

**MINUTES OF RATBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MAIN STREET, RATBY  
AT 7PM**

**‘DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL’**

**‘UNADOPTED’**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Mrs M B Joyce, (Chairman), Mr L J P O’Shea (Vice Chairman),  
Mr C W Boothby and Ms K Johnson

**Severn Trent Water:** Mr Adam Cokes

**Members of the**

**Public:** 4

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**24/42** Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Hunnybun, who was unwell, Mr P J Johnson, family member hospitalised, Mr P Tenwick, attending a pre-booked event and Ms K D Ingram, work commitment.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**24/43** Minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 having previously been circulated, were proposed by Mr O’Shea, seconded Mr Boothby, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL, PREJUDICIAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST AND DISPENSATION FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED**

**24/44** Ms K Johnson declared an interest in any items relating to Leicestershire County Council and Mr C W Boothby declared an interest in items relating to Planning.

**Chairman adjourned the meeting at approximately 7.05pm to allow for public participation**

Mr Cokes, Severn Trent Water Strategy Manager addressed the meeting and asked for feedback on the recent burst water main/gas leak incident. Residents explained that after 5-6 weeks they were unable to get some appliances sorted out without having to contact the various parties several times. There seemed to be no consistency regarding staff coming to access and re-fit appliances. One resident stated that they were trying to cook on a small hotplate rather than a proper hob and after this length of time it was not good enough. Different people came to assess the damage to existing appliances and particularly in relation to boilers, it seemed they were not able to fit new boilers as there was asbestos flues existing

*Handwritten signature*

in the properties. It was explained that legislation had changed and there were specialist teams who needed to deal with this. Dealing with Severn Trent's insurance Sedgewick was difficult since either you spoke to a different person all the time, or you were instructed to take photographs and email them to the company. In some cases, residents did not have access to the internet etc., so communication was far from simple. If a telephone message was left, in some instances, no further action was taken.

One resident had Aspect workmen come to inspect existing boiler and had got it working again but radiators in bedrooms were 'red hot' and the hot water was scalding. In the meantime, the lounge and hallway downstairs radiators were not working at all.

Residents mostly felt that they were going round in circles and not really solving the problems.

A lengthy discussion followed and Mr Cokes took details of residents who attended and said he would look into all the matters raised and would communicate directly with all the residents who raised various issues.

Mr Boothby stated that the response from Severn Trent and its insurers was not good enough since the situation had been going since 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Mr Cokes stated that all these matters would be brought to the attention of the Insurance Company and that he would prioritise the issues raised.

Residents and Mr Cokes were thanked for attending the meeting and for their input.

**The meeting was reconvened at approximately 7.43pm.**

#### **4. REPORTS**

- 24/45** (i) Borough Councillor's Report – Chairman asked Mr Boothby if he had report - Mr Boothby informed meeting that he would prepare a report and would email this to the Clerk for distribution.  
(ii) County Councillor's Report – this was distributed prior to the meeting.

#### **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 24/46** (a) **24/00243/OUT** – 130 Stamford Street, Ratby – Outline planning permission for the erection of a single dwelling (all matters reserved)- Objection – Already extra properties in very small area – added traffic to a busy hammer head no-through road would add extra traffic to a congested single carriageway.  
(b) **24/00248/FUL** – St Philip & St James CofE Parish Church, Church Lane, Ratby  
Change of use of allotments to expand Burial Ground – No objection  
(c) **24/000309/HOU** -53 Church Lane, Ratby – Proposed porch to side of property - No objection.

#### **6. PEAR TREE ALLOTMENT SITE**

- 24/47** Mr Tenwick had previously met with several plot holders at Pear Tree site regarding several items for concern. These were discussed at the meeting and it was reported that the following issues have been dealt with:

- (a) Plots and pathways have been strimmed.
- (b) The broken fencing in the field adjoining the allotment site belongs to Lagan Homes and this matter is being taken care of.
- (c) The broken water containers will be removed
- (d) Those plots which are allocated and not cultivated, existing plot holders will be contacted and leases terminated.
- (e) Repairs – Taverner Drive site – revised quotation from Wright Tree Care to repair Water supply etc., at Site, including ground works £750 – proposed by Mr O’Shea, seconded Ms Johnson and agreed.

