

**Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly, Radway Parish Council**  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Radway Village Hall.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm  
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- 1 **To Accept Apologies for Absence & Acceptance of Apologies:**  
Cllr. Malcolm Littlewood, Cllr. Chris Mills due to attendance at other meetings. Cllr. James Stephens – delayed and due to arrive later in the evening. Proposed: Cllr. Simon Hooker, Seconded: Cllr. Penny Gardner.  
  
**Present:** Cllr. Simon Hooker (Chair), Cllr. Penny Gardner (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Colin Matthews, Cllr. James Stephens (arrived at 6.59pm), Clerk: Helen Hide-Wright, Cllr. Chris Mills (arrived at 6.40pm and left at 7.40pm), 15 members of the public including: Jane Stewart, Yve Buckland, Angus Stewart, Mike Gardner, Rob Cooper, Peter Wilkins, Lilian Smith-Vincent, Tim Smith-Vincent, Julia Winter, Puffin Pocock, Mike Trotman, Rosamund Trotman, Alison Hooker, Pete Briscoe, Susie Briscoe.
- 2 **Approval of Minutes** 15 May 2025. Proposed: Cllr. Simon Hooker, Seconded: Cllr. Penny Gardner. Signed and dated by Cllr. Hooker.
- 3 **Matters arising from the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting:** None.
- 4 **Parish Council Chairman’s Report** – Councillor Simon Hooker, *Chairman of RPC*. (Appendix A). Tim Smith-Vincent proposed thanks to the Chair for his work on the parish council.
- 5 **County Councillor** Chris Mills (Appendix B).
- 6 **District Councillor** Malcolm Littlewood (Appendix C).
- 7 **Issues of Particular Local Importance**
  - i. **Village Gateways:** The following questions were raised:
    - Whether the gateways would mark the 30mph limit and reduce the speed of vehicles.
    - Whether the village could have a 20 mph limit in the village. The Chair confirmed that this was not possible at present, according to Highways.
    - Concerns about the cost of installing gateways.
    - Whether 20 mph limit would be possible on roads without pavements. **ACTION: RPC to investigate with Highways.**
    - Where evidence of speeding had been gathered.
    - Possible signage such as “20 is plenty.”  
Cllr. Chris Mills confirmed that unofficial signs such as those saying, “20 is plenty,” cannot be displayed on the highway as they are not official.

In addition:

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- It was suggested that at rush hour times, traffic is monitored with speed guns. The Chair confirmed that this would require investment in training etc.
- Other villages have cables across the road which appear to be monitoring vehicles.
- Resident are seen driving around the village whilst using their mobile phones.

ii. **Additional item: Church Roof and other village topics.**

Presentation by Alison Hooker. (Appendix D).

iii. **Additional item: Parish Plan.** (Appendix E).

- A question was asked about whether the village should have a Local Development Plan. The Chair outlined the costs, time commitment, the duration for the formulation of a development plans and grants. Follow up concerns were shared regarding development on greenbelt land. A councillor explained that the village has a categorisation that limits development. The Chair confirmed that Radway is at the lowest priority in the Core Strategy for development. Cllr. Chris Mills confirmed that the South Warwickshire Local Plan will supersede the Core Strategy and that Radway is not listed for potential development.
- A comment was made that a Radway Parish Plan would need to be sufficiently supported by residents of Radway to make it statistically relevant.
- A resident suggested that a Radway Parish Plan should include resident views on planning.
- A resident asked what a standard Parish Plan covers.  
**ACTION: RPC to seek clarification on whether there is a pro forma parish plan and obtain a copy, if available.**
- A resident commented on the last Housing Needs Survey, questioning why it was not adopted. The former Chair of RPC, Tim Smith-Vincent responded by confirming that the 2019 Housing Needs Survey was not adopted by RPC. It was deemed to be flawed in its logic and methodology. The questions were biased, and the conclusions were unrepresentative statistically of the needs of the Villagers. Reported findings showed no correlation with the full data captured, and important themes ignored or missed altogether.
- The Chair concluded by commenting that the village appears to be interested in a Parish Plan, therefore the idea will be investigated.

