**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT**

**ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2015**

P.Cllr. J Gaffey (In the Chair)

P.Cllr. Mrs N Clarke

P.Cllr. M North

P. Cllr. G Bull

P.Cllr. Mrs M Bull

P.Cllr. Mrs D Weir

P.Cllr. G Coombs

D.Cllr Peter Whiting

D.Cllr. Mrs S Gallagher

C.Cllr Mrs J Compton

Chairman of Warwick District Council. Cllr. Michael Doody

Clerk

**92. APOLOGIES**

None

**93. CHANGES TO PUBLISHED AGENDA**

Changes to the agenda due to time constraints were made under – Minute 107 Email from Warwickshire Police.

**94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr. Bull declared an interest in Minute 103 being a member of Rowington Village Hall Management Committee. All Councillors present with the exception of Cllr. Coombs declared a personal interest in Minute 99 – Planning Application **W15 / 1920 Land adjacent Old Posthouse, Rowington Green -** Erection of 2 new dwellings and a detached double garage **-** the applicant being known to them.

**95 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2015**

95.a Draft Minutes circulated to Councillors with this agenda for approval.  Minutes of 12 November 2015 approved unanimously [NC/MN]

95.b. Following a request for clarification, the following wording is to be added to Minute 71.e of the Minutes of 08 October 2015 – **“*The External Audit was completed satisfactorily and the relevant Certificate issued, taking into account the comments referred to within Minute 71.e of the Minutes of 08 October 2015".***  Noted and approved unanimously

**96 QUESTIONS/OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Limited to 15 minutes)**

No members of the public present

**97 CHAIRMAN OF WDC**

Visit by Chairman of WDC Councillor Michael Doody who provided the following report:

* Local Plan still in suspension pending proposals to meet the issues of unmet housing need.
* WDC invited to join West Midlands Combined Authority but the offer had been declined due to there being no seat for WDC on the new authority and subsequently very little say on decision making
* Offa House now has planning permission for circa 35 refugees to arrive each month for assistance with their move to the UK but no details confirmed at this stage pending confirmation of Central Government funding
* WDC currently considering 2016/2017 budget proposals and waiting for further detail from Central Government in relation to funding for that period
* WDC Headquarters still under discussion and the current option for a new building appeared to remain with the potential site at Convent Garden car park
* The proposed Gateway Development at Bagington had been stopped by the Secretary of State and the land should be returning to Green Belt

The Chairman thanked Councillor Doody for taking the time to visit and speak to Rowington Parish Council

**98 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Mrs Gallagher provided the following report:

* Local Plan – despite the unmet housing need it seemed that the villages would escape any further demands for development
* WDC Leisure Centres – the proposed move to transfer the leisure facilities to a private operator had met with some opposition and as a result the proposal would be going back to full Council for further consideration

Cllr. Whiting provided the following report:

* Local Plan – although the rural villages would be generally safe from further development it could be that there would be a general upward pressure for incremental increases i.e. potential pressure for greater density on small village sites
* WDC Budget – although all the details were yet to be confirmed it was possible that there would be increases in council tax at some point if services are to be maintained

Cllr. Mrs Compton provided the following report:

* WCC Budget Meeting to take place in February and it looked likely that an increase in the WCC portion of Council Tax (85%) would be in the order of 1.99%
* Discussions were currently underway on the future of the Community Forums with a Working Party debating whether they should continue
* WCC Cabinet had been discussing stopping places for Gypsies and Travellers i.e. overnight stops in laybys etc. One potential site in Southam was currently being considered
* Warwickshire has managed to hit a target figure of 10,000 “Dementia friends” which was good news

**99 PLANNING MATTERS**

**99.a Considered by WDC:**

**W15 / 0514 Woodley, Old Warwick Road, Rowington –** Resubmission of W15/0514 Demolition of existing rear extensions with proposed two storey extensions. **GRANTED**

**W15 /1628 Ribbons, Rowington Green –** Erection of 2 storey side extension (resubmission of W15/0135). Planning Committee 08 December 2015. **GRANTED AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**. ( Chairman Cllr. Gaffey in attendance) Councillors agreed that this was a disappointing result.