#### **7. PLAY EQUIPMENT REPORT**

**24/48** Clerk reported that both the inclusive roundabout and the see-saw at Ferndale Park had been repaired by Wickstead.

#### **8. URGENT ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED**

- 24/49** (a) Community Orchard-entrance feature – Group planning carving event for entrance feature on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – all necessary Event Plans/ Risk Assessment information completed and submitted – approved.
- (b) Ratby Co-operative Band – proposal to hold Fun Day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and request for use of Totem Pole Field – proposed Chairman, seconded Mr O’Shea and agreed that usual fee of £25 be required towards cost of extra mowing of Totem Pole Field for the event.
- (c) Community Speed Watch – After discussion, Mr O’Shea offered to deal- all information to be forwarded to Mr O’Shea.
- (d) LRALC/NALC Invoice – proposed Ms Johnson, seconded Mr Boothby and agreed. Notification of AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – representative to be nominated to attend – defer to next meeting.
- (e) HBBC – Community Equipment Grant Fund – maximum of £3000 available for any one group or organisation. Discussion followed and it was suggested that Parish could apply in respect of the replacement of Village Sign. Proposed Mr O’Shea, seconded Mr Boothby and agreed.

#### **9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**24/50** (i) List of payments/income – proposed Mr Boothby, seconded Ms Johnson and agreed.

#### **10. CLERK’S REPORT**

**24/51** (a) TTRO – Markfield Road, Ratby – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 road closure for 1 day – 2-way lights will be used on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for 1 day.

During closure alternative routes will be via Groby Road, Sacheverell Way, Leicester Road, Markfield Road/Bradgate Hill/Leicester Road (A50), Groby; Launde Road, Markfield; Ratby Lane, Groby/Markfield and vice versa. During closure, alternative routes available to all traffic can be viewed at <https://one.network/?tm=GB137895237>

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24/52 Mr Boothby reported that there was reference to the missing Village Sign on Spotted Ratby and it was then reiterated that the Community Equipment Grant Fund should be approached for support in replacing the sign.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

Mark B Joyce  
Chairman

14 / 5 / 24  
Date

Attachment No.	Title	Min. Ref.	Page No.
1	Mins. last meeting	24/43	1
2	C/Cllrs Report	24/45	2
3	Planning Applns.	24/46	2
4	List of Payments/ Income	24/50	3

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2024.****APPENDIX 1****Urgent call for Specialist Foster Carers**

An urgent appeal has been launched for people with professional backgrounds in caregiving to find out more about becoming specialist foster carers.

From April, Leicestershire County Council is offering up to £1067 a week, plus allowances, for the role which provides children and young people with an alternative to residential care – ‘children’s homes’.

Information events are being held over the coming weeks in a bid to share information about the role and recruit carers for the 60+ children and young people in need of the support in the county.

Suitable experience could include teaching, health care or policing, as well as other positions that support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or complex behavioural or emotional needs.

Councillor Deborah Taylor, County Council lead member for children and families, said: “Many of our young people in care require an extra level of care, attention and love to reach their full potential.

“We want to help set them up with the very best chance of succeeding in life, and this is partially done through carefully matching them with appropriate specialist foster carers.

“If we cannot provide specialist foster carers then the alternative is for a child or young person, who may be as young as 10, to go into residential care.

“And while this can provide an excellent standard of care, it’s not a family home with the specialist focused care our specialist foster carers provide.

“We’ve had young people tell us that staying with specialist carers has been life changing. So, if you think you have the skills and would like to make a real difference, please do come along to one of our events, or contact our team for more information.”

