

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 2020**

Present

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

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic – this meeting was held via Zoom

187. Apologies

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

188. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

189. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2020

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor J Coles that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2020, having been previously circulated were agreed and will be signed as true record by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

190. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

191. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

192. Report from District Councillor G Illingworth

The Clerk had previously circulated this report which is also appended to these minutes.

193. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
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	
W20/0180	Little Manor Farm House, Manor Lane, Pinley Green Proposed link extension	5/03/20	No objection	Refused
W20/0269	Rosary Cottage, Lapworth Street, Bushwood, Demolition of existing extensions and construction of new two storey side extension	24/03/20	Support	Granted
W20/0329	The Threshing Barn, Finwood Road, Rowington Erection of a single storey extension to dwelling house and extension of existing garage to create a carport. Conversion of ground floor garage to gym	27/04/20	No objection	
W20/0388	Land Adjacent Kingswood Farm, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Erection of one detached dwelling and garage together with	27/04/20	Object	

	associated parking and landscaping			
W20/0392LB & 0391	Middle Rookery Farm, Rookery Lane, Lowsonford Proposed demolition and construction of replacement ground floor dining room extension, alterations to existing ancillary accommodation, demolition and re-construction of flat roof portion of ancillary accommodation and revision to ground floor utility extension	27/04/20	No objection	

b) Applications Considered – None

c) Planning Appeals:

Site Address: Meadow Croft, High Cross Lane, Rowington, Warwick, CV35 7BE

Description of development: Proposal for a new agricultural storage building, fencing and hard surfacing.

Application Reference: W/19/1224, Appellant's name: Mr B Gist, Appeal reference: APP/T3725/W/20/3244600 - Appeal start date: 11/02/2020

d) Ancient Hedgerow

Councillor M Daw raised concern regarding the removal of some 35 meters of hedge banking opposite Lower Rookery on Rookery Lane, Lowsonford as it was considered to be to the detriment of wildflowers and wildlife. The Clerk had reported this to the Enforcement Team at WDC, and CPRE but it was not considered to be in breach of any planning law.

194. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports - None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 10 May – Councillor D Weir, 24 May – Councillor J Coles & 7 June – Councillor J Moore

c) Maintenance - The Clerk did not report any matters relating to maintenance but confirmed that the play equipment remained closed due to Covid 19.

195. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor M Daw reported that the Village Hall is currently closed due to Covid 19.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the Village Hall is currently closed due to Covid 19.

196. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Councillor D Lane asked for sight of the draft report, which had been prepared by Lorna and the Chairman agreed to follow this up and request an invoice from Lorna. The Chairman also agreed to speak to the landowner regarding drainage ditches adjacent to the footpath of The Cumsey.

197. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

There were none to report.

198. Parish Activities

There were none to report

199. Correspondence

Noted.

200. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

Clerks Salary April £743.36

HMRC April £75.75

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary £743.36

HMRC £75.75

AMW Lawncare £279.76

Zurich Municipal Insurance £701.24

Clerk's Expenses Microsoft Fee £59.99

Eon £95.87

c) Received:

Precept £10,215.00

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved.

d) Internal Audit – Year Ended 31 March 2020

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit carried out by Mr I Wilson had raised no issues.

201. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Chairman gave details of two applications which had been received for CIL funded projects and it was agreed to obtain further information in order to give consideration for these at the next meeting.

202. Rural Crime Initiative

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

203. Emergency Plan

The Chairman reported that the Emergency Plan Questionnaire had been distributed to all dwellings by Councillors and the Clerk, in the Rowington Parish as an insert in the April edition of the Ferncumbe News. The Clerk had received 53 responses, and these had been collated for use in the event of an emergency.

204. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 11 June 2020 Rowington Village Hall or via Zoom
Thursday 9 July 2020 Lowsonford Village Hall or via Zoom

205. Vote of Thanks – Chairman of the District Council

Members of the Parish Council gave a formal Vote of Thanks to Warwick District Councillor George Illingworth for his sterling work and support during his term of Office as Chairman.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Democracy

Because of the Covid 19 crisis The County Council meetings scheduled in mid-March and April were both cancelled as were all committee meetings and seminars. However, The Chief Executive & Council Leader have regularly updated members on what is happening on almost a daily basis.

Each Friday The Chief Executive broadcasts to all elected members from Shire Hall where her senior management team are with her (all well separated of course!) Following the Chief Officer contributions, questions submitted in real time using "Slido" during the conference are answered. I must say that this system is working well with practically all County Councillors participating. The Council will move shortly to online democratic decision-making using Microsoft Teams. The County Council AGM has been postponed until later in the year.

