

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017**

Present

Councillor J Gaffey (Chairman)
Councillor J Coles
Councillor I Henderson
Councillor D Lane
Councillor M North
Councillor D Weir (for part of the meeting)
Warwick District Councillor Mrs S Gallagher (for part of the meeting)
Parish Clerk – Nicola Overall
2 members of the public (for part of the meeting)

310 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Warwick District Cllr P Whiting and County Cllr J Cooke.

311 Questions from Members of the Public (Limited to 15 minutes)

Mr P Jinks addressed the Parish Council regarding his proposed revised design at Old Beams, Lapworth Street, Lowsonford, and circulated copies of the proposed planning application, for the information of members. Mr Jinks explained that this design will form the basis of a new planning application to be submitted to the Planning Authority.

Mr Jinks left the meeting following discussion of this item.

312 Changes to Published Agenda

Additions to the agenda were made under Minutes 218 and 327 below.

313 Declarations of Interest & Dispensations Relating to Pecuniary Interests

The Chairman clarified that Cllr Weir had arrived slightly late attending the October meeting and when pressed on her interest with respect to the items on the agenda of the meeting, Cllr Weir had verbally declared an interest relating to a planning application on land at Meadow House/Kingswood Farm. Unfortunately, this was inadvertently not recorded in the Register of Interests.

Cllr Weir advised that she had subsequently sought advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer regarding the nature of any interest she may have in relation to the former nursery site. Whilst awaiting that advice she declared a Personal Interest and took no part in the discussion or voting.

Cllr D Weir made a request for the signed minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 to be amended, stating that she did verbally declare a personal interest in planning application 17/1724 - Land at Meadow House/Kingswood Farm, for the development of 38 residential dwellings together with associated access, parking, open space and landscaping.

Cllr Gaffey made a request for the signed minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 to be amended, recording that he had declared a personal interest rather than a pecuniary interest relating to the planning application 17/1669 Land and barn abutting crossroads at Finwood Road and Old Warwick Road, Rowington. Cllr Gaffey confirmed that he has no pecuniary interest in the progress or otherwise of this planning application.

Following consultation between the Chairman and the Clerk it was decided that the December minutes would record the amendments requested above and that a file note would be made on the October minutes. This would ensure that any future reference to the October minutes would correctly record the amendments noted above.

314 Review of Guidance for Declarations of Interest Relating to Personal or Pecuniary Interests.

Discussions took place regarding declarations of interests from members and the participation of members in agenda items against which an interest has been declared. The Chairman referred members to LTN80 - Members' Conduct and the Registration and Disclosure of their interests and L10-12, The Relevant Authorities (DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS) Regulations 2012 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should seek further guidance from the Monitoring Officer and is to explore training opportunities to assist members in assessing their own potential interests in agenda items.

315 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Henderson and seconded by Cllr Coles that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017, having been previously circulated, be agreed and signed as a true record, subject to an amendment to Minute 300 relating to the Playing Field.

316 Report from Warwick District Councillors S Gallagher & P Whiting

Cllr S Gallagher expressed concern regarding an email, which she had received from the Parish Clerk asking for District and County Councillors to submit their reports ahead of each meeting in order that members may read those reports, and prepare any questions for the District and County Councillors. Cllr Gallagher advised that this was interpreted as an indication of a desire by the Parish Council that District and County Councillors were not welcome at Parish Council meetings. The Chairman assured Cllr Gallagher that this was not intended and that District and County Councillors have always been and will continue to be welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings.

Cllr Gallagher also raised concern over the status of the Administration Working Group. The Chairman advised that the introduction of a new Clerk and three new members provided an opportunity for a review of the Parish Council's working practices. The Clerk was to clarify the status of this Group with the Monitoring Officer and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Gallagher also raised concern over the seating arrangements for District and County Councillors at Parish Council meetings. Cllr D Lane offered an apology and provided assurance that these matters would be addressed. The Chairman agreed to make a written apology to the District and County Councillors and it was stated that no offence was intended and that the Parish Council were simply exploring ways to improve accuracy and efficiency.

Cllr Gallagher did not submit a report to this meeting.

317 Report from County Councillor

In his absence, Cllr Cooke submitted a report which was read to members and is appended to these minutes.

318 Planning Matters

The following planning matters were considered and reported.

17/2065 – Tom O' The Wood, Finwood Road - New signage consisting of 2 x LED floodlit aluminium fascia panels with individual letters, 1 x aluminium transom panel with applied display, 1 x aluminium directional board, 2 x aluminium amenity boards, 1 x LED floodlit sign written display to gable, 1 x trough lit aluminium free-standing panel, six x LED floodlights and 3 x bronze lanterns.

