from home. There is no problem in recruiting people for events because they know they will be going to a warm, welcoming place that works well for them. The multi-space usage continues to be an area to be developed.

Typical of this volunteer support is the sub-group concerned with the annual parish fete. They have another event planned for June 21st.

The Trustees are conscious of the need to recruit new Trustees. This may require managed change in the community as the Chair, who has done 20 years in the job, does not wish to continue indefinitely and the secretary cannot keep being appointed on a temporary arrangement. Other Trustees have been in post for longer in one capacity or another. The community will need to be made aware of day, not far away, when they will no longer stand at the AGM for re-election. A radical 'sea change' is needed with a whole new team putting themselves forward en bloc to take over the running of this much valued and cherished institution. I can assure them far from being viewed as newcomers they will be welcomed with open arms.

Whilst a small charity must always rely heavily on volunteer effort it should also be recognised that the Caretaking and cleaning of the hall is vital if its quality is to be maintained. We are very pleased to have appointed Ken Marples and Mary Houguez to these respective positions.

b) Review of financial performance [Prior year figures in brackets]

Total income £ 12,338 [£ 10,783] comprising:

Hall hire £ 3,253 [£ 3,078]

Grants and donations £ 5,437 [£ 2,831]

Hall events £ 1,528 [£ 2,795]

Feed in Tariff £ 1,096 [£ 1,434]

Other £ 1,023 [£ 646]

Total costs £ 13,655 [£ 14,642] comprising:

Insurance £ 2,160 [£ 1,994]

Electricity £ 1,127 [£ 1,982]

Council Tax £ 1,719 [£ 1,672]

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Cost of hall events £ 1,377 [£ 1,912]

Depreciation £ 5,545 [£ 5,617]

Other £ 1,727 [£ 1,465]

Profit before depreciation £ 4,228 [£ 1,759]

Loss after depreciation £ 1,317 [£ 3,859]

Financially, the Hall charity has settled in to a new cyclical regimen. Despite the ongoing low level of economic activity nationally bookings have increased modestly but we continue to be short of our target of full usage. Some groups have filled the daytime slots but this period of the day remains a challenge for marketing. The hall has maintained its utility provision 24 hours a day. A mild winter has helped with our heating costs.

The 'Feed in Tariff' scheme is now a vital component of our finances. The generation of electricity by our micro-technologies will now receive a payment on a metered basis for the next 24 years.

The Trustees recognise the Hall charity has the responsibility to 'occupy and use the hall for the charity's purposes or let it for maximum return' but it is also clear that fee levels are a major issue within the community and getting the balance right remains a challenge and a risk to the charity. At the moment we have the balance just about right and have recommended a minimal fee increase in 2013 /14 and have maintained a good service despite rising costs of utilities and insurance.

The Hall charity has secured a £500 grant from the Ratley and Upton Parish Council to help in its provision of local activities and events to the local community and with its operating expenses. This is an invaluable contribution to the Trustees in their management of their finances and they are very grateful for the award. It is planned that the hall will make the request for this support again in 2014.

The business plan and marketing strategy still need to be put into operation to secure further increases in usage and income from fees especially as we emerge from recession. It is recognised that a significant contribution is the market for family events both inside and outside the immediate community. One full day function hire a month would go some way to making the hall self sufficient on an annual basis.

The Trustees need to plan now looking forward for the maintenance and replacement of equipment fixtures and fittings. It will be much easier to ensure funding is available over the long term to cover re-decoration or replacement if this is started immediately as a budget item. Perhaps the 'FIT' can make a significant contribution to this area.

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The Trustees are extremely grateful to Adrian for his continued time and expertise with equipment and fittings, along with Shona Walton, to the hall facilities. It has enhanced our provision and therefore our hiring ability significantly.

The Trustees were very sad to hear of the passing away of Pat Brazier. She was one of their long-time supporters holding officers posts and as a Trustee representing the PCC and in later years had maintained its flower tubs which improve the appearance of the car park. We will miss her cheerful optimism.

The Trustees recognise there is a need to bring forward the maintenance of the benches and the new caretaker will engage on this task now the weather has improved. The primary long term aim of the Trustees lie with the main roof. It is recognised that the guttering needs renewal and the main roof itself needs assessing for both short term and longer term repair. This is phase 2 of the refurbishment and will probably need a new generation of fund raisers to see it through.

There are long term challenges for the hall with rising costs and the need to get on with phase 2 of the refurbishment but the hall remains in good heart and reasonably fit and able to fulfil its obligations to the community in the foreseeable future.

This report was presented to the meeting on May 21st 2014 by the Chair of Trustees Robin Flintoff

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Appendix 4 - Ratley PCC Report

St Peter ad Vincula Church, Ratley

Report from PCC to Annual Parish Meeting – 21st May 2014

There has been no change in the pattern of services during the past year, with weekly services apart from August. We are varying the Village Service, on the second Sunday of the month, by holding a Family Friendly Service in the afternoon to cater for young families. Messy Church on a Saturday also continues successfully. Pub Church remains popular but will not be held over the next three months as Barry Jackson will be taking a well-earned sabbatical break.

