

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT**  
**ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2014**

P.Cllr. Mrs N Clarke (Chair)

P.Cllr. Mrs D Weir

P.Cllr. J Gaffey

P.Cllr. G Cooper

C.Cllr. Mrs J Compton

D.Cllr. L Caborn

Chairman of WDC Cllr. Richard Davies

**157 Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr. Mrs Swain and Cllr. North.

**158 Changes to Published Agenda**

Additions were made to the agenda under Minute 170 – WCC Chairman’s Open Evening at Shire Hall, Warwick. Saturday 12 April 6.30-8.30pm. and Meeting with Stephen Hay WDC.

**159 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations relating to pecuniary interests**

Cllr. Cooper declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 164.c being the owner of the property.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman proposed a change to the running order of the meeting to allow the WDC Chairman Cllr. Davies to address the meeting earlier in proceedings to enable him to leave in time to attend other scheduled engagements. Resolved unanimously.

**160 Chairman of Warwick District Council. Cllr. Richard Davies**

The Chairman of WDC reported that he was nearly at the end of his term and his visits to Parish Councils. His attendance at Parish Council meetings had proved very enlightening and he had picked up on various local issues. He had also been very impressed by the standards of many of the village halls he had visited and how well appointed many of them were.

The last year had been very interesting at WDC with The Gateway Proposals and drafting of the new Local Plan which had been a very difficult process but was now reaching a conclusion of the draft document, due to be presented to the Executive on 23 April.

The diversity of events attended by the Chairman had been extremely interesting and the Chairman felt very privileged to have attended many of the events, including greeting Prince Michael of Kent. It had also been encouraging to meet so many young people who were involved with their communities.

Overall, the Chairman of WDC had thoroughly enjoyed his term of office.

The PC Chairman and Councillors thanked Cllr. Davies for his time and for his positive report on Warwick District as a whole.

**161 Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr. Mrs Compton gave the following report:

- WCC Public Interest Debate on the issue of forming a Unitary Authority had taken place and the Speakers and the debates had been excellent resulting in a motion being carried to investigate the matter further. A very useful exercise in democracy.
- The WCC Chairman’s “Open Evening” scheduled for Saturday 12 April 2014. An interesting and popular event.
- Cllr. Mrs Compton currently wading through the Care Bill at the moment which is not an easy process.
- Cllr. Mrs Compton had opened a further venue under the “Safer Places Scheme” which provided a safe haven for vulnerable people in many local places such as supermarkets, shops, cafes etc. A yellow sign in the window identifies each venue.

Cllr. Caborn provided the following report:

- WDC have yet to have a debate on the unitary authority issue.
- Local Plan – parish councils have met with Stephen Hay to discuss their particular areas. The draft submission would be submitted for consideration by WDC on 23 April.

- The second consultation on Gypsy & Traveller Sites was due to start on Monday.

At this point the Chairman of WDC left the meeting having reminded Rowington PC of how fortunate they were in having two such hard working and involved District and County Councillors in Cllr. Mrs Compton and Cllr. Les Caborn.

#### **162 Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2014**

Cllr. Mrs Weir questioned the accuracy of minute 147.b relating to communication with the WDC Monitoring Officer. Clerk confirmed that there had been no contact between RPC and the Monitoring Officer. Cllr. Mrs Weir further questioned the accuracy of the minutes relating to a formal resolution to send a letter in response to comments made by 2 residents on the WDC website. It was confirmed that a resolution had in fact been made to forward a letter. Resolved that the Minutes of 13 February 2014 were accepted as a true record of proceedings JG/GC]

#### **163 Questions/Observations from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes)**

None

#### **164 Planning Matters**

164.a Considered by WDC:

None

164. b To be considered by RPC

**W14 / 0066 Meadow Hill Farm, Lapworth Street, Lawsonford** – Erection of entrance walls and vehicle access gates. Whilst Rowington Parish Council raise no material objections to this proposal and support the amendments which move the entrance gates further back from the highway, concerns still remain with the proposed brick wall adjacent to the entrance, which impacts considerably on the openness of the green belt and rural outlook. Perhaps consideration could be given to screening of the brick wall in the form of native hedging which would also tie in with the existing hedge line.

