

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ratley and Upton Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2013 in Ratley Village Hall at 7.00 pm	
No	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr. Jones</p>
2.	<p>Present</p> <p>Cllrs. A Berry (Chair), D Lamb, K Slocombe, M Grinnell-Moore, S Jackson, C Williams and J Obbard, Clerk. 4 members of the public were present – John Hopkins, Shona Walton, Robin Flintoff, Gwen Thornton</p>
3	<p>District Councillors Report</p> <p>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>
4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2012</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Clerk presented the annual accounts for April 2012 to March 2013 and pointed out that these were provisional as they had not yet been fully audited. For the seventh year 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 £9,625 which was a decrease of £999 from the previous year. This is a temporary dip that will be redressed following receipt of 2012 VAT refund</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>

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7.2 - Ratley Parochial Church Council

This report was prepared by Mark Orr and read by the Chairman. Report is shown in Appendix 4.

7.3 - Ratley Youth club.[This item taken first]

This report was prepared and presented by Shona Walton. This is shown in Appendix 5

7.4 – Tysoe School – report prepared by Judith Walsh, Chair of Tysoe C of E Primary School Governing Body – read by the Clerk. Report is shown in Appendix 6

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

7.6 - Ratley WI

This report was prepared by Olive Sabin, President of Ratley & District W I and read by the Clerk. Report is shown in Appendix 8.

7.7 – Ratley Table Tennis Club.

Cllr. Lamb reported that – only one team (won league 3) and ceased mid week practice sessions due to lack of interest.

7.8 – Friends of the Rose and Crown

Report prepared by Kevin Zwolinski and read by the Chairman – See appendix 9

8. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented his annual report of the activities of the Parish Council and the community. This is précised in Appendix 10.

9. **Any Other Business**

Cllr Grinnell-Moore explained that a report of local Ratley, Edgehill and Upton issues used to be sent to the Banbury Guardian every week – this stopped some years ago. We need to look for some new person to volunteer to take up this role – ideas please?! – suggest note on web site, fliers, notices on boards etc.??

The meeting closed at 20:20

Signed (Chairman) _____

Date _____

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Appendix 1 – District Councillors Report.

The Ratley & Upton Annual Parish Meeting – 22nd May 2013

District Councillor's Report.

Looking back over the last 12 months, the dismal weather conditions have been a recurring theme but happily, as far as I recall, they did not impact too adversely on the community, nor the services provided by the Local Authorities.

Nor did they dampen the community's enthusiasm in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee last June, nor the Village Fete and even the Bonfire Night survived and overcame the sodden conditions!

In not dissimilar vein, the securing and retention of the Rose & Crown as a local amenity was a great example of the community working together in achieving the desired outcome.

Turning now to wider issues, I hope that the District Council's decision not to increase its level of Council Tax for the 2nd year running is welcomed by residents. This is despite a further reduction of 7% in central Government funding and a determination to maintain essential front line services at optimum level.

Mentioning services, I just want to pick out and report on two: -

1. **Community Links Transport:-** which is a door to door transport service for all residents who may be stuck for transport – particularly those with mobility problems.

This is a service that has been under severe threat of being withdrawn due to pressure on the DC to reduce costs.

Cllrs like myself who have isolated rural wards, where public transport is limited, have had to lobby very hard for the retention and funding for this service.

As an indication of possible need within the Parish for this facility, I note from the 2001 Census information that:-

- over 1/3rd (113) of the Parish's residents are aged over 60 yo,
- whilst 80% of residents claim to be in Very Good or Good Health, there are 19 residents (almost 6%) who say they are in Bad or Very Bad Health – this, sadly, is the highest %age for my Ward and higher than the average for the whole of the District@ 4.3%,
- Nearly 10% of households in the Parish do not have a car.

So my message is to please continue to promote awareness of this service because otherwise it may be a case of "Use it or Lose it".

2. **Waste & Recycling Service:** the recent extension of the recycling service whereby we are now able to have collected textiles, small electrical & electronic items and household batteries, prompted me to obtain an update on the DC's performance for the whole of the District. There is some good and interesting news to share that I just want to highlight:

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- i) The combined recycling & composting rate for the District last year increased to 60.2% - meaning though that 40% of all the residual waste we generate goes to landfill.
- ii) However, against this, the good news is that the residual waste – ie what we put in our Grey bins – has fallen from 406 kg per household per annum to 386 kg – a reduction of almost 5%
- iii) The enhanced recycling service in the first 6 weeks of operation from 1st April has resulted in the collection of:-
 - Nearly 1 tonne of textiles,
 - Enough small electrical items to fill 60 x 240 litre bins,
 - Enough household batteries to fill 2 1/3rd x 240 litre bins
- iv) An analysis has been undertaken of the waste that we put in our Grey bins that shows that:
 - 57% of it is recyclable, of which,
 - 40% is food waste which could all go into our Green bins for composting.
- v) if all this residual waste was consigned to our Blue or Green bins,
 - the combined recycling/ composting rate for the District would increase to around 80%
 - Up to 11,250 tons of waste could be diverted from going to landfill.