Waste & Recycling

Early on in the Lockdown WCC regrettably took the decision to close the Waste & Recycling Tips for social distancing reasons following advice from the Government. This led to WDC not collecting green waste due to the vast increase in Grey bin waste. This Green Bin collection has now been reinstated.

As from Monday 18th most WCC operated tips will re-open including Cherry Orchard in Kenilworth. Admission will be strictly by appointment only and details will be available on the WCC website.

In order to safely manage numbers at the centres when they reopen, and to minimise the effects of traffic in the areas, the WCC is finalising an online booking service which must be used to book a slot at a centre before turning up. Further details of that will be announced next week along with guidance on how to make a booking.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/information-coronavirus/coronavirus-waste-recycling/1>

Warwickshire working together

Across Warwickshire, individuals and groups are working closely with Warwickshire County Council to support communities and one another to get through the current Covid-19 crisis.

The collective efforts of the public, voluntary and community sector with planning support from military services continue to help the county's most clinically vulnerable residents throughout the pandemic. So far over 5,000 food parcels and essential packs have been delivered to vulnerable and isolated residents who have no means to get supplies themselves. Anyone who is isolated without support is invited to call the county hotline for vulnerable people on 0800 408 144. Since opening six weeks ago hotline operators have spoken to around 6,500 vulnerable people linking them with emotional, financial and practical support they need at this time.

A partnership between the Local Pharmacy Committee (LPC), Warwickshire County Council and voluntary organisations continues to help residents to access medical supplies while they are in isolation. A network has been established using local volunteer community transport schemes to collect prescriptions from pharmacies and deliver medication to people across the county.

Throughout the pandemic the county council's Fire and Rescue's Fire and Rescue Service and Public Health have continued to assist the NHS by providing a Hospital to Home transport service.

Warwickshire County Council says thank you to PPE suppliers

Warwickshire County Council is grateful to local companies, charities, community groups and residents, who have been helping with the supply and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect frontline staff in the fight against Covid-19. Warwickshire businesses have re-purposed production to make a range of protective items, such as aprons and visors, while other local firms have generously donated PPE equipment.

On a smaller scale, individuals and craft groups have come together virtually to create 'scrub-hubs' to create supplies of PPE (see <https://scrubhub.org.uk/>).

The PPE that has been manufactured and donated includes masks (Type IIR, II or FFP2), nitrile powder free gloves, disposable aprons, fluid resistant gowns, clinical waste bags and eye protection.

Report from District Councillor George Illingworth

Warwick District Council has tried to maintain essential services whilst taking on additional responsibilities during this health emergency. In accordance with government guidance some facilities such as leisure centres have been closed. Many of the staff in various functions have been working from home whilst others have been redeployed to other tasks.

Apart from one cycle of green bin collections we have managed to keep the waste and recycling collections going despite a significant increase in the amount of material to be collected.

WDC have already paid out over £28 million in local business grants. This is government allocated money not council tax funds. We have been one of the most efficient councils in speed of pay out and coverage but there are still about 15% of eligible firms that have yet to claim. There has been a recent extension of the scheme so please encourage all small businesses to enquire via the WDC website. Cllr Richard Hales is responsible for this fund and will explain more if required.

Working with the County Council and local voluntary organisations we are looking after many particularly vulnerable people who are being shielded for medical reasons by distributing food parcels from a central hub. Another vulnerable group are the homeless rough sleepers. Most of these have been housed but there are a couple who refuse all offers of council assistance.

Councillors have obviously been unable to hold meetings for some weeks and much responsibility has had to be delegated to portfolio holders and officers. About a month ago the Government relaxed the legislation on meetings enabling decisions by virtual meetings. Some meetings have now taken place. As the Chairman I have been heavily involved in discussing and agreeing the arrangements for virtual meetings of the Council and in particular the Annual meeting at which I will hand over the role on 20th May.

Planning has been a particular issue because of the inability to include public and parish council participation in delegated decisions. I have recommended to you more detailed objection notes. However, we are hoping that the planning system will soon be more transparent and outside participation will again be possible, even in a virtual environment.

One effect of the cancellation of all elections and referenda on May 7th is that your WDC Council Tax will now revert to the £5 annual increase for Band D and the extra charged so far for a climate change levy will be automatically refunded in the next monthly instalment.

Finally may I say how disappointed I am that I was not able to host the usual Parish Supper last week for Chairmen and Clerks to recognise and thank all the members of Parish Councils for all the work they do.