

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – In the Chair
Councillor J Coles
Councillor D Lane
Councillor M North
Warwick District Councillor S Gallagher
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
20 members of the public for all or part of the meeting

81 Apologies

An apology for absence was received on behalf of County Councillor – Councillor Cooke.

82 Changes to the Published Agenda

Additions to the agenda were made under Minute 96 below relating to Finance.

83 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

84 Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Chairman asked if there were any objections, following the application received from Mr James Moore. Members of the Parish Council agreed unanimously that Mr James Moore be co-opted as a member of Rowington Parish Council and the Chairman welcomed Councillor Moore.

The Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct were received and signed by Councillor Moore and the Clerk.

85 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2018

It was proposed by Councillor M North and seconded by Councillor D Lane that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as true record.

86 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs F Ogden confirmed that the overgrown vegetation from Finwood Road to the motorway bridge had now been cut back.

Mrs Ogden raised concern regarding the frequent inconsiderate parking on the foot path near the Tom O' the Wood Public House and the light pollution from illuminated signage, which appeared to be in breach of the agreed terms. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Planning Authority.

Mr J Greenaway of the Allotments Association expressed concern regarding possible development of dwelling houses being built in the future on allotment land in Rowington, as he understood that the current allotment land was one of the proposed sites. Mr Greenaway asked for the Parish Council's support to refuse any future application. The Chairman explained that until a planning application was received, then no decision could be made. Councillor Weir added that any development could not be seen to be supported within the Parish at the expense of the community.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of making the allotment land into a Community Asset.

Mr R Jackson, a Trustee of Lowsonford Village Hall updated members regarding the recent refurbishment works at the Village Hall and explained that the Committee would be applying to the Parish Council for financial support in the near future.

Mr R Jay raised concern regarding the safety of the Roller Rocker piece of equipment on the Playing Field and the Clerk was asked to contact Wicksteed for advice.

All members of the public present at the meeting raised growing concern following a recent wave of burglaries to residential properties and the convenience stores in both Shrewley and Lapworth. Residents were increasingly concerned about their personal safety and the safety of their properties. The burglaries appeared to be the work of a well organised gang or gangs who are both violent and destructive.

Various suggestions were made, including a private security group funded by residents, CCTV and other forms of surveillance.

Councillor Gallagher confirmed that she had received concerns from residents throughout her constituency and would support any scheme which might help to reduce crimes. Councillor Gallagher suggested arranging a meeting with adjoining Parish Councils and the Crime & Police Commissioner to enhance policing.

87 Report from Warwick District Councillor S Gallagher

Councillor Gallagher reported that since she has had the whip withdrawn at the last Council meeting, removing her from all committees, and as Parish Champion it was difficult to obtain information as to what is going on in the District Council.

However, she did confirm that there is now has a hostel in Warwick for rough sleepers, which houses 18 people and is at full capacity.

Additionally, Phase 2 of the upgrading of the leisure facilities, which concerns Kenilworth is now underway and a survey regarding the long-term use of Newbold Comyn Golf Course and a report will go to the Executive Committee in November 2018.

88 Report from County Councillor

Councillor J Cooke was unable to attend the meeting and the Clerk read his report, which is appended to these minutes.

89 Planning Matters

The following planning matters were considered and reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Comment	WDC Comment
W18/1586	Old Posthouse, Rowington Green, Rowington Erection of a single storey side extension to form a log store following the demolition of the existing log store	27/09/18	No objection	Granted
W18/1678	Sandall House Farm, Narrow Lane, Lowsonford Retrospective change of use of land from equestrian to dog training facility, including parking provision	2/10/18	Object	

Eastfield Manor – The Clerk was awaiting confirmation from the Case Officer to establish if the works being carried out at the property were within the agreed planning application.

Durham Ox – Following the recent refurbishment works at the Durham Ox, the Clerk had contacted the Case Officer to ascertain as to whether the tepee tents and pergola required planning permission, but no reply had been received.

90 Parish Website

The Clerk confirmed that she had added an item to the website inviting local organisations to apply for financial assistance to support local projects.