This last statistic reminds me of a strapline line I saw emblazoned down 2 sides of large refuse lorry in London that read simply – ***Recycling? – it's not a choice – it's a duty.*** Quite a powerful message perhaps?

This is an opportunity for me to thank and congratulate residents on their commitment to the recycling cause – thank you.

Turning now to Planning, an “Achilles Heel” for the District Council has been the slow delivery of its Core Strategy up to 2028. A combination of central Government moving of the goal posts and other local issues have conspired to creating difficulties in moving forward and this has attracted understandable criticism over leaving the District exposed to speculative development.

However I am pleased to report that a firm timetable for the delivery of the Core Strategy has now been established with a draft submission deadline now of July.

More locally, it is of some disappointment that despite the unanimous rejection by the Planning Committee of the Starbold Wind Farm application proposed to be located between Knightcote & Bishops Itchington, the Developers are appealing the decision, with the Public Enquiry scheduled for September.

According to my records, the Parish Council was consulted on 12 separate Planning Applications during the course of last year, the majority relating to tree works. The details are recorded in the Parish's excellent website.

As for the Quarry site here at Edgehill, I remain optimistic that its use will be regularised during the course of the next few months. This is and has been a slow and tortuous process but I remain committed to seeing it through to a satisfactory outcome.

Finally, I mentioned earlier the information relating to this Parish that has been provided by the District Council coming out of the 2011 Census. It has certainly helped me in understanding better the characteristics and make up of the Parish and I commend it not

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only for interest's sake but also as a possible source on which decisions can be formulated.

To conclude – on behalf of the District Council and the residents of the Parish, may I take this opportunity to thank you Councillors, your RFO and hard working Clerk, for all you do to enhance this community's reputation for being such a good place to live in and to be a part of.

Simon Jackson – District Cllr/ Member for the Burton Dassett Ward within SDC.
22/05/13.

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Appendix 2 – County Councillor’s Report

- 1. County Council Elections** – The main issue that has been occupying me and other County Councillors has been the election on 2nd May 2013. I am very pleased to report that I retained Kineton Division which includes the parish of Ratley & Upton. The turnout this year was some 20% lower than four years ago at 38.1%. Whilst the Conservatives in this area gained three seats, overall in Warwickshire the results of the election were such that the Conservative party will still retain the administration but not in overall control. The new Leader of the County Council will be Cllr Mrs Izzi Seccombe of Stour and the Vale Division. We have already received information from central government that the spending review to be announced in June will require a further saving by Warwickshire County Council of some £70 million over the next three years. This is in addition to the £60 million we saved over the last three years. Serious thought is being given as to where these savings can be made and it might well result in a cessation of some of the services provided by the County Council as well as a reduction in existing services. The culture of local government will change significantly over the next four years.
- 2. Fire and Rescue Service** – You may recall that I advised you that the Chief Fire Officer, Graham Smith, was retiring from the authority on 8th May. This position has been taken by Andy Hickmott who has been appointed as Interim Chief Fire Officer. Andy comes with a wealth of experience. He was a Senior Fire Officer with the London Fire Brigade and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are very fortunate to attract such an experienced officer as Andy Hickmott. I am sure he will continue the excellent work carried out by his predecessor and maintain the enviable reputation for efficiency and performance that Warwickshire Fire Service has achieved.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division - WCC
19.05.2013

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Appendix 3 - Ratley village Hall annual report

Ratley Village hall Chairman of Trustees report to Village meeting May 2013 (charity No. 522987)

We are now starting the fourth year into the "Hall for the Future" project. The village and surrounding parish now recognises the hall is operating as a community resource. Footfall 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 are increasingly inventive with their ideas for using the hall recreationally.

The rural cinema scheme continues to be extremely popular with 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 significantly less than the commercial cinema 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 local 'blockbusters' 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.

