**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT**

**LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016**

P.Cllr. J Gaffey (in the Chair)

P. Cllr. G Bull

P.Cllr. Mrs M Bull

P. Cllr. M North

P. Cllr. G Coombs

D.Cllr Mrs S Gallagher

D.Cllr. P. Whiting

C.Cllr. Mrs J Compton

Clerk

**144. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and approved from P.Cllrs. Mrs N Clarke and Mrs D Weir

**145. CHANGES TO PUBLISHED AGENDA**

Changes to the agenda due to time constraints were made under – Minute 162 Finance – Mr D Connolly (P. Field Insps) £ 50.00;AMW Lawn Care (P. Field)£ 47.24; under Minute 158 – question raised by Cllr. Mrs Compton regarding footpath.

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

Cllr. Bull declared an interest in Minute 155 being a member of Rowington Village Hall Management Committee.

**147. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2016**

Draft Minutes circulated to Councillors with this agenda for approval.  Resolved that the minutes of 10 March 2016 were approved [GB/MB]

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

None present

**149 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Whiting gave the following report:

* WDC Local Plan currently with the Planning Inspector and there will be further public meetings in the Autumn once the comments of the Planning Inspector have been received and considered.
* The relocation of Riverside House to the Covent Garden car park site is currently under consideration and it is hoped that some of the costs associated with the relocation could be covered by income from the residential development of the Riverside House site.
* On the subject of Travel Tokens Cllr. Whiting spent some time explaining the reasons for the withdrawal of the scheme based on research showing that not enough people used the tokens, some people used the tokens when they really did not need them and whole system was somewhat cumbersome to administer and expensive to run.

Cllr. Mrs Gallagher gave the following report:

* WDC continue to seek sites for Gypsy and Travellers within the district which is proving difficult
* Leisure Centre option for Newbold Comyn and St Nicholas Park have been approved and it is hoped that planning applications will be submitted shortly.
* 5 refugee families will be coming to live in Warwickshire over the next five years

Cllr. Mrs Compton gave the following report:

* WCC Flooding Strategy is now available on the WCC website.
* Extra funding from Central Government has been received to deal with highway potholes .
* WCC not enamoured with the proposal for all schools to become academies given that WCC will remain responsible for providing school places but with all other responsibility being taken out of their hands.
* Part of Shire Hall now let out as an entertainment and hospitality venue.
* Rural West Community Forum meeting on 19th May – funds are available for local projects.
* Open Day at Goodrest Farm, Rouncil Lane – Banner Hill Camp World War II Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Site on Sunday 17 April.

**150. PLANNING MATTERS**

**151.a Considered by WDC:**

**W16 / 0246 & W16 / 0247 LB Whitley Elm Cottages, Case Lane, Rowington –** Retrospective application for the conversion of loft space over existing garage to self-contained holiday unit. **GRANTED**

**W16/0168 The Threshing Barn, Finwood Road** – Erection of ground floor extension of existing garden room to rear, with basement below and installation of roof lights to the rear roof slope. **GRANTED**

**W16/0246 Whitley Elm Cottages, Case Lane –** Retrospective application for the conversion of loft space over existing garage to self-contained holiday unit and associated parking alterations**. GRANTED**

**W16 / 0203 Finwood Green Farm, Mill Lane, Lowsonford –** Erection of single and two storey front, side and rear extensions. **GRANTED**

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

**W16 / 0476 Ardencote Manor Hotel, The Cumsey – Retrospective** application for the display of non-illuminated canvas advertisement banner supported on a light frame. **Objections**.

1. Contrary to Green Belt policy DS19 (Emerging Policy WDC Local Plan 2011-2029) which seeks to prevent urban sprawl that would prejudice the open nature and predominantly rural character of the area.
2. Contrary to Green Belt Policy RAP13 (WDC Local Plan 1996-2011) Clause 8.78 “In considering any proposals for leisure and recreation development, the impact of the development upon the countryside will be of paramount importance” and RAP14. Clause 8.85 “Careful consideration will also be given to the environmental impact of proposals, particularly in relation to landscape impact. The Council will require applicants to demonstrate that the environment has been protected” The proposed advertising hoarding is viewed as inappropriate and visually harmful in this rural location and not considered essential.
3. NPPF Policy states “No advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to (a) endanger persons using any highway……”
4. The response of WCC Highways is surprising given that the location in question is a known accident blackspot with the most recent fatality having occurred on this bend within the last 18 months. The proposed hoarding is considered to be distracting to highway traffic in this location.
5. The golf development at Ardencote Manor was granted permission subject to strict conditions and this plastic banner is considered to be detrimental to the rural landscape and non -essential to the business of Ardencote Manor

**W16 / 0502 Downlands, Mill Lane, Lowsonford –** Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of new agricultural barn. **No objections**

**W16 / 0397 Chapel Haven, Narrow Lane, Lowsonford –** Erection of a single storey front/side extension to main house and the erection of a porch to the existing garage. **No objections**

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

**W13/008 Cumsey Lodge** – Tractor Store and Stables. Query regarding construction underway when compared with plans accompanying planning application and approval. (Cllrs. North and Mrs Clarke) Reported to WDC for further investigation 21 March 2016. No update at issue of agenda. Update now received from WDC Enforcement providing report sheets for completion by adjacent residents. Clerk to forward to Cllr. Mrs Clarke for distribution

**ENF** – Removal of hedgerow to Old Warwick Road, adjacent to Appletree Cottages and in Back Lane, Lowsonford. WDC and WCC Ecology currently investigating. Response received from WDC Enforcement stating that the hedgerows in question were not of any historical significance.