Special services during the year included one for Women's World Day of Prayer, Harvest Festival and Supper, Remembrance Day, a combined Songs of Praise and Gift Day, Carol and Crib Services and the Good Friday Walk with services in each churchyard. Unfortunately we have had several funerals this year but we also happily had a wedding and a baptism.

As always we are very grateful to all who help with church cleaning and the flower rota, and our organists and the Festival Choir. As regards church maintenance we thank John Wrench for all his help and also those who took part in a churchyard working party last July.

As usual the main social event was the Christmas Bazaar but the sporting theme of the previous year was continued with a Half Marathon at Compton Verney and, recently, the first Edgehill Masters Golf Tournament at Drayton where players from Ratley performed well! The sponsored 'Ride and Stride' was not as well supported possibly due to a clash of dates. The Fosse Food Bank continues its good work and acts as a social hub as well.

On the financial side the PCC has met all its commitments and has broken even again. However we have to plan some major maintenance works over the next year to satisfy the requirements of the 5 yearly architect's report. The PCC is very grateful to all those who support the church on Gift Day and to the Parish Council for the regular support for grass cutting.

Mark Orr, Lay Chair of PCC.

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Appendix 5 – Ratley Youth Club Report

The Youth Club had 17 members for most of last year, as memorably demonstrated by their appearance as the von Trapp Family at last July's Summer Cocktail on the Lower Rec. Former members contributed as sound engineer's assistant (which contributed to his Duke of Edinburgh Award) and backstage minder.

Who can forget the line of children dressed in old curtains singing of their favourite things, the Banks children tearing apart the teddy in the playroom, or the pick-pockets running through the audience? Or indeed the 64 costume changes. Thanks to Julie Zwolinski for inspired design and tailoring, Adrian Berry for sound and lighting, Ken Marples for sets and staging and Lisa Curtlin for 90 hours of accompaniment. The opportunity for children to work together with adults to produce a high-quality performance will have an impact long into their futures. It was certainly a learning experience for the adults from which we have almost recovered.

Kare Adenagan, the young paralympic hopeful sponsored in her first race in 2012 by the Youth Club and who was the guest of honour at the show, has gone on to win the London mini-marathon and is now an international athlete representing Team GB at the Diamond League in Glasgow and the London Anniversary Games in July. We follow her success with pride.

Charitable fund-raising exceeded even the #400 of last year and resulted in cheques for £205 each to Save the Children UK (The Disasters Emergency Committee charity that caters for children affected by Hurricane Haiyan) and Cancer Research UK, the two charities chosen by youth club members at Christmas 2013.

Thanks to Adrian Berry and Robin Flintoff and the Rose and Crown, for giving us another memorable and safe Bonfire Night with spuds'n'beans, and to the supporters who contributed to the Community Christmas Card and Carol Singing.

Youth Club funds have been massively helped by a match-funded ladies-only film singalong organised by Elaine McCauley and other mums.

There have been over twenty Youth Club Friday events for members, enabling them to develop new skills, and relationships, including:

- Volley ball on the Rec
- Roller Disco

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- Bowling
- Canoeing
- Swimming
- Circus skills
- Christmas Crafts

We continue to be indebted to our programme organisers Ruth Todd, Susie Backhouse and Sarah Jarvis and backroom support of Claire and Stuart Brown as Secretary and Treasurer. The Chair has completed four new DBS checks and comprehensive insurance cover to ensure that all of our eleven Youth Leaders are appropriately covered.

The Club would like to make particular thanks to Ruth Todd who will be stepping down as Programme Organiser after ten years. This transition highlights the issue of succession planning for voluntary groups in a small community. The Chair and Secretary have held their positions for over 20 years and would welcome nominations for elections in the autumn.

The Management Committee would like to make a special mention of Pat Brazier whose imagination and persistence over thirty years ago brought the Youth Club into existence.

Shona Walton
Chair - Ratley Youth Club

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Appendix 6 — Report from Tysoe C of E Primary School

Report from Tysoe C of E Primary School

Dated: 19 May 2014

Tysoe C of E Primary is the parish catchment primary school for Ratley, Upton, Edgehill as well as Whatcote, Oxhill, Radway and Tysoe. Children attend from all these villages and approximately 30% from out of catchment villages such as Little Kineton, Temple Hardwyke, Brailes, Shenington, Honington and Whichford.

In the 2013/2014 academic year we have a total 165 children on roll, and this is forecasting to fall in September for the new academic year. Falling pupil numbers are a feature of all local schools and this creates an increasing pressure on school finances. Tysoe is also striving to meet its budget commitments whilst maintaining the current class structure. Recent developments for additional housing is forecast to have a positive effect on pupil numbers across the Kineton cluster of which Tysoe is a key member.

Mark Walsh is the acting head teacher for 2 terms until September 2014 following the resignation of the previous headteacher at Christmas. The change of leader has caused some concern among parents as they have been used to a particularly stable staffing structure.