91 Playing Field

- a) Outstanding reports
Cllr M North - 23 September 2018
- b) Encroachment of Residential Gardens
The Chairman was investigating the original boundary line to ensure that there were no further encroachments on to the land at the Playing Field.
- c) Dogs on Playing Field
The Clerk was asked to investigate the legislation concerning dogs on playing fields with regards to health and safety issues and contact the District Council for information on Public Space Protection Orders.

d) Annual Inspection (RoSPA)

The inspection report from Play Safety had been received and the report did not indicate that there were any immediate issues raised. The Clerk was to draw up a task list which would address outstanding matters.

e) Future Inspection Dates

21 October	J Coles
4 November	I Henderson
18 November	D Lane

92 Parish Activities

12 October 2018 – Rock Choir at St Laurence Church, Rowington, 7.30pm

13 October 2018 – Tom O’ The Wood Bring & Buy Book Sale Noon – 5pm

17 November 2018 – Christmas Fair 10am – 3pm at Shrewley Village Hall

8 December 2018 – 7.30pm Christmas Dinner & Comedy Cabaret Evening at Rowington Village Hall

23 December 2018 – Christmas Quiz at Rowington Club

93 Highways, Footpaths & Transport

The Clerk confirmed that the Horticultural Society was to remove the broken bench on the Canal path at Lowsonford so that a thorough inspection can be undertaken to see whether it can be repaired. If repair is a viable option, then this will be completed, and the bench will be returned to its present location. If not, the bench will be disposed of, but unfortunately will not be replaced.

94 Days attended & forthcoming

None to report.

95 Correspondence

a) WALC – Community Fund

b) WCC – Road Closure Notice of Nunhold Road 1st to 5th November 2018

96 Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary £709.73

HMRC £67.44

Mr I Wilson Internal Audit £200.00

c) Received:

Precept £10,365.00

Interest £2.06

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved.

97 Telephone Kiosks

Following receipt of a quotation from Mr P Ashwin for the repainting of the telephone kiosks located at Pinley Green and Lapworth Street, Lowsonford for £303.00, it was proposed by Councillor M North and seconded by Councillor D Lane that the quotation be accepted. The Clerk was requested to instruct Mr Ashwin to proceed with the work.

98 Safer Environment Project, Crime Prevention & Speed Watch

The Chairman gave details of Claverdon’s Safer Environment Project (CASE) and asked Members to make consideration for the Parish Council to make a financial contribution to the project in the future.

The Chairman also advised that the Parish Council has a duty to consider the following:

- Powers to install and maintain equipment and establish and maintain a scheme for detection or prevention of crime - Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31
- Power to contribute to police services e.g. PCSOs - Police Act 1996, s.92

- The duty on Parish Councils to consider crime reduction in every policy and action - s17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).

The recent news regarding the cancellation of the Warwickshire and West Mercia Police Alliance could have serious consequences for everyone living in Warwickshire as resources are currently shared with West Mercia and could mean a reduction in front line policing as these functions are reinstated from within the existing budgets.

A number of parish councils are considering options such as private ANPR and private CCTV, private security company patrols, coordinated volunteer security patrols, Sponsored PCSOs, What's App / Facebook messaging and alert systems and meetings with Police & Crime Commissioner or Police representatives.

Additionally, members discussed a Speed Watch Group, but the rules for Community Speed Watch appeared to be quite strict and include, no speed monitoring near a junction, must be on a 40 MPH road or less, the need to purchase or share an approved speed gun and must be supported by the community and most community schemes fail, due to lack of volunteers.

Councillor David Lane suggested that professional advice should be sought about what actions were effective in reducing rural crime and agreed to research this. It was also agreed that all crime related topics including speed watch should be consolidated under a single topic of "Rural Crime Initiative" in the future. To be considered further at the next meeting.

99 Staff Committee

- a) The Terms of Reference for the Staff Committee as circulated to members on 28 August 2018, were agreed by members.
- b) The Chairman asked for nominations of three Parish Councillors for the Staff Committee and it was agreed unanimously that Councillors J Coles, J Moore and D Weir be elected to the Staff Committee.