8 **Other Matters Raised by an Elector of the Parish:** A resident asked why hedges have been removed from the village green. In response, it was felt that the vegetation was removed due to storm damage and the poor condition of the plants.

A resident asked about the regularity of grass cutting due to the long grass throughout the village. **ACTION: RPC to investigate.**

**The meeting closed at 8.02pm.**

## **Chair's Report for 2024/25**

### **Achievements**

- A quiet year of consolidation. Clare Rankin resigned as a Parish Councillor and with James Stephens joining the PC, new roles & responsibilities evolved through the year. I would like to express my thanks once again to Clare for her many years of service on the Parish Council.
- The street light outside the lychgate was upgraded to an LED bulb – leaving only the one halfway up West End to be converted. (Awaiting National Grid to connect electricity supply.)
- The pavement along Tysoe Road was resurfaced by Warwickshire County Council Highways Department.
- A couple of swing seats on the playground have been replaced.
- Village volunteering day was a huge success once again with over 40 people taking part in various cleaning, tidying & litter picking activities.
- Local Government re-organisation has been an underlying topic of discussion at PC Meetings throughout the year. Whilst big changes are ahead for Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council, it is unclear how these will affect Radway and parish Councils in general.

### **Future issues**

- On-going concerns about flooding in certain areas of the village remain. Seems to be occurring more regularly and with greater impact – climate change?
  - WCC Highways have jet washed the drains around St Peter's Church to optimise drain capacity. PC to monitor situation & liaise with WCC to ensure regular maintenance is carried out.
- Speeding in village. A number of people have highlighted the speed with which some cars, agricultural vehicles and trucks drive through the village.
- Housing Development in the village. The PC is reviewing the need for a Parish Plan to ascertain the mood of the village towards housing development and future planning applications. The PC would like input from the village to help it understand the overall need and appetite for, new housing development. This will help the PC evaluate and respond to planning applications as they arise.

### **Planning**

- The following houses had planning applications approved by Stratford District Council.
  - Quince Cottage (3 Stable Mews)
  - Magnolia Cottage
  - Shakesfield
- Tree work approved at:
  - Oriel Cottage
  - 1 Grange Cottages
- Although the planning application for a new house in the existing gardens of Fife House was withdrawn by the applicants, the Parish Council has sought legal advice from WALC (Warwickshire &

Worcestershire Association for Local Government) in how to respond to on-going correspondence and requests from the applicants for the Parish Council to engage more fully with their planning application. This process is on-going.

### **Financial**

- The benefits of reduced electricity costs have been seen this year with the cost of electricity to run the streetlights having largely been covered by a large credit balance on our Npower account as we transitioned to the new billing cycle and quarterly costs.
- All the grant funding for the project to improve the King John's Lane bridleway was finally received, meaning this project was cost neutral to RPC.
- The PC has acquired a bank debit card for the first time to make dealing with online subscriptions, such as Microsoft 365, easier.
- Grants to Tea Chat & Play and the Village Hall were approved. A request for a grant to Radway Cricket Club has been made, but is pending, awaiting more detailed accounts and bank account details.
- The Precept for the FY2026/27 has been increased by 3.5%.
- The Parish Council received an excellent audit report for the financial year 2025/26 from Trevor Gill on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026. A huge thank you to Helen for completing all the necessary forms and keeping everyone and everything in order over the past year.

### **Summary**

The Parish Council work hard to keep our small village 'working' smoothly. The Councillors give up a lot of their spare time to do so and I would like to express my thanks to all of them for the work they do on behalf of the village. The PC clearly demonstrates that it works collaboratively with the County and District Councils, as well as other local stakeholders and sources of funding.

Our Clerk, Helen, provides invaluable support and ensures the PC operates legally. With ever increasing bureaucracy this is an extremely important role.

I am confident that PC will continue to be successful in the future.

**Simon Hooker**  
**Chair, Radway Parish Council**  
**28<sup>th</sup> May, 2026**

### **Appendix B. Cllr. Chris Mills. Radway Parish Assembly 28th May 2026**

Warwickshire County Council approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services.