There are now physical activities or clubs available most nights of the week. These comprise Pilates on Monday, Karate on Tuesday, Yoga on Wednesday and Table Tennis on Thursday. In addition the Mums and Toddlers have their own ad hoc events. The WI meet every month and the sewing class every second Tuesday. 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 creation of a new 'Youth Wing' will directly benefit the organisation and provide support for local young people in the community.

In addition, several hirings 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 happened 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 hirings from outside if the fees can be set at an appropriately competitive level to subsidise local activities.

The Trustees have always recognised that the expertise they have built up as a result of their successful project has a wider regional benefit. The Chair has continued his role of adviser to local community groups who are interested in initiating or progressing the development of their own project. To this end he has had further meetings this year with representatives of other villages who have been given guided tours and question and answer sessions.

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

The hall is more fully engaged with the community and continues to progress. The more people who use the hall the more the word spreads about what a wonderful facility it is. 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

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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 is beginning to work also, with different events in different rooms at the same time.

The 'Ratley Warblers' have planned a hall charity fundraiser for July 2013. This community-based group of singers and musicians, along with friends and family have planned an ambitious outdoor event that will raise their profile higher than the successful event in March 2012. The Trustees are eternally grateful for the support they receive from organisers and volunteers in using the hall to raise funds whilst celebrating the arts and education within the community.

Typical of this volunteer support was the efforts of the sub-group concerned with the annual parish fete. They were particularly lucky and successful in staging their event on one of the few dry Saturdays in June 2012. The attendance by local people was very good and as a result the day raised £1,160.00 for the hall charity. Similarly a table top sale held in October 2012 further added to our funds. These individual or small group fundraising events are crucial, both as a means of maintaining the viability of the charity and as a way of engaging with and adding to the experiences and enjoyment of the community. As such the Trustees are particularly thankful that members of the community want to support us in this way as it fulfils our aims and objectives on so many fronts.

So whilst the Trustees remain conscious of the need to recruit new Trustees, not least because of the inevitability of old age as the years pass, they recognise and celebrate the favour of the local community. As long as this affection and loyalty between them remains at the core there will be no shortage of events that both enhance and enlighten the quality of life for our community.

It is of particular pleasure to the Trustees that as part of its wider regional community activities, the hall has pledged continued support to Balscote village hall, a near neighbour, in supplying it with its spare chairs on a permanent loan basis. This has worked well as we were able to recover the chairs for a busy event and then return them without detriment to either hall's activities.

The hall charity has sought to link itself more closely with the youth club to support the activities of the older youngsters in the community. To this end, a 'Ratley Village Hall Youth Wing' has been created which will bring financial stability to the planning and organisation of youth club events in the hall and enable the youth club leaders to plan much further into the future in terms of how they can administer their activities. Whilst a small charity must always rely heavily on volunteer effort it should also be recognised that the cleaning and caretaking of the hall over many years both before and after the refurbishment has been the sole preserve of two local people. Their payment in no way diminishes the value the Trustees placed on many years service and support. Joe and Irene Williams both retired this year and I as Chair would, on the Trustees behalf, like to publicly thank them for their devotion to this significant and sometimes taken for granted task.

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b) Review of financial performance

Total income £10,754 comprising:

Hall hire £3,078
Grants and donations £2,801
Hall events £2,795
Feed in Tariff £1,434
Other £646

Total costs £14,873) comprising:

Insurance £2,104
Electricity £1,982
Council Tax £1,672
Cost of hall events £1,912
Depreciation £5,617
Other £1,585

Profit before depreciation £1,498

Loss after depreciation £4,119

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 in its utility provision 24 hours a day even throughout a long cold winter period. It is pleasing to report that after several years of negotiation we have been accepted onto the 'Feed In Tariff' scheme. The generation of electricity by our micro-technologies will now receive a payment on a metered basis for the next 25 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 had a minimal fee increase in 2012 /13 and have maintained a good service despite rising costs of utilities and insurance and the impact of a hard winter.

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 2013.

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

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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. Some outstanding funds have been redirected towards the final phases of fixtures and equipment. This has been mainly in upgrading our audio visual equipment with the help of Adrian Berry, so that it can be used easily by outside hirers who want to give illustrated talks or show films. The Trustees are extremely grateful to Adrian for his time and his donation of equipment and fittings, along with Shona Walton, to the hall facilities. It has enhanced our provision and therefore our hiring ability significantly.