**W 14 / 0168 The Feldon, Mill Lane, Rowington** – Erection of a single storey and two storey rear extension and erection of a side ground floor bay window. **No objections.**

**W 14 /0139 Field Cottage, Mill Lane, Rowington** – Demolition of existing side and rear extensions and erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension. **No objections**

**W 14 / 0268 The Cottage, Shrewley Common** – Erection of a first floor side extension and erection of a detached car port/store building with office/store above after demolition of existing outbuildings. **Objection/Comments.** Whilst no material objections were raised to the proposed extension element of this application, Councillors would query the overall percentage increase of extensions to this property, given the previous extensions which have taken place. Objections were however raised in respect of the proposed outbuilding in terms of size and particularly in height. The proposed building is materially larger than the existing buildings which it is intended to replace. The size and height of the proposed building would have considerable impact on the openness of the green belt which, together with the visual impact when viewed from the highway, is viewed as detrimental in the Green Belt.

**W 14 / 0297LB Finwood Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Lawsonford** – Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Objections.**

1. The proposal is not in keeping with this Listed Building and is viewed as inappropriate in terms of design and not in character. 2. The proposal also appears overly large and Councillors also query the overall percentage increase, given previous extensions of this property.

164.c Other Planning/Enforcement matters

**Pinley Acres, Pinley** – Enforcement/Stop Notice removal of drive/hardstanding in adjacent field. Update from Rajinder Lalli WDC 07.03.2014 - Papers submitted to WDC Legal Dept. Situation regarding uninhabitable garage named “Pinley Lodge” to be monitored. Noted.

**Bushwood Farm, Preston Road** – Mobile Home – Update from Rajinder Lalli WDC 07.03.2014 – Update from Phil Hopkinson WDC regarding “ancillary use” to be chased up. Rajinder Lalli will then provide update to RPC. **Update received – 10 March from Phil Hopkinson** – *“Our consideration of this mobile home as ancillary accommodation is its ‘use’. While it may stand as a unit in the curtilage of the main dwelling, its occupation is to provide ancillary accommodation for family members, its fitted kitchen does contain a cooker and main meals are taken in the main*

*house. It is not independently occupied and can remain on site for as long as it is required. Having established its ancillary use it cannot gain another lawful use through the passage of time"*

Councillors queried this conclusion and asked Clerk to speak to Phil Hopkinson again as it was usual practice to place time limited permission on such mobile homes.

#### **165. Parish Design Statement**

In Cllr. North's absence Cllr. Mrs Clarke and Cllr. Gaffey reported that the hamlets section of the PDS had now been virtually completed and Cllr. North had submitted the draft document to Stephen Hay WDC for comment.

#### **166. Localities Forum**

166.a Warwick Rural West Community Forum. Next Meeting : 15 May 2014. Committee Room 2, Shire Hall. Cllr. Mrs Weir and Cllr. Gaffey. Noted

#### **167 Rowington and Lowsonford Village Halls**

167.a Reports (if any). None

#### **168 Highways, Footpaths and Transport**

168.a Details of Temporary Road Closures for Dorridge Fun Run Sunday 15 June 2014. Noted

168.b. New kissing gates for footpath adjacent St. Lukes, Lowsonford – Landowner not keen on metal kissing gate and had questioned the need for a new gate, suggesting that the money could be better spent elsewhere in improving the overall appearance of the village. Funding could not be transferred from one department to another and on this basis Clerk was asked to investigate with WCC the possibility of a wooden kissing gate.

#### **169 Playing Field**

169.a Playing Field Inspection Reports (Mr R Morton / Cllr. Cooper / Cllr. Gaffey)

169.b Feb 2014 Steve's Mowing – Quotation for Playing Field Maintenance for 2014/15. Proposed increase of 3% on mowing costs. Resolved that this increase was acceptable. [GC/JG]

169.c Purchase of new play equipment to be discussed following circulation of Wicksteed brochure to all councillors Nov/Dec 2013. Due to the non return of the Wicksteed Catalogue, the PC discussed the suitability and type of equipment that would be most appropriate. Agreed to defer until the April meeting. Resolved that a questionnaire on this subject should be given out to pupils at Lapworth School asking the children what items of play equipment they would like to see on the playing field. Draft to be discussed at next meeting. JG agreed to help with circulation.