For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week.

#### **SEND provision**

Warwickshire County Council has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to allocate over £320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation. £110.5m per year spent on SEND

### **Adult Social Care Service Rated ‘Good’ by CQC**

WCC is celebrating a positive outcome from the Care Quality Commission’s assessment of Adult Social Care which recognises the county as a high performing on Adult Social Care needs. Adult Social Care is the largest expenditure for Warwickshire County Council @ £310m per year. As an example, in 2024 The average cost of a local authority-funded care home place for someone aged over 65 was £951 a week and the costs are rising. 80% of Council budget on Adult Social Care.

### **Home to school transport**

Home to school transport is another big spend for WCC at over £46m per year. Total home to school transport costs have more than doubled from £17m in 2018.

Total Expenditure budget for Warwickshire County Council @£700.2m

However, we are Recalibrating Warwickshire and Fundamental changes are coming.

We are focused on the future and have set out our objectives for the next four years in our draft Council Plan which details our purpose and direction for our residents, partners, businesses and staff.

The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive. Severe financial pressures on the Home to School Transport Budget and SEND are being addressed by the continuing expansion of ‘resource provisions’ in schools, which allows children with special educational needs to attend a specialist resource within a mainstream school, facilitating greater inclusion and making it easier for all children to attend a school local to them.

### **Families are experiencing the benefits of new Warwickshire Child and Family**

#### **Wellbeing service**

Since launching in December 2025, Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing (WCFW) meet the evolving needs of families through an integrated ‘whole family’ approach, ensuring that public health nursing across Warwickshire is accessible, responsive, and focuses on local communities. With emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and community partnership, the service also ensures that children, young people, and families receive the right support, at the right time, and in the right place.

WCFW teams have already been integrated across Warwickshire’s Health Visiting and School Nursing services, with staff continuing service delivery at the same bases across the county and having a strengthened presence in schools to promote good health, spot concerns early, and support children’s wellbeing. WCFW has also been bringing professionals together to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and provide more seamless and accessible support for children and families within their local communities.

#### **Unitary Authority**

Warwickshire County Council submitted its plan for a Single Unitary Authority. The plan indicated that a saving of over £18m per year would be made

### **Warwickshire County Council**

Our plan is to deliver improvement for the people of Warwickshire. Rising demand for children’s services and adult social care and a SEND system are under pressure.

This plan sets out how we will recalibrate Warwickshire, to make sure that the people of Warwickshire get a better deal. We will: Put residents of our County and their interests first in everything that we do. From planning decisions to how we allocate school places and design social care, we will fight for the best interests of local people.

Support residents who need help to make sure they don’t get left behind. We will do this by putting a new focus on prevention, personal responsibility. Our towns and villages are the lifeblood of our economy, heritage and culture and we must do all we can to support them.

We will do this while keeping council tax increases as low as possible, to recognise the financial pressures faced by all the residents of Warwickshire, always remembering that every pound we spend needs to deliver for you, the taxpayer. The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive.

Chris Mills  
County Councillor  
Radway

## **Appendix C. Cllr. Malcolm Littlewood.**

# Ward Report and Ward Member Annual Report – Tysoe Ward.

Ward Report covering April 2026

### **Health screening events across Stratford District**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has joined together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) to offer a series of health screening events for both men and women across the District.

The tests on offer cost £14 each, subsidised by the District Council and are:

- For men over 40 - PSA (Prostate Screening)
- For men and women aged 18 and over - diabetes and cholesterol

*The next event takes place on Saturday 9th May at The Graham Adams Centre, Saint James Road, Southam, CV47 0LY*

### **The accessible sport of padel coming to Stratford Leisure Centre**

Everyone Active is partnering with padel centre operator PadelStars to construct the courts at the centre, which is run by award-winning operator Everyone Active and Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The new padel courts will sit next to the existing outdoor courts, replacing the 2G Multi-Use Games Area. Customers will have access to three football courts and three padel courts by the end of the project. There will be two doubles courts for padel and one singles court.

