

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Minutes of Ratley and Upton Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2015 in Ratley Village Hall at 7.00 pm
No	Agenda Item
1.	Apologies None received
2.	Present Cllrs. A Berry (Chair), A Jones, M Grinnell-Moore, D Payne, A Graham, S Jackson (SDC), C Williams (WCC) and J Obbard, Clerk. 6 members of the public were present –
3	District Councillors Report Cllr. Jackson presented his annual report This is shown in full in Appendix 1. County Councillors Report County Cllr. Williams précised his annual report. This is shown in full in Appendix 2.
4.	Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2014 These were proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Grinnell-Moore as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings. This was agreed by all. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
5.	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
6.	Annual Financial Statement. The Clerk presented the annual accounts for April 2014 to March 2015 and pointed out that these were provisional as they had not yet been fully audited. For the ninth year running the Precept had been kept at the same level of £10,000. The largest expenditure was, again, grass cutting of playing fields, verges etc., followed by Clerks Salary, donations to Village Hall and Ratley PCC. The closing total balance was £8,384.17 which was a decrease of £2,235.09 from the previous year due to some additional expenses, such as street light replacement. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council accounts were public documents. The 2014/15 accounts will be available for inspection for a period of 30 working days commencing 3 rd June at the Clerks address (7, Grange Close, Ratley – 07748903260)
7.	Local Community Reports 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. 7.2 - Ratley Parochial Church Council This report was prepared and presented by Mark Orr. The full report is attached in Appendix 4.

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	<p>7.3 - Ratley Youth club. This report was prepared and presented by Shona Walton. 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. The Clerk presented a brief overview of the activities of the Welfare Trust. 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. This report was prepared David Lamb, Chair of Ratley Table Tennis Club and presented by the Clerk. The full report is attached in Appendix 9.</p> <p>7.8 – Festival Choir Shona Walton presented her annual report of the Festival Choir – this is shown in Appendix 10</p>
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 11.
9.	Any Other Business
	The meeting closed at 20:10

Signed (Chairman) _____

Date _____

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Appendix 1 – District Councillors Report. – – 2014/15 & Forward to 2015/16.

2014/15:

- Ñ Performance/Achievements must be viewed against economic backcloth
- Ñ Further reduction in Gov't Support of 13.4% on top of the 11% reduction the previous year – making for a £1.2M reduction over 2 years.
- Ñ Ongoing – no prospects for change
- Ñ Nonetheless, determination to overcome and maintain essential front line services at optimum level by:-
- Ñ Reducing costs wherever possible eg by reducing staffing costs, developing collaborative working with other LAs to obtain benefits of scale, reducing the no. of Councillors from 53 to 36 – yielding a saving of £70K
- Ñ D/C Election Results – Cons party remain in overall control
- Ñ Cons 31 seats, Lib Dem 3, Lab 1, Independent 1

Despite difficult economic conditions, achievements include:-

- Ñ Council Tax – frozen again for 4th year, lowest in Warwickshire & amongst lowest nationally,
- Ñ Refuse Collection – recycling performance in Top 10 nationally: thanks to residents' efforts & use of the system,
- Ñ Broadband – fulfilled the match funding requirement for superfast rollout,
- Ñ Leisure – continued investment in centres incl £5M investment in Stratford's
- Ñ Economic Development/Tourism – forged stronger links with Business Community,
- Ñ Financial Support – continued funding for Voluntary/Charities sector: viz CAB Stratford

Major Preoccupation/ "Achilles Heel"

- Ñ Preparation of Draft Core Strategy (Development Planning blue print to 2031)
- Ñ Statutory req't for all LAs to have one in place,
- Ñ Number of set backs (Gov't induced)
- Ñ Submitted Draft in Sept – Examination in Public by Gov't Inspector in Jan.
- Ñ His Interim Report rec'd in March – good news/bad news approx (60/40)
- Ñ Work still in progress