The Parish Council raises no objection in principle, but does have concerns regarding the light pollution impacting on surrounding residences and ensuring that the hours illuminations were restricted to the licensing hours of the premises.

17/2153 - Oak Tree Cottage, Dicks Lane, Rowington - Removal of Condition 3 (the removal of Permitted Development Rights) of Planning Approval W75/1269

Due to the lack of historical information relating to the imposition of the original condition, the Parish Council considers that there is insufficient information to be able to comment on this application and refers this to the Case Officer.

17/2169AG – Pinley Abbey, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green – Application for prior notification for the erection of a 10m x 20m building for use as an agricultural machinery store

The Parish Council supports this application.

17/2212 Oldfield Farm, Old Warwick Road, Rowington - Demolish single storey kitchen extension with glazed roof to rear of property. Form new extension part two storey part single storey with flat roof and balcony in traditional materials blending into existing two story link building to form new kitchen, utility room and pantry at ground floor and extended dressing room at first floor. Demolish dilapidated timber porch and construct new single storey glazed link between existing main house and pool outbuilding.

The Parish Council objects to this application as it is considered that the proposal is out of character and not in keeping with the area or the dwelling house.

Cllr Gallagher and the remaining member of the public left the meeting.

Cllr D Weir was feeling unwell and following the signing of cheques highlighted in the finance section, left the meeting.

17/1724 - Land at Meadow House/Kingswood Farm - Development of 38 residential dwellings together with associated access, parking, open space and landscaping. Amendment - Revised plans received (05/12/2017) making minor changes to individual plot types and access road to address concerns related to layout and highway safety. Trial Trenching Interim Report received 06/12/2017.

The Parish Council maintains its objection to the application in principle, as it considered that the design and layout of the proposed dwellings are not in keeping with the area and have no sense of character.

319 Current Planning Appeals

W16/2123/LB Rowington Hall, Old Warwick Road – Retrospective application for the installation of new slate roof to front roof slope.

Appeal Ref: APP/T3725/X/173167356 – Holywell Farm, Holywell, Shrewley – for the of land as part of the domestic curtilage.

320 Parish Design Statement (PDS)

Cllr North was to arrange the printing of labels, envelopes and postage for distribution with the assistance of Mr E Petrie, and obtain a quote for the entire procedure of the printing of the letters, labels and postage to be carried out by one company. Cllr North would provide eight copies of the PDS for Parish Councillors to review before publication.

321 Website

No issues to report.

322 Reports from Lowsonford & Rowington Village Halls

Cllr J Coles reported that following a meeting at Lowsonford Village Hall on 23 November 2017, both herself and Cllr Henderson had attended the meeting in addition to some fifty parishioners. The meeting was to discuss the future of the Village Hall and the outcome was that ten people had been appointed to carry out a feasibility study to ascertain the long term viability of the hall.

323 Highways, Footpaths & Transport

No issues were reported.

324 Playing Field

There were no outstanding Playing Field Inspection Reports.

325 Meetings, Training Days attended & forthcoming

Cllr Henderson & Cllr Coles – attended a Planning Applications Briefing Event – 25 November 2017

Cllr Henderson attended Councillor & Clerk Induction Part 2 – 2 December 2017

Clerk & Cllr Lane to attend End of Year Financial Procedures – 22 January 2018

326 Correspondence

a) WDC – Local Government Boundary Commission

b) WDC - 2018 Review of Parliamentary Boundaries for West Midlands Region

c) Local Government Boundary Commission - Have your say on new council ward boundaries in Warwick – 10 week consultation

d) WDC – Standards Committee

e) WDC Grant Community Forum Scheme

f) WDC – Precept 2018/2019 – To notify WDC by 19 January 2018 with the Parish Council's Precept

The Clerk was to submit a proposed budget to the Parish Council in order to set the Precept for the Financial Year 2018/2019, which would be considered at the January 2018 meeting.

327 Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid

Clerk’s Salary December	£604.09
HMRC	£164.42
WALC Course date 22 January for Clerk and Cllr D Lane	£30.00
WALC Course date 25 November for Cllrs I Henderson & J Coles	£30.00
Nuneaton Signs Playing Field signage x 3	£195.11
Mr I Wilson Internal Auditor	£200.00
Hire of Lowsonford Village Hall	£90.00

c) Received:

Bank Interest	£3.08
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It was proposed by Cllr Lane and duly seconded by Cllr North that the payments be approved. No objections or abstentions were recorded.