The hall continues to maintain its flower tubs which improve the appearance of the car park despite the obstruction they seem to pose for some drivers. The Trustees recognise there is a need to bring forward the maintenance of the benches. The primary long term aim of the Trustees lie with 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 22nd 2013 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 – 22nd May 2013

Services have continued on a regular weekly basis including two Communion services and one lay led evensong each month, and the new style Pub Church evenings and Messy Church for families with young children have proved interesting and popular. Our minister, Barry Jackson, has also recently introduced a new Village Service, of shorter length and more informal, followed by refreshments, on the second Sunday of the month.

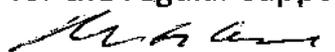
Barry is well supported by two associate ministers, Richard Cooke and Alan Cartwright, who was appointed a few months ago and takes some of our services.

Special services during the year included Mothering Day, Harvest Festival and Supper, Remembrance Day, Carol and Crib Services, Songs of Praise and a special Gift Day.

The PCC is very grateful to all those helping with church cleaning and the flower rota, to the organists and the Festival Choir, and all who supported Gift Day.

On the social side the big event was the Edgehill Games, conceived and run by Barry, and his team, across the group of churches. This was a great success and well supported by Ratley who came second! The Christmas Bazaar and the sponsored 'Ride and Stride' were also successful. The Fosse Food Bank to help provide for the needy of the district is another innovation from Barry.

A major project inside the church has aimed at improving its welcome, to villagers and visitors alike, with better display of information about the church, the village and the area.. There have been no major repairs to the church but we thank John Wrench for his continuing work on the churchyard walls. Partly as a result the PCC has 'broken even' this year, and we are also very grateful for the regular support from the Parish Council for grass cutting.


Mark Orr, Lay Chair of PCC

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Appendix 5 – Ratley Youth Club Report

Youth Club Report to Annual Parish Meeting May 22nd 2013

The Youth Club has twelve members this year and has had 21 different events. Last summer's events followed the Village Olympics theme including

- 13 Parachute teddies
- 14 Wii Mario Karting
- 15 Swimming and Boules
- 16 Games and BBQ on the Rec

Members and supporters also sang the Village Olympic songs Going For Gold and We Are the Champions at the Ratley Fete.

Between September and March there were 12 sessions, involving three trips out of the village to

1. Bowling
2. Climbing wall
3. Ice skating

as well as three Club Nights, three creative sessions making seasonal goodies and the fund-raising Bonfire Night and Carol Singing.

Since Easter they have supported local businesses at a clay pigeon shoot and gymkhana.

This year, fund-raising for charity was exceptional. 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,. Together, we raised over £400, sponsoring a room for a homeless person at Cetrrepoint and a young Coventry paralympic hopeful. Twelve year old Kare Adenagan has been UKA Classified as a T34 athlete (cerebral palsy), and will now be UK ranked. Her first races will be at the England Open on the 1st - 2nd June.

Youth Club funds have been massively helped by Bibby match-funded Sound of Music Singalong organised by Elaine McCauley and three significant parental contributions, following a local appeal.

We continue to be indebted to our programme organisers Ruth Todd, Susie Backhouse and Sarah Jarvis, to the willing team of Youth Leaders and the backroom support of Claire and Stuart Brown as Secretary and Treasurer.

Parishioners of all ages are indeed fortunate to benefit from such strong inter-generational commitment from all parts of the community. Long may it continue.

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Appendix 6 — Report from Tysoe C of E Primary School

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 and Whichford.

In the 2012/2013 academic year we have a total 172 children on roll, and this is forecasting to fall to 166 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 striving to meet its budget commitments whilst maintaining the current class structure.

Sarah Slatter is the head teacher and there are 10 teachers and 6 teaching assistants, full time and part time. In addition there is a clerical staff of 1 full time , 1 temporary and 7 lunchtime supervisors, 2 of whom live in Ratley, Veronika Lamb and Allan Jones.

The 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 has recently been elected as a parent governor and fulfils a safeguarding role. The governing body would like to express thanks to long serving parishioners, Ruth Todd, and Becky Spencer who resigned from their roles of governor and deputy chair of PTA respectively, also the many parent helpers who attend school on a regular basis to support pupil reading and provide support to school educational visits.

The staff at Tysoe are experienced and work hard to meet ever-changing demands. Results last year were the best for a long time with 100% of children achieving the national requirement , Level 4 or higher in English and Mathematics, (also 77% Level 5 reading and 50%Level 5 maths and 23% Level 6 maths).

The governing body have 3 vacancies, 1 foundation governor (to be appointed by Rev. Martin Leaton) 1 parent governor(a nomination form available in school) and a clerk to the governing body which is a paid role and will be advertised in next 2-3 weeks. Should anyone be interested in any role please contact Judith Walsh or Becky Goodman or the head teacher for further information.