#### **170 Meetings/Training Days attended/forthcoming**

170.a Feb 2014 WDC Development Services – Notification of Enforcement Appeal. The Stables, The Cumsey. Public Enquiry 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 Town Hall, Leamington Spa commencing at 10.00 am. Noted

170.b Apr 2014 Date for Annual Parish Meeting to be decided. 17 April 2014 agreed and circulation of flyers to residents to encourage attendance.

170.c 29 Apr 2014 West Midland Waterway – User Group Meeting. Ackers Trust, Golden Hillock Road, Sparkbrook @ 6.30pm. Noted

170.d. 12 Apr 2014 WCC Chairman's Open Evening at Shire Hall, Warwick. Saturday 12 April 6.30-8.30pm. RSVP required for catering.

170.e 12 Mar 2014 Meeting with Stephen Hay WDC. Discussion on Local Plan housing allocations for Rowington Parish – no firm decision could be taken on the Kingswood Sites until all the Hydrology Surveys/Reports were to hand due to concerns with flooding issues in the area. Site on the Old Warwick Road which had been put forward for consideration with regard to further almshouses was subject to the Almshouse Charity becoming HCA registered before it could be considered further.

On behalf of RPC the following matters were put forward for consideration by WDC:

- Consistency in planning decisions overall
- Lack of enforcement action
- Lack of enforcement of planning conditions imposed
- Small parcels of land sold off and becoming extremely unsightly and untidy, particularly equestrian yards. More use of Section 215 Notices requested to keep sites tidy.

#### **171 Correspondence**

171.a Feb 2014 Letter of resignation from Cllr. Mrs D Swain following many years of service to the parish was

reluctantly accepted by the PC

171.b Dec 2013 Correspondence regarding possible redevelopment of Orchard Barn, Preston Road. In circulation file last month for general comment by Councillors. Comments requested. None to date

171.c Mar 2014 Zurich Insurance – Quote for RPC for comparison. Resolved that Clerk would obtain quotations from Zurich Insurance and from Came & Company for comparison prior to renewal of current insurance policy.

171.d Feb 2014 Copy of letter sent to 2 residents following comments made on WDC website. Copy response circulated to Councillors with this agenda – for information. Noted

171.e Circulation Envelope:

WDC Council Meeting 26 Feb 2014 Agenda; WDC Standards Committee Meeting 18 Feb 2014 Agenda; WALC Updates to legal Topic Notes 8 Elections, 79 Staff Pensions, 30 Defamation; Clerks & Councils Direct March 2014; WRCC Community Building Newsletter Feb 2014; Elize Hall WDC – Critique of WDC’s housing numbers; WALC Minutes of Meeting of 12 February 2014; WALC Public Recording of Local Council meetings & Access to Documents and Opinion on whether training for Councillors should be compulsory.

**172 Finance**

16.a. Paid during the month:

None

**172.b To be paid**

Clerk - salary and allowance	£784.75
HMRC – PAYE/NIC	£139.65
Clerk – Postage	£9.82
WALC Training Day (22 Mar)	£30.00
Mrs N Clarke Refreshments Dec	£24.75

**172.c Received:**

Bank of Ireland Interest (Feb 2014)	£2.37
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Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be accepted. [JG/GC]

**172.d Items for consideration**

Two applications received for current Parish Councillor vacancies. Deferred pending submission of final draft Local Plan by WDC in view of the two applicants having an interest in development within the parish. Consideration of methods of communication to parishioners as discussed briefly at last meeting. Clerk to investigate possibilities further and report at next meeting.

**18. Items for future agendas**

Sarah Brooke-Taylor WRCC to speak at April meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

*[March 2014 Minutes]*