Looking Ahead/Going Forward in 2015/16 – PRIORITIES include:-

- Ñ Retaining a low level of Council Tax,
- Ñ Further developing collaborative working with other Councils,
- Ñ Delivering/implementing a fully approved Core Strategy
- Ñ Endeavouring to fulfil the need for Affordable Housing District wide,
- Ñ Aim to help the creation of 500 new jobs each year to boost the local economy,
- Ñ Encouraging the use of leisure centres and other recreational activities,
- Ñ Maintaining a watch on the changing demographics and associated needs of the District

And finally as I always do: to thank you the PC, on behalf of SDC, for all you do in this Parish on a voluntary basis etc

Secondly: on personal basis, thank you for inviting me to attend your meetings, much enjoyed working with/for you over the last 11 years. Hope to keep in touch with the village etc

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Appendix 2 – County Councillor’s Report

During this year the County Council has been proceeding to implement its Four Year Plan to accommodate a £90million reduction in the grant from central government in a £320million Annual Budget. This has resulted in cutting out all the non-mandatory services and consequently the number of staff has been reduced by around 1,000 in a 6,000 strong workforce. Although there have been some redundancies most of the reductions have been achieved by non-recruiting when Officers have retired, or taken early voluntary retirement and filling vacancies when people move to another job by internal recruitment where possible. We are becoming more of a commissioning Council out sourcing contracts wherever financially viable.

We are also working in partnership with other adjacent Local Authorities to combine resources where possible. Indeed, only last month we agreed to combine our Internal Audit function with Worcestershire County Council.

The two biggest areas of spend in the Council’s Budget are the Care of the Elderly, about £180million a year; and Looked After children, as well as Safeguarding Children, about £80 million a year. This children’s total is increasing as more and more allegations are made which have to be investigated, sometimes researching past records etc. Potential of Child Sexual Exploitation is also becoming a major concern and we are working closely with the Police and the Child Care Groups to ensure an exchange of information.

We are all growing older and have a longer life expectancy. Therefore the demand for independent living in the community is increasing. For example, 70 apartments are being built in Southam. Dementia is an increasing disease and is requiring an increase in our resources. The new Care Act which came into force on April 1st obliges Local Councils to regularly assess older people and to provide care and advice when needed. It also legislates, for the first time, the welfare of Carers.

Over the year we have seen the merger of Warwickshire and Mercia Police Forces. A new Chief Constable took over in Warwickshire this month and the Police Service, like the County Council is having to find savings without effecting front line services. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire came to the Southam and Feldon Community Forum last month and talked about his role and aspirations.

The Fire & Rescue Service is also undergoing fundamental reorganisation and successful negotiations with the Fire Brigade Union have led to a more efficient shift and manning system. There are also talks progressing over collaborative working with Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade. Leamington Fire Station will be having a major refurbishment and a replacement Training Centre is proposed near Ryton on the A45.

And so to the future. Clearly, as a result of the Election there is an appetite for devolution. Greater Manchester is being offered the lead and Birmingham is lobbying for a “Greater Birmingham Authority” to embrace not only Birmingham and the surrounding Metropolitan areas but Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire as well. I believe that the only sensible option is a Coventry Warwickshire (and possibly Solihull) Authority of just over one million people. However, before Warwickshire can agree to any thing the Districts and

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Boroughs have to agree and if we want to avoid an extra tier of government Unitary status must be an option.

In conclusion, I must complement the Adrian Berry, Chair of the Parish Council, for his wise judgement and patience, and all Councillors on their commitment to Ratley & Upton. It is a pleasure working with you all for the benefit of the village.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division - WCC
17.05.15.

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Appendix 3 - Ratley village Hall annual report

Chair Report to village meeting May 2015

As it is my intention to step down as Chair and Trustee of Ratley Village hall in a few months' time I hope this meeting will forgive me if my report does not strictly adhere to events of this last year alone.

In fact I would be in danger of boring you silly with mundane detail if I was to report solely on these annual matters. The advantage of the new hall is that with the minimum of personnel in place and a lot of digital communication the hall as a charity pretty much runs itself. That is not to say we take our responsibilities lightly as a Trustee body but that we have rationalised the process so that it delivers socially, economically and sustainably in community involvement, in trustee commitment and financially as a going concern. Thus fulfilling our deeds of trust.

