

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2020**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor D Lane
Councillor M Daw
Councillor B Sandford
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales
3 members of the public

147. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillor J Moore & County Councillor J Cooke.

148. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

149. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 December 2019

It was proposed by Councillor D Lane and seconded by Councillor M Daw that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2019, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as true record.

150. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

151. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

In the absence of Councillor J Cooke, the Clerk read his report which is also appended to these minutes.

152. Report from District Councillor G Illingworth

Councillor G Illingworth reported that grants were available from the District Council to support events around the district for VE Day in May 2020.

Councillor R Hales reported regarding the Climate Emergency Action Programme, which had been developed by Officers and a cross-party group of Councillors. The Plan will enable the Council to be carbon neutral by 2025 and help the district to also be carbon neutral by 2030, plus make necessary local preparations for climate disasters such as flooding. Investment today will help communities 'face the future' with confidence. District Councillors believe that the fairest way to raise the money locally is through Council tax, and will make consideration at the Council meeting on 26 February, asking residents for an increase of £1 per week (for a Band D property) at a Referendum to be held on 7 May 2020, this would put £3m per year into a 'ring-fenced' Climate Action Fund.

Last summer, Councillors put aside political differences and came together to unanimously declare a Climate Emergency. A far-reaching plan has since been developed to reduce the Council's carbon emissions to zero and lead further climate change efforts across the district.

The Climate Emergency Action Programme is a positive programme that over the next decade will bring social, environmental and economic benefits to all our residents and businesses.

Warwick District Council is well placed to do this work, being strongly rooted in the local community with many of the practical skills and local contacts necessary to lead in implementing this ambitious plan, which will:

Create major benefits for local residents, such as reduced congestion and improved air quality; enhanced biodiversity; and more energy efficient homes and public buildings.

Partner, advise and encourage businesses and other organisations to take the necessary steps to meet the challenges of climate change.

Enable the Council to be carbon-neutral by 2025.

Councillor D Lane asked that the District Council, produce a regularly updated visual image for placing on their website to show the effect of the investment by the District Councils annual, incremental precept against the original Climate Emergency targets specified in the referendum.

153. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
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
W19/1746	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	
W19/1769 &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	Refused
W19/1947	Rosary Cottage, Lapworth Street, Bushwood Demolition of existing extensions and construction of new two storey side extension.	20/12/19	No objection	Refused
W19/2141	The Timbers, Old Warwick Road Erection of single storey oak framed garden room	07/02/20	No objection	

b) Planning Appeals

4 Appletree Cottages, Old Warwick Road, Rowington

Proposed development: Erection of first floor front extension over existing single storey extension, first floor side extension over existing single storey side extension, single storey side extension and a new low wall.

Appellant's name: Mr Ben Sandford. Appeal reference number: APP/T3725/D/19/3242399

Appeal Start Date: 12/12/2019 - Dismissed – 17 January 2020

c) Planning Process

The Chairman asked Councillor Illingworth concerning two recent applications, where the Parish Council had raised no objection, however the LPA had refused these. Councillor Illingworth explained that Officers were minded to follow the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF). Furthermore, the Parish Council should consider the use of 'support', in addition to 'no objection' and 'object' as this would ensure a contentious application was considered by the Planning Committee.

Additionally, the twenty-one-day consultation period given by the LPA for applications, was often an issue in that they were not on a published agenda and Councillor D Weir expressed concern that applications were not considered by members in an open meeting. This was considered an essential part of the democratic process and will be followed whenever possible.

Councillor Weir asked the Clerk to include an explanation on future agendas explain the planning policy and process of the Parish Council.

Suggestions were for bi-weekly meetings of a Sub-Committee or request extensions to deadlines where necessary.

Following discussions, the Clerk was asked to investigate how other Town and Parish Councils operate with regards to planning applications.

154. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 16 February – J Coles, 1 March – J Moore, 15 March – M Daw

c) Maintenance – The Clerk confirmed that AMW Lawn Care would make no increase to the costs for the grass cutting to the 2020 season.

155. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor M Daw reported that there had been a 25% year on year increase in income.

£70,000 had now been raised to fund the refurbishment works to the Village Hall. The hall had been closed in January 2020 to allow for works to the toilets, new disabled access and disabled toilet, decorating, refurbished floor and new kitchen. Additionally, the hearing loop was now live, and a new sound and audio system was to be installed along with Wi-Fi. Trustees were very optimistic for the future of the hall's use.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the new waste disposal system continued to be monitored.

The Village Hall Management Committee were to make a funding request the Parish Council in the next financial year, for a hearing loop to be installed. The dishwasher had been replaced, and the hot plates needed replacing.

156. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Councillor M Daw expressed concern regarding the recent clearance of vegetation near to the canal by the Canal & River Trust and would report his findings to the Clerk.

157. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

Councillors B Sanford & D Weir attended Historic Buildings on 4 February 2020

The Chairman and Councillor M Daw were to attend the Warwick Rural West Community Forum on 27 February 2020

158. Parish Activities

7 March - 2.30pm All Sorts Sale at Rowington Village Hall

11 March – 7pm Fashion Show at Rowington Village Hall

27 March – 7.30pm Spring Flower Show & Social Evening at Lowsonford Village Hall

28 March – noon until 5pm Bring & Buy Book Sale at Tom O The Wood

8 May – RBL VE Day Lunch at Rowington Village Hall (further details to follow)

159. Correspondence

Noted.

160. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£716.02
HMRC	£75.67
Clerks Expenses (stamps)	£7.32
Rowington Village Hall Grant	£1,000
AMW Lawn Care	£183.00
Cardiac Science	£91.14
WALC	£30.00

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved.

c) Received:

None

d) Request for Funding from Fercumbe News

The Chairman circulated details of a request for funding from the Fercumbe News for £400.00 to allow for additional copies to be delivered to every household in Rowington in April, in an attempt to generate more subscribers. In recognition of such funding, the Parish Council would include details of CIL projects and proposals for spending of CIL funds.

It was proposed by Councillor J Coles and seconded by Councillor D Lane that the request for £400 be granted. It was also agreed that members of the Parish Council would assist, if necessary, in the delivery of the additional copies to residents.

e) Clerks Annual Pay Increase

An Employment Briefing from NALC had been received which gave details of new Spinal Column Points (SCP) and pay scales.

Following discussions, it was proposed by Councillor B Sandford and seconded by Councillor D Lane that the advice should be approved by members and that the Clerks new SCP would be 14 (£22,462 per annum pro rata) and back dated to April 2019.

c) Received:

None

161. 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.

162. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Chairman circulated details of ARC – Achieving Results in Communities, who’s mission was to transform underutilised or underdeveloped assets in the district to create quality open spaces that contribute to peoples mental and physical health and wellbeing.

It was agreed in principle, that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of working with ARC to enhance the Playing Field.

163. Rural Crime Initiative

The Chairman was pleased to report that there had been a significant decrease in crime figures of late.

164. Emergency Plan

Councillor M Daw and the Clerk were making progress on the proposed Emergency Plan and it was agreed that the questionnaire would be distributed in the April edition of the Fercumbe News.

165. Items for the Next Agenda

Planning application process

166. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 12 March 2020	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 9 April 2020	Lowsonford Village Hall
Thursday 16 April 2020 – Annual Parish Meeting	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 14 May 2020 – Annual Meeting	Lowsonford Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Minor Road Works

To my mind Peter Hallam is a miracle worker with the resources available to him. I have reported a number of problems to Peter over the last few months. He has been able to deal with a good number of them but by no means all. I ask that whenever possible you copy me into any requests that your Council make to him, so we are not duplicating our efforts.

WCC Budget

Tuesday 18th February WCC will meet to determine next year's budget and set its Council Tax. At the time of writing these details have not been published but I would expect that the WCC element of it will increase by 4.99% the maximum amount allowed without calling a referendum. I do believe that a substantial sum will be set aside for climate change measures.

Fires caused by smoking a real risk to Warwickshire residents

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are warning residents about the dangers of discarded cigarettes after attending several serious fires in the county where cigarettes which were thought to be out, set fire to the property.

The serious incident occurred on Friday 31 January at a residential care facility in Exhall. A fire started in a ground floor flat and is believed to have been caused by the disposal of cigarette ends in a plastic bin. A male occupant was rescued by firefighters and there were multiple other evacuations of elderly residents from other flats. There were no serious injuries.

Chief Fire Officer at Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, Kieran Amos, said:

"If you are a smoker, make sure you dispose of cigarettes safely by using an ashtray or soaking cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Never put hot cigarette butts in a bin and avoid smoking in bed, especially if you're feeling drowsy or falling asleep".

Coventry and Warwickshire Parent and Infant Mental Health Conference

A conference to improve awareness of perinatal support across Coventry and Warwickshire has put local parents at the heart of change to reduce stigma surrounding mental health.

The Parent- Infant Mental Health and Well-being Conference was held on 5th February in Coventry to bring together professionals and parents through a series of workshop as well as national expert speakers. It was part of the Local Maternity System that works to develop and transform maternity services, ensuring mothers and babies in the area receive the best quality of care.

As a key component of the conference, workshops focused on discussions from parents and professionals about how communication and language towards local families throughout the stages of antenatal, postnatal and birth could be improved. Activities also included looking at real life antenatal and postnatal scenarios from perspectives of both parents and professionals to enable attendees to freely share their experiences and provide feedback without judgement.

Adoption Central England (ACE) celebrates successes on second anniversary

ACE is celebrating its second anniversary after forming in 2018 following Government's commitment to redesign and regionalise adoption services.

During the past 2 years, ACE has driven change for children and adoptive parents. Service developments have resulted in a reduction of the time it takes between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family and have also led to increasing the number of children from within the ACE region being matched with ACE approved adopters. Matching children and families within ACE means that the families can be well supported from the point that they adopt and beyond.

Warwickshire County Council portfolio holder for Children's Services, Councillor Jeff Morgan, said:

"Warwickshire County Council is dedicated to placing children at the heart of what we do, and the ACE service is working tirelessly to support our children in care, searching for a permanent home. ACE provides a range of services and ongoing training and development to support and equip children and families with the skills they need for their adoptive journey.

"ACE has made great steps over the past two years and we look to continue to build on this going forward."