152**. PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT**

Update by Steering Group (Cllrs. North, Gaffey and Mrs Clarke). Cllr. North reported that the draft PDS document was coming together and a meeting of the Steering Group would take place prior to the next PC meeting.

**153. PARISH WEBSITE**

153.a Update (if any) [www.rowingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rowingtonpc.org.uk). Clerk commented that the website could perhaps benefit from further expansion / refreshment. Further input from Councillors required on this point

**154. LOCALITIES FORUM**

154.a Warwick Rural West Community Forum.  **Next Meeting**: 19 May 2016 – Shire Hall, Warwick. (**Cllr Gaffey and Cllr. Mrs Weir). Future Meetings:**  22nd September, 26th Jan 2017. **Noted**

**155. ROWINGTON AND LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALLS**

155.a Reports (if any) Cllr. Bull reported that the Rowington Village Hall recent All Sorts sale had been very successful and that forthcoming events were a Play and Supper on 23 April and a Fashion Show on 18 May.

**156. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS AND TRANSPORT**

156.a WDC Flooding Reports (if any) Cllr. Bull reported that despite making contact with WDC regarding a blocked culvert in Kingswood Brook he had not received any response. Clerk to chase and keep Cllr. Mrs Gallagher informed of progress

157.b Reports by Councillors and/or residents on any highway issues. None

158.c Following a request from a resident for a footpath between High Chimneys and Shrewley Crossroads Cllr. Mrs Compton asked for the view of the PC. Councillors were of the opinion that although such a proposal was not financially viable given the current cuts to the WCC budget, there were locations for footpaths within the parish where demand for safe pedestrian access is greater and would therefore take priority over this location.

158.c Reports by Councillors on any footpath issues. Reports Sheets due from – Cllr.Coombs.

Cllr. Coombs requested new waymarkers for the footpaths he was inspecting.

**159. PLAYING FIELD**

159.a Playing Field Inspection Reports - **Cllr. Gaffey (06 Mar) Cllr. Coombs (20 Mar) Cllr. Mrs Clarke (03 April) N.B**. Please submit inspection report to the Clerk as soon as the relevant inspection has been carried out.

159.b Discussion required regarding interim inspection of playing field currently being undertaken by Councillors. Clerk confirmed that she had now received a copy of the insurance cover held by Mr Connolly and on this basis it was resolved that Mr Connolly could return to carrying out playing field inspections.

159.c SLCC Articles relating to recreation grounds and insurance/maintenance implications reinforcing the importance of maintaining records of weekly playing field inspections. **Circulated via email. Noted**

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

160.a 12 Mar 2016 WALC Annual Briefing Day. Lower School Hall, Myton School, Warwick 9.15am – 3.45pm. Noted.

160.b 21 & 22 Mar WDC Local Plan Briefing. Leamington Town Hall 6pm and 7pm. **(Cllr. Mrs Weir to report)** No report as Cllr. Mrs Weir absent

160.c 20 April 2016 WALC Warwick Area Meeting. Cliff Cleaver Community Pavillion, Stonehouse Close, Cubbington. 7.30pm. Noted

160.d 23 April 2016 WALC Code of Conduct / Assertiveness Briefing. Lapworth Village Hall 10.00am – 1.00pm. Noted

160.e 14/15th May Landmark Event at Lowsonford. Removal of Antony Gormley Sculpture. Request for PC to fund hire of Lowsonford Village Hall for Sunday 15th May. Refreshments to be provided by Lowsonford Women’s Group. Resolved that subject to confirmation of the hire cost the PC would fund the hall hire.

**161 CORRESPONDENCE**

161.a 18 Mar 2016 Grant Thornton Annual Audit. Annual Return to be submitted by 24 June 2016. Noted.

161.b 30 Mar 2016 Details of Warwick Rural West Community Forum Grant Fund 2016/2017. Copy in Circulation File. Noted

161.c 31 Mar 2016 Response received from WDC (Cllr. Peter Whiting) following letter of concern sent by Rowington Parish Council regarding the cessation of the Travel Token Scheme. Circulated via email to all Councillors for information

161.d 04 Apr 2016 Consultation on proposals for access to broadband in remote locations. Deadline 18th April 2016. Noted

161.e 05 Apr 2016 WALC details of Consultation on Planning. Circulated to Councillors via email. Noted

161.f 08 Apr 2016 WALC Information on Auto Enrolment Pensions. Noted and details forwarded to Chairman and Vice Chairman.

161.g Circulation Envelope:

CPRE Countryside Voice Spring 2016; CPRE Field Work Spring 2016; Details of Warwick Rural West Community Forum Grant Scheme; Warwick Rural West Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter Feb 2016; WALC LAIS Up2Date April 2016; WDC Standards Committee Agenda 18 April 2016; WDC Music Guide May 2016 – Mid September 2016; Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum Events and Exhibitions

**162. FINANCE**

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

None

**162.b To be paid**

Clerk Salary & Allowance (Apr) £ 825.97

EoN Red Phone Box x 2 £ 52.31

Clerk – Print Cartridges/Files £ 89.37

Mr D Connolly (P. Field Insps) £ 50.00

AMW Lawn Care (P. Field) £ 47.24

**162.c Received:**

Bank of Ireland (Interest Mar 2016) £ 2.04

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

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 21 April 2016 @ 7.30pm.

**163. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None at issue of agenda

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

**NEXT MEETING – Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 19 May 2016 at Rowington Village Hall**

**Annual Council Meeting - Thursday 12 May at Rowington Village Hall**

Signed……………………………………………

Date………………………………………………