With regard to future strategy the governing body have agreed with Wellesbourne C of E Primary School to form a Joint Working Group of governors and senior staff to start exploratory discussions around closer collaboration between the two schools. Warwickshire Local Authority and the Coventry Diocese have worked in recent years with a number of Warwickshire schools to establish successful collaboration arrangements between schools which have brought enormous educational benefits to those schools involved. Schools work together to realise these benefits whilst retaining their own identity, ethos and culture.

The Tysoe governing body comprises the headteacher and elected members and volunteers from the parish. It is chaired by Judith Walsh and the finance and resources committee is chaired by Becky Goodman. Claire Elford is a parent governor and she has a safeguarding role and is a member of the Collaboration working group. Many parents from Ratley also support school on a daily basis, helping with school trips, reading to pupils and general class teacher support.

The school's last Ofsted inspection was graded 'Requires Improvement'. 'Good' features were identified and a full report is available on the Ofsted website. The school is working to secure a 'Good' grading at the next inspection due towards the end of 2014. The key areas for development are 'Quality of teaching' and 'Leadership' which are being addressed by the current

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head with support of experienced leaders from within the Kineton cluster schools. Professional development is a key area and the involvement of new staff will be a great benefit to Tysoe staff. One of the school's key strengths is that 'pupils have made good progress and attained high standards in recent years'. Furthermore, children's behaviour and safety also continue to be a key strength.

Most children from classes 5 and 6 have visited Marle Hall again this year, this is a regular annual fixture in the school calendar and offers children a wide range of outdoor activities as well as an opportunity to experience life away from home , often for the first time. A majority of children from Ratley and Edgehill are pupils, as were many older children who now attend senior school, university and beyond.

The school bus is still the focal point of morning activity in Ratley and Edgehill and we are pleased that Warwickshire County Council have agreed to continue funding the bus assistant to help the many younger children on their trip to school. Parents have been very vocal in their support and successful to date. Parking remains a major problem in Tysoe at school times so the continued use of the bus by a majority of children will help the community overall. One parent also cycles to school.

The head teacher and governors welcome all parishioners to visit school; the Christmas concerts, school assemblies and open days all provide opportunities for parents, relations and friends to visit our school. Please support us, you will be very welcome.

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Appendix 7 – Ratley & Upton Welfare Trust Report

RATLEY AND UPTON WELFARE TRUST

Charity Commissioners Registered No. 217491

Trustees:

Mr Keith Smith
Mrs Claire Brown
Mr Mike Parkes
Mrs Terry Walters
Mr John Walters
Dr Gary Fisher
Mrs Rebecca Fisher

Secretary:

Mrs Veronika Lamb
2 Grange Close, Ratley
Banbury, OX15 6DP
Tel. 01295 670291
Email: david.lamb36@btinternet.com

Report for the Annual Parish Open Meeting on 21nd May 2014

The Clerk reported:

Income from the Financial Year 01/03/2013 to 28/02/2014	£1487.83
Brought forward from year ending 28/02/2013	£ 910.38
Total income	£2398.21

This was distributed as follows:

Senior Citizens – 76 received £10.00 each	£ 760.00
School Children – 39 received £5.00 Gift Voucher each	£ 195.00
Ratley Youth Club	£ 120.00
Children's Xmas Party	£ 80.00
Severn Trent	£147.53
Village Hall	£ 6.50
Expenses	£ 15.47
Total expenditure	£1324.50
Carried forward	£1073.71

The Trust has a balance of £1073.71, but in the coming months this money will be needed because: -

- (1) The fencing in a paddock (between the Sabin's and the allotments) in Edgehill needs to be replaced / repaired before September.
- (2) A stone barn located in Radway is in a very bad condition and will probably need to be demolished before it becomes a liability.

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Appendix 8 – Ratley & District WI report

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR RATLEY & DISTRICT W.I FOR THE YEAR 2013/14

Ratley and District WI meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 in RVH. There are 11 meetings each year. Our AGM is in November.

We have been included into a Group with Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Mollington. Our previous group had reduced in size to Kineton and us and much as we have enjoyed great companionship with Kineton there will now be an opportunity to take part in a wider variety of activities.

We started in May 2013 with 17 members but sadly one of our longest serving members has passed away and we are now only 16. Nonetheless we do our best to have as entertaining a programme as possible with our limited funds. In June we had an outing and in July our annual garden party was held on the only cold evening of the entire summer.

In December we celebrated our 40th Birthday with a concert by the Ratley Warblers. We were joined by Warwickshire Federation Chair and members from Kineton and a delicious celebration cake made by member Irene Williams, was cut by three founding members before being served to all.

Of recent years we have managed to send two teams to the annual quiz which from an institute as small as ours is quite an achievement. This year our 'A' team came first in the heat but were definitely outclassed in the final coming mid division. .

Some of local our charity support has gone to the Air Ambulance Although our traditional fundraising events are becoming increasingly difficult to run owing to the size of our WI, over this winter our members have willingly volunteered their time and effort to provide refreshments in the VH at the funerals of two members of our small community

We look forward to an eventful and enjoyable spring and summer season.

Susan Flintoff President 2013/14