**W 15 / 1561 Wyken Field, High Cross Lane, Lowsonford** – Certificate of Lawful Development for use of an existing building as a residential dwelling. **REFUSED.**

**99.b To be considered by RPC**

**W 15 / 1895 The Threshing Barn, Finwood Road –** Proposed erection of single storey ground floor extension to the Eastern elevation, incorporating into the existing cat-slide roof; insertion of two roof lights to the existing Eastern roof slope; balcony to the South elevation; additional window to the ground floor and two additional windows to the second floor of the existing Southern elevation. **No objections**

**W15 / 1920 Land adjacent Old Posthouse, Rowington Green -** Erection of 2 new dwellings and a detached double garage. **Objections**.

1. Contrary to WDC Emerging Policy H1 (Local Plan 2011-2029) insofar as Limited Infill Villages policy states ***“In line with national Green Belt policy, appropriate development includes rural affordable housing, limited infill development, the re-use of buildings, the redevelopment of partial development or previously developed land, and replacement dwellings”*** This proposal is not considered to be “**limited** infill development” and does not meet any of the other criteria of this policy.
2. Over intensification of development on a plot of this size – a single dwelling would be preferable in line with the character of surrounding properties i.e. single detached dwellings on large plots. Since rural exception housing is provided in locations which would not normally be released for development, it is important that the design of the scheme will relate well to the settlement which it is within, or adjoins
3. The scale and mass and subsequent impact on the rural street scene cannot be supported in this location being adjacent to a well-known accident blackspot at Rowington Crossroads.
4. The design and character of the proposed dwellings is not in keeping with the surrounding area or adjacent properties, contrary to emerging WDC Local Plan policies H10 and H11.
5. Policy H11 (WDC Local Plan 2011-2029) (b) with reference to Limited Village Infill Housing Development in the Green belt ***“the development comprises the infilling of a small gap fronting the highway between an otherwise largely uninterrupted built up frontage, which is visible as part of the street scene”*** this proposal does not comply. Proposal also contrary to H11 (c***) “the site does not form an important part of the integrity of the village, the loss of which would have a harmful impact upon the local character and distinctiveness of the area”*** This site is considered and important part of the generally open character of Rowington Green. The smaller villages in Warwick District “washed over” by Green belt are generally open in character and play an important part in the overall structure and purpose of the Green belt, particularly with regard to openness.

**W15 / 1852 Downlands, Mill Lane, Lowsonford –** Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling. **No objections**

**99.c Other Planning/Enforcement matters**

Enforcement Item Pr2. **Ardencote Manor banner/sign** on C25 The Cumsey, plus potential planning breach. Update received from WDC Enforcement 13 November 2015. Clerk to chase on progress and keep Cllr. Whiting informed on progress.

**100. PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT**

Update by Steering Group on recent meeting. Cllr. Coombs distributed a copy of his comments on the draft to Councillors for consideration. Meeting of Steering Group to take place during January prior to the next PC meeting.

**101. PARISH WEBSITE**

101.a Update (if any) [www.rowingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rowingtonpc.org.uk). No update. Material added during the month by Clerk

**102. LOCALITIES FORUM**

102.a Warwick Rural West Community Forum. **Next Meeting**: 28 January 2016 – Shire Hall, Warwick (Cllr Gaffey and Cllr. Mrs Weir to attend). For information

102.b Anita Kendall has left WCC to become Community Development Worker at WDC. Any correspondence to be addressed to Jenny Murray at southernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk until Anita Kendall’s post has been filled.

**103. ROWINGTON AND LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALLS**

103.a Reports (if any)

The recent Miseltoe Ball at Rowington Village Hall had been very well attended by approximately 80 people.

**104. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS AND TRANSPORT**

104.a WDC Flooding Reports (if any) None received

104.b Reports by Councillors on any highway issues. Cllr. Mrs Clarke mentioned two potholes on High Cross Lane which she would submit on the WCC website under “Report it” for highways

104.c Details of road closure Lapworth Street/New Road,Lowsonford from Peter Hallam WCC. Work now completed by WCC to the drainage system across New Road and Canal & River Trust had been advised that they needed to clear their ditch and canal overflow system to enable the road drainage system to work effectively.