328 Defibrillators

- a) The Clerk and Cllr Henderson were asked to propose a date for an initial training session and make the necessary arrangements.
- b) The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council was now in possession of the ID and access codes for the AED at Lowsonford Village Hall.
- c) The Clerk was requested to contact Mrs A Coleman to express the Parish Council’s thanks and appreciation for carrying out the weekly checks on the AED at Lowsonford and to ask Mrs Coleman if she was content to continue this assistance.

329 Parish Notice Board at Pinley

Cllr Henderson reported that he had secured quotes for the repair of the broken notice board at Pinley and after discussion it was agreed unanimously to employ Mr B Joynson to carry out the repair work at a cost of £700.00. This compared favourably to the cost of providing a new sign in a similar material or aluminium.

The works would include reusing the existing oak doors and signs, but to make a new cupboard in oak with new hinges and plywood back to be secured into the ground with 3” square oak posts – the new notice board will be finished with yacht varnish.

It was proposed by Cllr North and duly seconded by Cllr Coles that the works be approved. No objections or abstentions were recorded.

330 Administration Working Group

It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council defer this item to the next meeting.

331 Items for Future Agendas

None reported.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11 January 2018 at Rowington Village Hall

Signed.....

Designation.....

Date.....

Appendix 1

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Lapworth & West Kenilworth News December 2017

Warwick Road Rowington to Lapworth

The Clerk of Rowington Parish Council asked me to pursue the possible provision of a public footpath between Rowington & Lapworth along the Old Warwick Road.

I note that the Clerk copied in Peter Hallam who has replied that he feels the current route from Rowington to Lapworth is acceptable and doubts that the Council could afford the necessary works.

Red Lane Accidents

I was passed several complaints including Photographs about accidents that have taken place in the bend just past the first 40mph speed limit signs on the way from Hob Lane junction to Kenilworth.

I arranged a meeting on site with Lee Williams from County Highways and asked George Illingworth to accompany me. We drove the route several times and spotted some inconsistencies with the road signage. As a result, I have agreed to Finance out of my delegated road safety budget, improved signage particularly at the dangerous bend. The engineer is also reviewing the positioning of some signage.

Wharf Lane Lapworth

The matter of Speeding on Wharf Lane has been considered by Cllr John Horner & myself. Following speed surveys, consultations with officers and my visiting the site, I have agreed with John Horner to jointly sponsor the speed limit of 40mph.

Children Centres

The results of the consultation on the WCC proposal to reduce the number of Children Centres in the County to meet an agreed 1.1million pound budget cut have now been published.

The Portfolio Holder Jeff Morgan had announced changes to the originally outlined scheme. The new agreement is that the St. John's Kenilworth Children's Centre will stay open in its current form for another year.

Various groups are working on a way forward for the Centre after that. I sincerely hope that we will be able to keep this centre open in the long term as it is well used by parents and children from Lapworth & West Kenilworth Division.

The cabinet agreed all the recommendations at its meeting last week. However, the matter was called in to a meeting of the full County Council on November 29th but the Council agreed the scheme agreed by the cabinet.

Cllr Jeff Morgan Portfolio Holder for Children's Services said: -

" We have been working on a transformation plan for children's centres for three years. This is not a sudden approach."

"The proposals for the redesign of Children's Centres are based on extensive research and consultation to give us the clear view of what our residents actually need and where they need it. One of the key things we have learnt is that there are many families who are simply not getting the support they need from what is currently on offer. By extending our offer to include children over five and families, and maintaining family support workers we are investing in people not buildings.

"We have to act now – we cannot avoid making difficult decisions. If we continue to simply patch things over, and not take a more fundamental approach to transforming services, we will quickly be in a situation where there is no planned future for those sites that we will not be taking on ourselves.

“Where we are not proposing to retain current provisions, we are working with the providers to consider any possible options including them or other partners such as schools or community groups taking on the running of the service.”

Keep cosy in the cold, get your chimney swept!

With a cold snap upon us fire crews are urging residents to get their chimney swept following a chimney fire in Frankton on recently. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service were called at shortly before 10pm on 29th October to the fire which was extinguished using a hearth kit, stirrup pump, thermal image camera and small gear. Thankfully no-one was injured as a result.

There are approximately 7,000 chimney fires each year in the UK, most of which are preventable. A clean and efficient chimney is not only the best way to protect against chimney fires but also prevents inefficient burning of fuels which creates dangerous carbon monoxide.