Construction begins toward the end of May, with courts for matches and training expected to open by June.

### **Free memberships for people with Parkinson's in Stratford-on-Avon District**

Free gym memberships are being offered by local leisure centres to people living with Parkinson's.

Stratford Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester, run by award-winning operator Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, offer the initiative co-designed with the charity Parkinson's UK.

Now in its fifth year, the Everyone Active and Parkinson's UK free membership provides access to gym, swim and group exercise classes, as well as online Synergy Dance classes.

A free membership will also be given to up to three carers to provide additional support if needed.

Currently, Everyone Active supports 96 individuals in Stratford-on-Avon District with Parkinson's.

World Parkinson's Day, which took place on Saturday 11 April 2026, raises awareness of the progressive neurological condition that currently has no cure.

Parkinson's affects around 145,000 people in the UK and there are more than 40 symptoms, from tremor and pain to anxiety.

Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. Those living with the condition can find various activities, such as swimming, walking and dance, beneficial in managing their symptoms.

### **Clinical waste disposal**

We are seeing an increase in **needles and other clinical sharps** being found in recycling and household waste bins. This is dangerous and puts residents and waste crews at risk.

Any clinical sharps such as needles, syringes and prick sticks boxed up to 1 litre can be taken pharmacies across the District.

Sharps boxes over 1 litre should be returned to your doctor's surgery.

### **By-election in the adjoining Ward of Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton**

For information purposes with the resignation of Cllr. Nigel Rock (LibDem) due to ill health the local by-election will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. This will not have any direct effect on your Parishes but depending upon the outcome could change the political balance within SDC and change the membership of the working committees, especially for the minor parties and independent members. Good luck to all candidates.

## Ward Member Annual Report

Is it already another year gone by, and what a year for Stratford on Avon District Council. My focus as Ward member has and always been on residents. I have been active supporting residents in their problems with Planning, Housing Associations, Severn Trent Water, and Highways (potholes etc.). I have attended as many Parish Council and Parish Meetings as I have been able to, in line with my Role and Responsibilities as your Ward Member. For those interested a full description of the role and responsibility of a District Councillor can be read at [Ward Councillor](#).

After the General Election in 2024, the new Labour Government started a range of democracy changes including Local Government reform abolishing County, District, and Borough Councils replacing them with Unitary Authorities (UA's). At the moment, these changes are planned to take effect after the next elections for the current Authorities in May 2027.

When SDC is abolished, a new shadow authority will be established. Wards are likely to disappear, and the old County Divisions, or close to those boundaries, replace them. This would reduce democratic representation significantly, so I think it is likely that the 'new divisions will

have two councillors, but this is yet to be determined. For Town and Parish Councils this will mean little change.

This change coincides with the need to produce a new Local Plan which was started before 2023 by SDC and Warwick District Council; known as the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). The SWLP is now almost ready to be agreed and move to Regulation-19 by the end of 2026; the major step in its progress to planning and development policy. Sadly, in December of last year the current Local Plan – the Core Strategy – was found to be not fully up to date because an Inspector found that SDC's Housing Land Supply was only 2.7 years and not the required 5 years.

This means that local communities have come under increasing pressure from housing developers who wish to build in our rural communities because of the higher housing value and increased profitability. Rural communities need housing to meet local needs, but these are not the dwellings that developers want to build necessarily. To help rural communities protect their settlements, I successfully put down a motion (seconded by Cllr. Anne Parry Wellesbourne North and Rural) to provide funding for Town and Parish Councils to bring up to date existing Neighbourhood Development Plans and help to fund new NDP's. When 'made' an NDP has equal planning weight with the Local Plan and forms part of local planning policy.

At the same time as introducing Planning and Local Government Reform, the Government has required the new UA's to come together to form Mayoral Strategic Authorities with populations around 500,000 with mayors. Strategic Authorities will take on the role of Police Authority, Fire Authority, and Highways and receive additional funding it is promised. The new Mayoral Strategic Authorities are supposed to geographically match with Police and NHS organisations, whilst at the same time looking to reduce the number of Police authorities significantly, so this latter responsibility is proving almost impossible to incorporate into strategy planning!