104.c A resident of Beech Close, Rowington had complained about the state of the highways along Rowington Green with building contractors leaving deposits on the road.

104.d Reports by Councillors on any footpath issues. Reports Sheets due from – Cllr.Coombs. Cllr. Coombs had been provided with a further map showing the footpaths he needed to survey and he would carry out this task as soon as possible.

**105 PLAYING FIELD**

105.a Playing Field Inspection Reports - **Cllr. Coombs (15 Nov) Mr Connolly (22 Nov)Cllr. Mrs Weir (29 Nov) Cllr. Bull (13 Dec) Mr Connolly (20 Dec) Cllr. North (27 Dec) Mr Connolly (03 Jan 2016) Cllr. Gaffey (10 Jan) Mr Connolly (17 Jan) Cllr. Mrs Clarke (24 Jan) Mr Connolly (31 Jan) Cllr. Mrs Bull 07 (Feb)**

**N.B**. Please submit inspection report to the Clerk as soon as the relevant inspection has been carried out.

Cllr. Mrs Weir reported on the moss growing on the safety mats under the junior swings and the dirty condition of the swing seats – Clerk to speak to Mr Connolly and request that he attend to these matters.

**106 MEETINGS.TRAINING DAYS ATTENDED / FORTHCOMING**

106.a 08 Feb 2016 Presentation on Lengthsmans Scheme at Lapworth PC @ 7.30 pm. Chairman and Cllr. Mrs

 Weir to attend and possibly Cllr.Mrs Clarke

106.b 2016 WALC Training Events for 2016. Details sent to Councillors via email. Noted

106.c Nov 2015 NALC Legal Topic Notes LTN 17 Control of Dogs and LTN14E Byelaws (England) (Circ

 File).Noted

106.d Nov 2015 CPRE Social Evening - Roebuck Inn, Smith Street, Warwick @ 7.45pm on 17th December 2015. Noted

**107 CORRESPONDENCE**

107.a 23 Nov 2015 WDC Finance. Details of Parish and Town Council Tax Bases for 2016-17; Precept Submission

 Deadline; Concurrent Services; Elections. Noted

107.b 04 Dec 2015 WCC Warwickshire Minerals Plan 2017-2032 **Consultation Extended to 5.00pm on January 4th 2016.** Noted

107.d 10 Dec 2015 WALC. Copy email from Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner requesting comments from the PC and residents on whether the police element of the council tax should be increased next year i.e. ***“Are you willing to spend an extra 31p per month for an average Band D property in order to maintain frontline policing levels?”***  Clerk to respond on behalf of the PC confirming that they would support this increase. Copy of correspondence to go on to website for residents to comment.

107.e Circulation Envelope:

CPRE Countryside Voice Winter 2015; CPRE Field Work Winter 2015; NALC Legal Topic Notes LTN 17 Control of Dogs and LTN14E Byelaws; WCC Public Health Team – details of Joint Partnership Event; WCC Youth Justice Health Needs Assessment Survey.

**108 FINANCE**

**108.a. Paid during the month:**

None

**108.b To be paid**

Clerk Salary & Allowance £ 829.17

AMW Lawn Care (P Field Inv. 5943) £ 325.92

Adam’s Tree Surgery Ltd (Hedge Cutting) £ 90.00

SLCC Annual Membership £ 149.00

Mr D Connolly (P. Field Insps) £ 50.00

Mr Ian Wilson (Internal Audit) £ 100.00

HMRC – PAYE/NIC £ 257.24

**108.c Received:**

Bank of Ireland (Interest Nov 2015) £ 2.41

The above items of finance were approved unanimously [NC/MN]

**108.d Items for consideration/information**

Draft budget 2016/2017 for approval. Draft budget circulated to all Councillors prior to this meeting. Resolved unanimously that the draft budget be approved and that there would be no increase in the precept figure claimed last year.

**109. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Cllr. Mrs Clarke requested that communication with Sir Antony Gormley regarding the future of his LAND installation at Lowsonford commence without further delay.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday 11 February 2016 at Lowsonford Village Hall**

Signed……………………………………………

Dated…………………………………………….