100 Future Spending

Concern was expressed about the lack of applications for financial support and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact eligible organisations and remind them of the procedure to be followed.

101 Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 13 December 2018 Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed..... Designation..... Date.....

Report from County Councillor J Cooke - Lapworth & West Kenilworth News October 2018

HS2

There is lots of speculation going on about whether HS2 will be built as apparently MP's are beginning to grumble about cost when the country has so many better things the money could be spent on. However, we still have to proceed with matters relating to HS2 and once again planning applications are coming forward for the inevitable newt ponds!

Burton Green Village Hall

As HS2 will go lead to the demolition of Burton Green Village Hall members will be pleased to know that the application for Planning Permission for a replacement Hall to be funded by HS2 comes to Warwick District Planning Committee tomorrows evening and the recommendation is to Grant.

A46 Link Road Update

The principle of a Link Road linking the A46 and the A45/A452 has been discussed in the WCC Cabinet, however, the scale of the project, the availability of funding, and co-ordination of works alongside other major projects, most notably HS2, mean that the project has been divided into three distinct phases in terms of delivery. These phases are: -

Phase One – A46 Stoneleigh Junction: This scheme has recently received planning approval, and the final elements of the funding package are being assembled with a view to starting construction in Spring 2019. This will enable completion of the junction improvement in advance of the main HS2 construction works, allowing HS2 construction traffic to be managed more effectively.

Phase Two – Stoneleigh Junction to University of Warwick / Westwood Heath: This scheme has been identified within the Warwick District Local Plan to support expected development and is at an early stage in terms of design and business case development, and public consultation on the outline design options for the scheme and associated improvements to the local road network will take place once modelling work has been completed, and the proposals have been considered by County Council members for authority to proceed.

Phase Three – University of Warwick / Westwood Heath to A45 / A452: A Phase Three scheme, would lie largely within the Solihull area. The corridors indicated within the CCC Cabinet reports were based on high level desktop assessments only, and do not have any basis in technical terms. No design work is being developed in relation to Phase 3.

New Vehicles to Join Warwickshire's Gritting Fleet

After its current fleet travelled the equivalent of 4.6 journeys around the world last winter, Warwickshire County Council has updated its winter fleet to ensure that Warwickshire's roads are geared up for the winter conditions.

The county council has strengthened its winter maintenance fleet with the procurement of 14 replacement vehicles, at a cost of £780,000.

The 14 3-4-year-old vehicles replace 14 15-22-year-old vehicles which are time-expired and becoming more and more costly to maintain. Newer vehicles are more environmentally friendly as they meet modern vehicle emission standards.

Trading Standards tackle Warwickshire car dealer

The owner of a North Warwickshire garage that sold an unroadworthy vehicle it described as 'in good condition' and 'drives very well without faults' has been successfully prosecuted by **Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards**. Responding to complaints from consumers, undercover Trading Standards Officers visited Oaklands Cars Ltd (trading as Manor Oak Cars, Hurley Hall, Atherstone Lane, Atherstone) and purchased a vehicle costing £945. The car was described as being 'in good condition', 'drives very well without faults' and recently serviced. However, a Trading Standards expert vehicle examiner revealed the car was not roadworthy – in fact it wouldn't have passed an MOT test. The braking, suspension, steering and exhaust systems were in poor condition. One headlight, one brake light and both reversing lights weren't working. One of the tyres was below the legal minimum tread depth. Levels of engine oil, coolant and power steering and brake fluids were all low, with various fluids leaking from the engine compartment.

The garage tried to avoid consumers' rights by giving the purchaser a 'Trade Sale Invoice'. This stated that the vehicle was being sold 'without any additional warranty or guarantee' and a 'comprehensive warranty has been offered and refused'. This type of invoice might lead consumers to believe they couldn't demand a repair or their money back when they discovered the problems with the car.

At Nuneaton Magistrates Court on September 18 2018, Company Director, Loren Davies, age 34 and of Lancomb Road, Shirley, West Midlands, pleaded guilty to one offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and three offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Mr Davies also pleaded guilty to the same four offences against his company, on the company's behalf.