Our Ward has seen significant planning applications. Here are a few of the current proposals:

- 1,150 houses off Fell Mill Lane Honington
- Solar Farm proposal off Fell Mill Lane Honington
- Travelling Snowpersons' Site proposal Pillerton Priors/Hersey

I will continue to represent all residents in the Ward to the best of my ability, and remain available to help, signpost and advise as well as I am able.

## **Appendix D. Alison Hooker: Presentation on the Church & Village Matters.**

### **Parish Assembly – Fix Our Roof Update**

As you know the church roof is failing and there is a small team of volunteers working in ways to raise the money for urgent repairs.

Clare Rankin  
Alison Hooker

Puffin Pocock  
Rob Cooper

Julia Winter  
Guy Jackson

Melanie Matthews

### **Grant Applications**

We submitted a pre-application to the NLHF and received feedback that encouraged us to go ahead with a main application for £249,000.

We hoping to submit this by the end of July and should receive a decision within two months.

If we are successful and get the full amount, we will have a shortfall of around £35,000 which will have be met by fundraising, donations and smaller grants.

Most smaller funders require the bulk of the funds to be in place to be in place before they will allocate a grant, so we will need to wait for the NLHF decision before applying.

If we are unsuccessful/given a partial grant by NLHF, there is a newly launched 'Places of Worship' grant scheme and we will apply to that once we know what we still need.

In the longer term we will also look at installing water in the church and other improvements suggested in the recent survey, e.g. heating.

### **Village Survey**

Thank you to everyone who has already completed this survey – 47 responses to date.

The results of this will form a vital part of our NLHF application, so please complete the survey if you haven't already.

Please do this as an individual not household to maximise the data we get.

### **Grange Open Garden – Saturday 6 June**

Thank you to everyone who has offered support in any way – setting up on the day, manning a stall, making cakes and donating plants.

Don't forget to buy your tickets in advance as the price goes up on the day!

It promises to be a very special afternoon in the beautiful gardens at Radway Grange.

On sale will be handmade Radway crafts, local plants, delicious homemade teas, Pimms and raffle tickets with the top prize being a helicopter ride.

### **Appendix E. Cllr. Simon Hooker. Presentation: Parish Plan.**



**What is a Parish Plan?**

## How Do We Put One Together?

- PC plus help from willing volunteers.
- Ask everyone for their views through surveys and meetings.
- Identify the village's top priorities.
- Turn ideas into a practical and agreed *action plan*.
- Parish Council adopts the plan to guide decisions.





*Radway Parish Council*

## Do we need to start again with a survey?

	2021	2011	2001	1991
Total population	243	238	259	233
Adults (est)	204	191		
Households	111	109	109	98

We are a small community

That changes slowly

Many previous findings likely to still apply

Focus effort on things we want to learn

## What might we already agree on?

### Tranquility

**Tranquility** is highly valued. Being set away from main roads and accessed via small lanes, minimising quantity and **speed of traffic** is important

### Support

Many services are limited as the community is small. The need to travel out of the village is likely to continue – **community support** needs to continue for any that this presents a problem

### Landscape

The village **nestles in the landscape**, being in view from and providing village views of **Edgehill** and in some locations Red Horse Vale, The Feldon and Burton Dassett

### Countryside

The **countryside runs through the village** with wide verges, paddocks bordering roads, **open spaces** including the two village greens, duck pond and many properties set back with long gardens giving a strong feeling of **spaciousness**

## What might we already agree on?

### Church

The Church is an important **landmark** providing a **community** focus, large event space and housing the civil war exhibition. Although listed, it is recognised as at risk

### Community

The **Village Hall** is a valuable **community** asset and for such a small village there is a remarkable level of groups, clubs and events. There is scope for further activities to extend **engagement**

### Leisure

Access to the **countryside** provides many **leisure** opportunities and enhances the sense of place within the **landscape**

Is this close to a  
**Collective Vision**  
we could agree on?



# RADWAY

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*Where History Meets the English Countryside*

Warwickshire • England