I have been a Trustee since the early 1990's subsequently Secretary and then Chair for about 20 years. From those early days when trustee meetings occurred once a month we now meet 2 or three times a year. A lot of business is conducted online and via e-mail. The reality is people are too busy to have meetings discussing the last meeting. So we meet only when there is an important agenda item to discuss and critical decisions or planning required. This seems to work and I hope will encourage others to become more involved as the commitment is no longer onerous even if the responsibilities of being a trustee of a charity continue to grow. My wife Sue Flintoff will also be stepping down as 'temporary' secretary. She has been in this officer's role for five consecutive years without a replacement being appointed. I would like to publically thank her for stepping into the breach so effectively and staying the course.

It is therefore clear we do have a problem of trustee recruitment. This is a risk factor for the Charity but at the moment it is not too critical and we continue to approach individuals who have shown some interest in becoming trustees in due course. I hope others will also step up.

Ultimately it is for the community we serve to decide if this asset is to be maintained and supported for future generations. This parish should not rely on the goodwill of a few individuals year after year after year to ensure it persists. There is good will out there. It is a challenging but relatively short step to turning this into a solution. I know the PC is concerned for the future of the hall but I am optimistic that this issue will be resolved just as the refurbishment was resolved despite significant disbelief that our small community was deserving of the level of grants we were aiming for. I have faith a new 'A team' will emerge to carry forward the 2nd phase of development in the future.

I have attached an interim financial statement from our Treasurer Lisa Curtlin who was with us throughout the ten years of bidding and build process and will continue in post. I will thank her too for all her secure knowledge and integrity throughout this process. The accounts will show that with voluntary help fund raising and grants and donations contributing to our fee income we remain reasonably secure financially. Of course we would like to see more done by individuals and groups using the building nearer to capacity but this small community has its limitations and one has to temper marketing aims with reality.

The major problem of this year has been the partial failure of the heating system. Of course it would occur in the coldest months of the new year. I have the Chair of the PC and our own Trustee Chris Todd to thank for their efforts in identifying the problem and helping me to resolve it. This had some cost implications that impacted on our contingency but Adrian's securing of a promise from Mitsubishi to replace the air source heat pump unit under warranty ensured this

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was significantly less than it might have been. I will also take this opportunity to thank him for his continuing work on the sound system and his and Shona's contribution to the successful rural cinema scheme each month. Often it is these small but critical contributions to a community resource that make it work for everyone.

Finally I would like to put on record how significant an achievement I think it was on the part of that small group of dedicated and committed individuals that they completed phase 1 of the development so successfully. It has been the highlight of my tenure. Their teamwork and determination was an inspiration for me and I warmly applaud their efforts and support publically once again today. The momentum they created raised both interest and awareness putting Ratley well and truly on the district consciousness. They generated tens of thousands of pounds to support the initiation and progress of the project over the 10 years of work prior to the final bid. In this I must acknowledge the generous support of both the county, district and parish councils. The team's efforts generated huge amounts of research, data and planning which when organised, collated and submitted as a proposal ensured the addition of a further third of a million pounds for the building fund from the BIG Lottery and other national bodies. It showed vision and consideration in maintaining the character and charm of our old building whilst incorporating cutting edge technologies. However what it and many of the smaller projects and events that went into this proved to me is that as a small charity you need to 'spend money to make money' to achieve your aims. This process changed us as a team dramatically. We went from car boot sales on a bleak field in February raising £70 and several persistent colds to become the model for grant applications for village halls throughout the district. I am immensely proud to have been involved in leading this project and whilst I recognise that my leaving may enhance the risk to the charity to a small degree it ensures that the legacy I envisaged remains a tangible proof of achievement and as such I have no regrets.