The children of classes 5 and 6 are currently on a residential visit at Marle Hall, this is an 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.

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

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 22nd May 2013

The Clerk reported:

Income from the Financial Year 01/03/2012 to 28/02/2013	£1449.72
Brought forward from year ending 28/02/2012	£ 792.97
Total income	£2242.69

This was distributed as follows:

Senior Citizens – 80 received £10.00 each	£ 800.00
School Children – 36 received £5.00 Gift Voucher each	£ 180.00
Ratley Youth Club	£ 120.00
Ratley Table Tennis Club	£ 55.00
Children's Xmas Party	£ 50.00
Severn Trent	£ 99.17
Village Hall	£ 4.20
Expenses	£ 23.94
Total expenditure	£1332.31

Carried forward	£ 910.38
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With regret the Welfare Trust has accepted the resignation of Mr Joe Williams and Mrs Pat Brazier as Trustees. However, we are hoping to welcome three new Trustees at our next meeting later this year.

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Appendix 8 – Ratley & District WI report

RATLEY & DISTRICT W.I. REPORT 2013

The W.I. meetings are held in the Village Hall every 1st Tuesday in the month, starting at 7.30pm.

We are a small but very friendly group, currently with 18 members.

During the course of the year we have had a number of outside speakers, who have talked about a varied range of subjects.

Highlights of the year are the annual lunch for which we often have caterers and a Garden Party; we also arrange several outings and participate in outside activities, specifically our quiz teams who have had a certain amount of success this year.

We try to be very supportive either to events or organisations within the community, who profit from our teas and cakes.

We are always ready to welcome new members.

Olive Sabin

President

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Appendix 9– Friends of Rose & Crown Report

Late last year it became known that Ken & Mary would be leaving their manager roles at the Rose & Crown at the end of February. As this time drew nearer the prospect of the pub closure became reality as the owner considered his options.

The local community faced a significant threat with the impending loss of a much valued community asset, not helped by wide interpretations of the situation. Many had no knowledge of the threat at all. Volunteers leafleted every house in the area to notify people of two communications meetings to be held in the village hall, the purpose of which was to inform everyone of the situation, and to gather ideas, thoughts and a general response. 55 attended the first session, followed by 18 at the second meeting.

As a result the community responded by:

- Setting up a Friends of The Rose & Crown FaceBook page and an email address
- Evaluating options for community purchase
- Speaking to local newspapers and local radio to try and find new managers
- Established a single line of communication with the owner
- Considering registering the pub as an essential community asset, which would help to protect it against future change of use

As the end of February date and closure drew near, the community action encouraged the owner to act, and as things turned out, two options emerged. The result is that new managers were taken on (albeit at the very last minute) and 'business as usual' was able to continue. The service offered by the pub has improved, and the business continues to thrive under new management.

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Appendix 10 – Précis of Chairman's Report - 2012-2013 - Adrian Berry

Community thanks

- Parish Councillors
- Clerk
- County and District Councillors who's continued support is greatly appreciated
- People who organize things e.g. the various societies and clubs, Mother and Toddlers group etc
- John Hopkins for maintaining the bus shelter
- All those who keep an eye out for neighbours
- Help when people need it

PC Meetings

- 7 Council Meetings
- 11 Planning applications
- 19 Incoming Paper communications
- 1478 Incoming Emails
- Total communications =1497
 - 122 up on last year

What has the PC been doing?

- Pot holes, drains and road signs
- Footpaths
- Street lights
- General maintenance
- Grass Cutting
- Affordable housing

Grass Cutting

- Thomas Fox completed 1st year of contract
- Few teething troubles but sorted quickly
- End of year review satisfactory
- Contract extended for second year

Housing

- Working with Phil Ward of WRCC
 - Warwickshire Community Council
 - Guidance on types of sites that might work
 - Alan Jones identified some possible sites
 - Discussed with planners, so far all unsuitable

- Mirwell Homes

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Still looking to build on Hornton Masonary site
- No firm plans yet

Royal Jubilee 4th June

- Fantastic community event
- Street party outside the Rose and Crown
- Big thank you to all those who
 - Provided food(WI) and a splendid cake (Irene W)
 - Organized
 - Helped setup
 - Took the official photo (Jeremy Obbard)
 - Helped clear up
 - And Biffa, who unknowingly sent a road sweeper at just the right time!

Summer Fete 23rd June

- Very successful event
- Organized by group of people who just wanted to do it!
- Final event in Edgehill Olympics
 - Tug o' war won by Rose and Crown team