

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2019**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor D Lane
Councillor M Daw
Councillor J Moore
Councillor B Sandford
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillor – Councillor G Illingworth
Warwickshire County Councillor – J Cooke
5 members of the public

127. Apologies

An apology for absence was received on behalf of District Councillor R Hales.

128. Declarations of Interest

A Declaration of Interest was declared from Councillor D Weir relating to a funding request from Rowington Village Hall in item 139(d) below and Councillor Weir took no part in the discussion or voting.

129. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 November 2019

It was proposed by Councillor J Coles and seconded by Councillor J Moore that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2019, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as true record.

130. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

131. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

Councillor J Cooke read his report which is also appended to these minutes.

132. Report from District Councillor G Illingworth

Councillor G Illingworth reported that after two by-elections in the last few weeks the political balance of Warwick District Council remains as it was, and Councillor Illingworth was still a Chairman with a casting vote.

Little had happened in the last month because of Purdah during the General Election campaign.

Budget setting is imminent though the Government support announcement has been delayed by the Election.

Councillor Illingworth also reported that there had been some changes to RUCIS. The money is being pooled rather than two separate budgets for Rural and Urban and to reflect the Climate Emergency agenda and a greater emphasis will be placed on the environmental benefits of schemes.

133. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Comment	WDC Comment
W19/1224	Meadow Croft, High Cross Lane, Rowington Proposal for a new agricultural storage building, fencing and hard surfacing	11/10/19	No objection	Refused
W19/1258	Foxbrook Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Rowington	23/10/19	No objection	

	Replacement of existing stables			
W19/1461 & 1462LB	Middle Rookery Farm, Rookery Lane, Lowsonford Alterations to main house and associated landscape to include; Relocation of oil tank, Relocation of front drive entrance gate, Enlargement of stable doors to storage building, New gate into existing paddock, Reconfiguration of existing master bedroom layout, Enlargement of master bedroom windows, Demolition and re-construction of existing utility room	4/10/19	No objection	Granted
W19/1689	Lynton House, Queens Drive, Rowington Proposed two storey side extension and associated internal alterations	06/11/19	No objection	Refused
W19/1746	Field at Haywood Lane and junction with Case Lane, Mousley End, Rowington Application for a new access track accessed of Haywood Lane, provision of temporary mobile proprietary cattle shed, feed store and farm equipment store, installation of post and rail fencing and field gate	04/12/19	No objection	
W19/1760	Finwood Cottage, Mill Lane, Rowington New access to field from highway with agricultural gates	19/11/19	No objection	Withdrawn
W19/1769 & 1770LB	Old field Farm, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Proposed two storey front extension incorporating vaulted glazed projection to replace existing single storey lean-to extension. Proposed single storey lean-to side extension, works to and glazed enclosure of existing front porch	22/11/19	No objection	

b) The following planning matters were considered and decided:

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Comment	WDC Comment
W19/1947	Rosary Cottage, Lapworth Street, Bushwood Demolition of existing extensions and construction of new two storey side extension.	20/12/19	No objection	

c) Potential Enforcement Matters
Field at Preston Road, Lowsonford

The Clerk had received a response from the LPA relating to the contravention notice, which had been served and this indicated that there was no actionable case at this stage. There was no intent to change the use by the landowner, from its stated use at the time of purchase that being agricultural pasture. There had been no noted activity on the land, and the caravan remains on its wheels and falls within the definition of a caravan, by which it remains a chattel as opposed to a structure, and not development in itself. The site would be monitored.

Ednam Meadow

The Clerk had received notification from the LPA that there was no evidence of unauthorised development at this location.

134. Playing Field

a) Outstanding reports
None

b) Future Inspection Dates - Cllr M Daw – 22 December 2019

c) Maintenance

The Clerk reported that the missing fence slats had now been replaced in the perimeter fence.

135. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the new waste disposal system appeared to be adequate and this would result in a £500 a year saving. New curtains were required as the current mechanism was unsafe.

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor M Daw reported that there had been a 25% year on year increase in income. The hall would be closed in January 2020 to allow for works to the toilets and Councillor Daw reported that there would be an official opening in Spring 2020.

136. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

The Chairman reported that a number of drains and gullies around the area were in need of clearance and the Clerk was requested to address this with County Highways.

Councillor J Coles and Lorna Hobart had made progress in surveying the footpaths and Lorna had produced a draft report to be circulated to Members.

The Parish Council had now subscribed to Parish On-line and The Chairman circulated examples of maps which were available. The maps could also be used on the Parish Council's website as part of the subscription. Councillor D Lane enquired as to whether there could be an app available. Individual accounts are available for use by Councillors.

137. Parish Activities

The Rowington Parish Christmas Quiz at The Rowington Club – 22 December at 7.30pm

Bring & Buy Book Sale at Tom O The Wood - 4 January Noon until 5pm

Rowington Cricket Club 80's Night at Rowington Village Hall – 18 January 7.30pm

138. Correspondence

Noted.

139. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary December	£716.02
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AMW Lawn Care	£36.26
HMRC December	£75.67

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Old Folks Party Fund	£250.00
Brooke Joynson Notice Board Repair	£450.00
Lowsonford Village Hall Room Hire	£90.00
Parish On-Line	£81.00

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved.

c) Received:

None

d) Request for Funding from Rowington Village Hall - £1000 towards the replacement of stage curtains

The Clerk reported on details of a request for funding of £1,000 from Rowington Village Hall Committee towards the cost of replacement stage curtains. The current curtains and winding mechanism needed replacing due to safety requirements.

It was proposed by Councillor D Lane and seconded by Councillor M Daw that the Parish Council grants £1,000 to Rowington Village Hall Committee.

Councillor D Lane requested that the current Funding Policy be amended to include a limitation that future financial requests should demonstrate that other avenues for funding have been explored and that a 25% cap could be placed on requests.

140. Budget & Precept 2020/2021

The Clerk had circulated a schedule of income and expenditure prior to the meeting. The schedule provided estimates of costs to the financial year ending 31 March 2020 and estimates for the financial year 2020/2021, including supporting Budget Notes.

Having discussed the reports, it was proposed by Councillor D Lane and seconded by Councillor M Daw and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council maintains the current level of Precept of £20,430.00 for the financial year 2020/2021. Councillor D Weir requested that a contingency item of £1,000 be included in the Budget from existing reserves which was agreed by Members.

Additionally, it was agreed that in June and October 2020, a Spending Programme Meeting should be held in order to agree on future spending of the Parish Council's Precept to develop strategies and supporting spending plans the deliver the Parish Council's agreed purpose.

141. VE Day – 8- 10 May 2020

The Chairman confirmed that the Royal British Legion and St Laurence Church would be celebrating VE Day in May 2020. Councillor G Illingworth suggested that the Parish Council notify Bernie Allan at the District Council of any events which would be taking place in the Parish.

142. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Councillor D Weir asked for clarity regarding the Parish Council's Statutory Powers with regards to spending and the Chairman suggested that a follow up meeting should place in the New Year with the CIL Officers at the District Council to ensure that all correct procedures were being adhered to.

Councillor D Weir also agreed to investigate new entrance gates to Lowsonford and Rowington as part of the CIL spending programme.

143. Rural Crime Initiative

The Chairman reported that there had been a decrease in local burglaries recently, and that Warwickshire Police Authority had increased its Officers to 1,000.

144. Emergency Plan

Councillor M Daw and the Clerk were making progress on the proposed Emergency Plan.

It was agreed that a questionnaire be circulated to the residents of the Parish in order to garner information required for the Emergency Plan. The information would include vulnerable persons and persons who would be available to assist in an emergency.

145. Mission Statement

This item was deferred to a future meeting and the Chairman agreed to circulate a document describing the proposal in advance of the next meeting.

146. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 9 January 2020 (provisional)

Rowington Village Hall

Thursday 13 February 2020

Lowsonford Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm and The Chairman invited those present to join him for light refreshments.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Stanks Island

On January 13th a number of roads will be closed, and a number of diversions will be put in place which will last until late spring. I have forwarded to your clerk an email containing details and an illustrative map. My advice would be to avoid this area if at all possible.

New Fire Service recruits welcomed to Warwickshire!

Early in 2019 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service ran a whole-time recruitment campaign which resulted in over 900 applications being received. In September, following a rigorous selection process, 8 recruits passed all stages and were accepted into the Service. This week we have the pleasure of celebrating the passing out of the recruits who have been undertaking core skill training over the last 12 weeks.

Skills support for young people in Nuneaton continues thanks to County Council Boost

A skills hub in Nuneaton which supports low-paid workers and young people achieve the skills they need to gain more highly qualified, better paid jobs is receiving a cash boost from Warwickshire County Council to ensure the service can continue.

The Skills Hub has been part-funded by the County Council and the European Social Fund for the past three years for delivery of the Positive Futures programme for young people aged 15-24, who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) – or at risk of becoming so. It supports them into further education, training or work by providing additional careers advice, 1:1 mentoring, and employability training.

Trading Standards Top Ten Tips for High St. and Online Shoppers:

WCC Trading Standards have issued the following advice for shoppers this Christmas

- A. If something you buy is faulty or mis-described, you have 30 days to return it and claim a refund. After 30 days you must give the retailer an opportunity to repair or replace it before you can claim a refund. These rights apply when buying in store or online
- B. You have extra rights when shopping online. You have a 14-day cooling off period to change your mind and return/cancel most goods or services purchased online from a UK or EU trader. The goods don't have to be faulty, but you might be asked to pay to return unwanted items
- C. You have no legal rights to return goods you purchased in a shop, simply because you changed your mind, but many stores do offer to do this. Check before you buy
- D. Keep your receipts as proof of purchase and if you're buying the goods as a present, ask for a gift receipt
- E. For purchases over £100, if you have a credit card consider using it for the purchase to give you extra consumer protection
- F. If you're shopping online, try to use traders you know and trust
- G. For online shopping, always use a secure form of payment to pay for goods or services, for example PayPal. Never simply transfer money
- H. Don't enter your card details into a website unless it is secure. Look out for the padlock sign and 'https' in the web address
- I. For more consumer advice, visit our website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

To make a consumer complaint please phone the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06.