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Appendix 4 - Ratley PCC Report

St Peter ad Vincula Church, Ratley

Report from PCC to Annual Parish Meeting – 20th May 2015

There has been no change in the pattern of services during the past year, with weekly services apart from August. We are varying the type of service, on the second Sunday of the month, by holding a short Family Friendly Service in the afternoon, to cater for young families, alternating with Church in the Pub, which remains popular, preceded by a short service in church. Messy Church on a Saturday also continues successfully.

Special services during the year included one for the Centenary of the 1st World War, Harvest Festival and Supper, Remembrance Sunday, a combined Songs of Praise and Gift Day, Carol and Crib Services at Christmas, Womens World Day of Prayer and the Good Friday Walk with services in each churchyard. There have been two concerts – a Baroque evening organised by Keith Smith and a concert performed by TADA (Tysoe Amateur Dramatic Association), both well supported and successful. Many thanks to all involved.

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 work in church and churchyard, and also John Llewelin for his help.

As usual the main social event was the Christmas Bazaar but the sporting theme of last year will be continued with another Edgehill Masters Golf Tournament, in two weeks at Warwick. In addition our minister, Barry Jackson, is to be congratulated for completing The London Marathon. The sponsored 'Ride and Stride' was not as well supported as usual but raised a useful sum. 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 carry out some major maintenance works over the next few months 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

Youth Club Report to Annual Parish Meeting May 20th 2015

Ratley Youth Club continues to thrive with 13 regular members and a few older members whose increasing independence means that they have a wider range of choices on a Friday evening.. Fortnightly meetings range from street dancing, cooking and crafts, to going to the pantomime and touring the Guide Dogs breeding centre.

Our indefatigable Secretary (Claire Brown) Treasurer (Stuart Brown) and the Management Committee periodically review our practices and for next year are consulting on the payment process and rather than collecting the £1 for club nights in the village or £2 for activities elsewhere, we plan to charge £10 per term for each child, paid in advance, with a maximum charge of £25 for any family. The reasons for this are that:

- collecting payment is difficult on the car park before an out-of-village event, when the priority is safety
- parents find that having to send correct change on club nights can be frustrating
- leaders on club nights won't have to keep membership and tuck cash separate
- the Treasurer will be able to calculate membership income termly rather than after every club night

These fees are subsidised significantly, for example, Laser Tag cost £210, the circus skills workshop was £350, and an evening on a climbing wall £160. Drivers could, but do not charge for fuel, and our Village Hall hire fees, DBS check fees £75, and insurance costs are over £200 pa. This varied, ambitious programme and significant subsidies have been made possible by the hard work of our Programme Leaders Carol Anne and Elaine, and by fund-raising, particularly Elaine's singalong nights. The last of these raised £300 for club funds which is magnificent, but will be the last of its kind unless anyone else takes over the mantle. If anyone has any matched-funding opportunities in their workplace, please contact the Chair to discuss how this might be maximised.

Thanks once again to Adrian Berry, Robin Flintoff and the Rose and Crown, for giving us another memorable and safe Bonfire Night with spuds'n'beans and a record amount in donations that covered the cost of fireworks and donated £50 to club funds.

Youth Club is not just about having fun though, it's about working with others outside our comfort zone and taking a responsible attitude to social and global issues.

This year the Youth Club decided to support the charity that sponsors children orphaned by Ebola, and for a second year, to donate to Cancer Research UK. Each received over £160 at Christmas, thanks to all our supporters who contributed to our fund-raising through the Community Christmas Card and carol singing. We also continue to follow the fortunes of Kare Adenagan, the paralympic athlete we sponsored in her first training year who is now the fastest under-14 female wheelchair cyclist in the UK.

To give our young people a deeper sense of being part of a community, we are keen to be more inclusive of local residents who aren't parents of members. We are delighted to welcome Angela and Robin Day and Trish Macfarlane as youth leaders, increasing the skills and talents available to members and bringing our regularly DBS-checked leaders to 13. Perhaps you have a special interest or hobby which you'd be willing to share with us one club night? Get in touch with Carol Anne or Shona if you have any suggestions.