Those wanting to find out more about specialist fostering with Leicestershire County Council can visit the fostering in Leicestershire website: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/fostering/specialist-foster-care-roles>

Alternatively, they can email the Fostering Team at [fostering@leics.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@leics.gov.uk), or call them on 0116 305 0505

**Road Safety Strategy**

Our Road Safety Strategy explains our approach to road safety and, for the first time, sets out our work in one document.

In Leicestershire, we have been successful in delivering a wide range of road safety initiatives for decades.

Although this Strategy is not a new approach or policy, it is an opportunity for us to let our communities know what we do, how we do it and how our approach may need to evolve in the future to meet new challenges. These challenges may include population growth and an ageing population.

We are committed to continually improving road safety and reducing road casualties in Leicestershire, and we have set new, ambitious casualty reduction targets.

These targets include aiming for a 40% reduction in killed or seriously injured casualties by 2035 (medium term) and zero deaths caused by road traffic collisions by 2050 (long term).

We want to hear your views on our approach and our ambitious casualty reduction targets. Your feedback will influence how our strategy develops going forward.

The Draft Road Safety Strategy 2024

Type the following into your Space Bar

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/road-safety-strategy>

### **Have your Say**

A four-week consultation is open to the public from Monday 25 March to Monday 22 April 2024.

If you have feedback on the draft Road Safety Strategy, please email:

TsaP@leics.gov.uk

### **Alternative formats**

For alternative formats, please call 0116 305 1404.

### **What Happens Next**

When the consultation closes on 22 April, we will review the feedback received and consider any amendments to the Road Safety Strategy.

The consultation findings will then be presented to the council's Cabinet in June 2024, where a decision will be made on how to proceed.

In the future, you will be able to see a summary of the consultation on our **You said, we did** page on our website.

## Scams

### WhatsApp Gold Scam.

**The WhatsApp Gold scam isn't a new one, having done the rounds since 2016, but it's on the rise again. And with it, a warning about the threat of a video called Martinelli.**

A warning message is circulating, alerting WhatsApp users to the existence of the WhatsApp Gold scam and a threatening video called Martinelli. Part of the message is true - there's a scam message purporting to offer a WhatsApp Gold or Plus service, and it's on the rise - but the other half is a hoax.

Here we take a look at what the WhatsApp Gold scam is, and explain the Martinelli video hoax. We've also got advice on how to keep your mobile phone secure.

#### **WhatsApp Gold scam - what is it?**

A WhatsApp message promises a hidden version of the messaging service, with special features that need to be unlocked by clicking a link.

Previous versions of the message have come with promises of free flights and 'exclusive' access to enhanced features such as the ability to make video chats, send 100 images at once and delete messages hours after they have been sent.

You are encouraged to sign up by clicking on a link in the message, but this actually takes you to a website riddled with malware that can steal your personal data.

Any updates to WhatsApp will happen automatically through the app, so never click links or download apps that promise updates or extra features.

Today the radio was talking about Whatsapp Gold.

There is a video that will be launched tomorrow in

Whatsapp and is called Martinelli. Do not open it.

Goes into your phone and nothing you do fill will fix it.

If you receive a message to update Whatsapp Gold Do not open it!

They just announced that the virus is serious. Send it to everyone.

23

**Martinelli video hoax explained.**

The latest version of the WhatsApp Gold warning message comes with information on a video called Martinelli. The message may include the following text or similar:

**There is a video that has been launched in Whatsapp and it's called Martinelli. Do not open it. It goes into your phone and nothing you do will fix it.**

**What should I do if I've received a WhatsApp Gold scam message?**

Whatever you do, don't click the link. Delete the message immediately without replying or forwarding it. You can also report it to Action Fraud, the national fraud and crime reporting centre.

For those who have received the warning but not the WhatsApp Gold scam message, you don't need to forward this on. Instead, protect your phone by keeping your phone software updated and only use the App Store or Google Play to download apps.

