

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2020**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor B Sandford
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillor R Hales
10 members of the public

168. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillors M Daw, D Lane, & J Moore, County Councillor J Cooke and District Councillor G Illingworth.

169. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

170. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 February 2020

It was proposed by Councillor J Coles and seconded by Councillor B Sandford that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as true record.

171. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

172. 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.

173. Report from District Councillor R Hales

The Climate Emergency was unanimously declared last June and an Action Programme worked-up to take practical steps to not only make the Warwick District Council carbon neutral by 2025, but also to assist the whole District to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Councillor R Hales reported that following the elections in May 2019 it created an evenly balanced District Council with 22 Councillors elected from the Conservative / Whitnash Residents Association Groups and 22 Councillors elected from the Liberal Democrat / Green / Labour Groups. This might have been a recipe for stalemate, but Councillors have found common ground and worked together for the benefit of all residents with regards to the Climate Emergency.

What is the referendum about?

The CAN (Climate Action Now) campaign is seeking to raise ring-fenced funding to invest in targeted projects to achieve these goals.

The District Council has unanimously agreed that the fairest way to raise the money needed for the Climate Action Plan is to ask each household for an additional £1 a week (for a property on tax Band D level, or equivalent).

The legislation requires that only after the Council has sent the tax bill can it then ask for residents to support this important investment at a Referendum to be held on 7th May 2020.

The ring-fenced Climate Action Fund would only be spent on local projects that deal with the Climate Emergency, such as:
Improving energy efficiency in houses – helping to lower energy bills.

Providing sustainable transport – reducing congestion and air pollution.

Boosting health and well-being by upgrading housing standards and encouraging a more active lifestyle.

Nurturing the natural environment via offsetting work, such as planting 168,000 trees and enhancing wildlife habitats.

Encouraging the local economy by helping companies to improve their energy efficiency, lowering costs and attracting new low carbon businesses.

Why doesn't the Council have enough money to do this anyway?

Since 2010, inflation has increased by 25% while Warwick District Council has put up Council tax by just 16.9%. Over the same period the government's revenue support grant has also been reduced from £10m to zero, while services have been maintained because of extensive efficiency measures. The limit that Warwick District can increase its council tax this year is £5 or 2%, which is less than annual inflation again. So, to find the money needed to address the Climate Emergency new investment must be secured. Excluding parish/town precepts, our £166.86 made us rank 66/192 (34%) in council across the country and if the referendum is successful, and assuming all increase by the max (higher of 2% or £5), we go to £233.86, making us 152/192 (79%).

174. Planning Matters

a) Planning Process

The Chairman explained that the current planning process for considering planning applications was that, where practicable, decisions were made in public meetings. Where applications were received between meetings, Members submitted their comments to the Parish Clerk, and she, in deliberations with the Chairman, submitted the Parish Councils final decision to the LPA.

In the main, decisions were submitted as 'object' or 'no objection'.

Following discussions, it was proposed by Councillor B Sandford and seconded by Councillor J Coles that the Parish Council would, if deemed appropriate, submit a 'support' decision with auxiliary comments.

b) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W19/1258	Foxbrook Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Replacement of existing stables	23/10/19	No objection	Granted
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	
W19/2141	The Timbers, Old Warwick Road Erection of single storey oak framed garden room	07/02/20	No objection	Granted
W20/0022	Shepherds Fold, Finwood Road Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding and part of existing garage building; conversion of former barn and stables to single dwelling with glazed link and other associated works, including new septic tank, landscaping and means of enclosure	27/02/20	NA	Withdrawn
W20/0180	Little Manor Farmhouse, Manor Lane, Pinley Green Proposed link extension	5/03/20	No objection	

c) Applications Considered

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W20/0269	Rosary Cottage, Lapworth Street, Bushwood, Demolition of existing extensions and construction of new two storey side extension	24/03/20	Support	

d) Durham Ox Public House

The Clerk reported that the LPA had advised that the current situation at The Durham Ox, is that there is no breach of planning control. The elements that require permission have been approved and the canopy/cover at the front has been removed. The case is now closed.

175. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 15 March – Cllr M Daw, 29 March – Cllr B Sandford & 12 April – Cllr D Lane

176. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor J Coles reported that the works to the toilets and kitchen were now complete and that the main hall had been repainted. The Committee were in the process of purchasing new chairs and tables.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the new stage curtains had been fitted.

177. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Councillor J Coles reported that she had liaised with Mr Andre Bachelor who was to provide an update regarding 'Bridge 41' at Lowsonford following the recent damage from flooding. Councillor J Coles had also requested consideration for the 40 Ton weight restriction to be reduced.

Mr D Pickering of Lyons Farm, Rowington Green, informed the Parish Council that he planned to address the poor state of the Public Footpath & Bridleway, which ran adjacent to the farm, once the weather improved. Mr Pickering was considering a surface which would be suitable for all users of the footpath including horses and walkers.

Concern was raised as to the state of the canal footpath between the Tom O the Wood PH and Rowington Bridge. The Clerk agreed to take this up with the Canal & River Trust.

178. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

The Chairman attended the Warwick Rural West Community Forum on 27 February 2020.

179. Parish Activities

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 – 12.30pm RBL VE Day Lunch at Rowington Village Hall

180. Correspondence

Noted.

181. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary (including Back Pay)	£925.49
HMRC	£216.75
MI Business Services	£150.00
Ferncumbe News Grant	£400.00

c) Received:

None

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved.

182. VE Day – 8- 10 May 2020

The Chairman confirmed that the Royal British Legion was to hold a luncheon at Rowington Village Hall on Friday 8 May 2020.

183. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Chairman circulated a draft of the proposals for CIL, which was to be published with the April 2020 edition of the Ferncumbe News. The draft was agreed by Members.

184. Rural Crime Initiative

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

185. 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 Ferncumbe News.

186. Future Meeting Dates

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 8.40pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

HS2

Following the announcement that the HS2 project is to proceed Jeremy Wright MP has met with representative of local parish councils and senior representatives of HS2 Limited.

Various issues were raised by a number of attendees and HS2 agreed to take some of these issues away and report back.

The County HS2 Working Group will meet with HS2 on Wednesday.

Coronavirus Scam Warning from Action Fraud

Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800k. Of the 21 reports, ten were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers. One victim reported losing over £15k when they purchased face masks that were never delivered.

We have also received multiple reports about coronavirus-themed phishing emails attempting to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial information.

Covid 19 Coronavirus

Up to date information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I reproduce below some information from the above site

The County Council are the lead authority on dealing with all health issues.

Symptoms of coronavirus

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

a cough

a high temperature

shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds

Always wash your hands when you get home or into work

Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze

Put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards

Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

NHS 111 has an online coronavirus service that can tell you if you need medical help and advise you what to do.

Use this service if:

You think you might have coronavirus in the last 14 days you've been to a country or area with a high risk of coronavirus – see our coronavirus advice for travellers

You've been in close contact with someone with coronavirus