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Finally, the Chair, Committee and Members would like to thank Carol Anne Templeton and Elaine McCauley for their imaginative and thorough leadership as Programme Organisers this year. Sadly, Elaine is stepping down, due to pressure of work and we have no replacement as yet. If parishioners feel able to offer administrative support to Carol Anne, I'd be pleased to hear from anyone in the community, as we look forward to another year fostering in our young people a lasting sense of place and community.

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: 17 May 2015

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 Herdewyke, Shenington, Warmington, Honington and Whichford.

Our 2014 report to the AGM stated that the governing body started to work closely with Wellesbourne C of E Primary School to form a Joint Working Group, including governors and senior staff. The purpose was to start exploratory discussions around closer collaboration. These early discussions were very positive and following a consultation period our relationship developed into the formation of a federation between our schools on 16th January 2015.

The federation is led by Executive Head Teacher Lindsey Oscroft with a Head of School at Tysoe and Wellesbourne overseeing the day to day management. Since federation we have a single governing body for both schools, chaired by Larry Granelly. As a federated organisation we have worked closely together, extending opportunities of provision for everyone. Each of our schools retains their own individual budgets, admission procedures, uniform, Ofsted and SIAMS inspections. They also uphold their own distinctive ethos and traditions whilst gaining from being part of a supportive, vibrant and Christian community with many more opportunities. We would like to share with you a letter of introduction from our new Head of Tysoe and Wellesbourne Primary School Federation, Lindsey Oscroft.

(LETTER ATTACHED)

“19th January 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher for the Federation of Tysoe and Wellesbourne CE Primary Schools.

I am joining Tysoe in my sixth year as Headteacher at Wellesbourne. Prior to that I was Headteacher at Barford St Peter's in Warwick for seven years and during my career I have taught children of Nursery age right across to those in Year 7, in a variety of school settings.

I am looking forward to continuing the good progress Mr Bell and the staff have made in addressing the issues raised in the Ofsted report 2013 as I believe this is a school with tremendous potential. I have very high expectations of pupils and staff and it is my intention that together we raise standards in every area. We also have a strong Governing Body who I know are equally ambitious for the school's future, supported by the values of a distinctive Church of England School.

I am particularly looking forward to strengthening the school's partnership with the community in order to ensure the best outcomes for the children. I have met many of the children already but look forward to meeting all the children this week in assembly, in class and on the playground. We will shortly be advertising for a permanent Head of School for Tysoe for September 2015, which will have a part time teaching commitment. Until then I am delighted that Mr Bell will remain with us for three days a week as Head of School without a teaching commitment, so he remains your first point of contact after your child's teacher. It is likely I will now be at Tysoe on

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Thursday's and Friday's most weeks until the new Head of School starts, so please do come and introduce yourselves to me on the playground.

Your continued support is very much valued and I look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve a highly successful outcome for your children.

Yours sincerely

Lindsey Oscroft Head of Wellesbourne and Tysoe Primary School Federation"

During the next academic year we plan to issue more regular updates regarding our progress and to inform you of community-based events in school .

Head of Tysoe and Wellesbourne Primary School Federation.

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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 20th May 2015

The Clerk reported:

Income from the Financial Year 01/03/2014 to 28/02/2015	£1561.93
Brought forward from year ending 28/02/2014	£1073.71
Total income	£2635.64

This was distributed as follows:

Senior Citizens – 75 received £10.00 each	£ 750.00
School Children – 36 received £5.00 Gift Voucher each	£ 180.00
Ratley Youth Club	£ 120.00
Severn Trent	£131.90
Fencing	£454.50
Expenses	£ 66.04
Total expenditure	£1702.44

Carried forward	£ 933.20
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The Trust has a balance of £933.20.

The Trustee's are considering using the money for more fencing and for other maintenance work at the allotment site.

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Appendix 8 – Ratley & District WI report

The Ratley & District WI Secretary's report 2014/15

The year started in November with an unchanged committee and officers. The President signalled her intention to stand down at the end of this year, we also welcomed two new members but also said goodbye to two and so our number remains at 15.