**Hacked and attempted Scam Yes it happened to me.**

I often write about Scams and for residents to beware of current scams and how to spot them. It can happen to the best of us, even me. Last week I had my emails hacked my late wife's old email account hacked. They also targeted My PayPal account, Amazon account, eBay account and even my national lottery account. Not to mention my online banking account. They even had the cheek to ring me saying they were from Lloyd's bank asking me to confirm my address. I suspected it was a scam call and told him I would not be answering his question and he put the phone down. Checks on the mobile phone number confirmed it was a scam it took me over 2 days to sort it all out. Please make sure that your passwords are all secure never use any names as that makes a hacker's life easy.



10.04.24

Page 9 of 11

Finally, I would also like to thank you all for your continued support and remind you that should you need my help or advice, I always pride myself on making myself available to residents. Remember I am only a phone call or email away.

*Ozzy O'shea.*

*Always Working for you Locally.*

Cllr Ozzy O'shea Tel 0116 2394336 Mobile 07808585825

Email [Ozzy.O'shea@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Ozzy.O'shea@leics.gov.uk)

Email [ozzyoshea@hotmail.com](mailto:ozzyoshea@hotmail.com)

hu

**BOROUGH REPORT APRIL 2024****Appendix 2**

**As submitted by Cllr Boothby after Parish Council meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

Dear Residents

You would have been aware of the decision by Severn Trent to renege on their promise to replace every appliance affected by the gas outage and water in the gas system and this is a fight we both have taken to them but they, through their loss adjusters Sedgewick, are not coming to the table in terms of Range cookers and gas fires. We then had Aspect, also engaged by Severn Trent, who were replacing 4 ring cookers and hobs but now are only replacing the boilers as instructed to by Severn Trent.

At a meeting of Ratby Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> April, Mr Adam Coles from Severn Trent met with a few disgruntled residents and listened to their complaints.

We both expressed the view that the communication between residents and Sedgwick and Aspect was terrible and even now some people still have barely anything to cook on and Severn Trent have abandoned them yet again by instructing Aspect to not deal with cookers or hobs, which was confirmed by Adam Coles, as he said they were making replacing boilers a priority. They will still deal with vulnerable residents on a case-by-case basis.

So, for those of you who have a condemned cooker or fire, you need to contact Sedgwick on 01924 428703 and press option 1. For boilers contact Aspect on 07730 090881.

We would like to welcome Ed Clarke to Ratby as the new landlord of the Bulls Head. Ed said "The aim of Team Plough is to bring the Bulls Head back to the Ratby Community and the welcome I have had so far has been overwhelming.

Please call in for a drink and a chat or a bite to eat. Team Plough look forward to seeing you."

We wish Ed and his team every success.

Best Regards

Chris and Ozzy

Working for you

**LIST OF PAYMENTS/INCOME – APRIL 2024**

Appendix 3

Cheque No.	Company	Amount £	Detail
104749	Npower Commercial Gas	143.06	Christmas decoration lighting
104750	HMRC	1021.22	PAYE (Feb.2024)
104751	HMRC	998.29	PAYE (Mar.2024)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£2162.57</b>	

**DIRECT DEBIT/BANK PAYMENT**

Salaries	2672.68	Salaries ( Mar.24)
Nest Pensions	85.71	Nest Pensions
British Gas	48.81	Gas
HSBC	10.00	Bank charges
Ratby Senior Citizens	24.00	P/Cl mtg. 09./04.24 & Annual Parish Mtg. 24/04/24
Broxap	676.80	Replacement planter
British Telecommunications plc	395.86	Telephone bill
E'on	87.62	Electricity – War Memorial
E'on	28.51	Electricity – Office bldg..
E'on	51.84	Electricity – CCTV Ferndale Pk
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4081.83</b>	

**INCOME**

Allotment Rents	346.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£346.00</b>