Our President was the delegate for our linked group and attended the AGM at Leeds, and also represented our WI at the birthday celebrations of Mollington another WI in our group.

Our WI entered a team of 4 in the WI County quiz, we won our heat at Harbury and came second in the final held at Hatton Park Village Hall beating around 50 teams to that position (no mean achievement for such a small WI).

Our outing was to the Guide Dog breeding centre at Leamington. The tour is extremely well organised and was greatly enjoyed. The garden party was held in July at Olive Sabin's beautiful garden.

Our speakers this year have been varied; We have travelled The Silk Road and sailed from the Baltic to the Caspian, dug up Roman treasure, understood the benefits of hedgerow herbs and decorated our Christmas tables.

The Group Carol Service was organised by us in Ratley Church in December attended by around one hundred ladies from the group WIs. The evening was a great success. .

Along with Kineton WI we jointly hosted a successful evening's entertainment for the Group of WI's to which we belong. An interesting and practical talk on dealing with garden pests was delivered by Steve Brookes a local radio presenter, we catered on this occasion for about 60 of our fellow WI members.

Being a small WI we greatly approve the fellowship of being in a larger group although organising events for lots more members puts pressure on our small membership. Next year the WI centenary, our focus will be much more on our own fundraising and membership.

S.Flintoff President 2014/15

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Appendix 9 – Ratley Table Tennis Club report

Ratley Table Tennis Club Annual Report 2015

The table tennis club has, overall, had a good season. We had 2 teams, both in the third division of the Banbury and District League. Despite a number of injuries, an exciting finish to the season saw the B team finish top and the A team second.

The A team reached the semi-final of the handicap cup and Ratley won both the individual third division trophies.

There are regular practice sessions on Monday nights at 8.00pm. These have been well attended but we would like more players from the Parish.

Next season we would like to enter 3 teams in the league but need one or two more players. New members of any standard are welcome to come along to the practice sessions.

David Lamb

Chairman

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Appendix 10 – Festival Choir report

Festival Choir Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2015

The Festival Choir is a group of singers from local villages that supports the worship in Ratley, Warmington and Radway Anglican churches at the Christian festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. There are currently 16 voices, and we are always looking for more - no audition, only enthusiasm required, and a willingness to attend 18 rehearsals on Thursday evenings. Please contact Shona Walton for more information.

We are blessed by having two accompanists, David Brazier, currently indisposed because of a broken arm, and Lisa Curtlin. who doubles as an alto.

We were saddened by the resignation of Mike Grinnell-Moore after over 40 years leading the bass section, whose farewell party found choir members and their partners singing lustily over champagne and nibbles last month.

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Appendix 11 – Precis of Chairman’s Report

Community thanks

- Parish Councilors
 - For making the voluntary effort to get things done
 - Goodbye to
 - David Lamb, Deputy Chairman – served 3 terms
 - Keiron Slocombe – served 1 term
 - Welcome to
 - Andrea Graham – returning after a break
 - David Payne – a new experience
- Clerk
- All those people who make things happen e.g.
 - the various societies and clubs, Mother and Toddlers group, the Village Hall, people who report fallen trees, broken lamps, alarms going off etc
 - The Fete Committee for organizing an excellent event.
 - John Hopkins for maintaining the bus shelter
- All those who keep an eye out for their neighbours
- Those who help when people need it

What has the PC been doing?

- Footpaths
- General maintenance
 - We cut the Town Hill hedge right back
- Grass Cutting
- Held Precept at same level of £10,000 since 2006- 8 years in a row
 - Kept costs low e.g. competitive tendering for grass cutting
- But now have to increase to £12000
 - Costs increasing so need to increase to maintain working cash balance

Rural Broadband

- Ratley and Upton still not scheduled for upgrade
 - Status now on the map
 - “waiting for funds”
 - But looks like there is now a plan
 - Same as most of our neighbouring parishes
 - Explored possibility of privately supplied broadband
 - Not enough expressions of interest to justify the investment