

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2020**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor M Daw
Councillor D Lane
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillors – G Illingworth & R Hales
County Councillor J Cooke
No members of the public

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

206. Apologies

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor B Sandford.

207. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest were received from Councillors M Daw & J Coles relating to item 212 below.

208. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2020

It was proposed by Councillor D Lane and seconded by Councillor D Weir that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2020, having been previously circulated were agreed and will be signed as true record by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

209. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

210. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

The Clerk had previously circulated Councillor Cooke's report, which is also appended to these minutes.

211. Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

The Clerk had previously circulated Councillor Illingworth's report which is also appended to these minutes. Councillor R Hales confirmed that Rowington Village Hall had received a grant of £10,000.

212. 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	
W20/0329	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	Refused
W20/0388	Land Adjacent Kingswood Farm, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Erection of one detached dwelling and garage together with associated parking and landscaping	27/04/20	Object	
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	27/04/20	No objection	Granted

	flat roof portion of ancillary accommodation and revision to ground floor utility extension			
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b) Applications Considered

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W20/0668	Old Beams, Lapworth Street, Bushwood Erection of new dwelling and detached garage	12/06/20	Object – as below	

The Parish Council objects to the application W20/0668.

Old Beams is within the Lowsonford Conservation Area. It is in one of the most prominent parts of the village, directly opposite the Grade II listed Fleur de Lys public house. The proposed dwelling and garage are considered both too large and overbearing.

Removal of ancient hedgerow and loss of habitat has already taken place without any permission. There is damage to the environment and a huge impact to the street vista. The houses in this location are characterised by being widely spaced and often have green spaces between them. There is no green space left at all around Old Beams now on either side.

This application does not preserve the sense of open space, in such a rural location. It represents urbanisation and should be refused.

Furthermore, the Parish Council has noted and supports the submission from WCC relating to the visual impact of the proposal on the character and setting of the Conservation Area, and the need to maintain views from the pub to the wider landscape beyond, which are important considerations.

The cumulative effect of the increased footprint of the building, together with sunroom and detached garage, creates an 'overdeveloped' feel which is not in keeping with the general character of the village and does not maintain a visual gap through the site. The visual gap appears to have been reduced by more than half from the previous proposal due to the increase of built form. Regardless of the roof height or materials used, the additional built form still serves to close this gap.

213. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports - None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 21 June – Cllr M Daw & 5 July – Cllr B Sandford

c) Maintenance - The Clerk did not report any matters relating to maintenance, but confirmed that the play equipment remained closed due to Covid 19. The Chairman was pleased to report the playing field was in good condition.

214. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor M Daw reported that the Village Hall is currently closed due to Covid 19 and the Trustees are to submit a grant application to the District Council. Councillor M Daw thanked Councillor R Hales for his support.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the Village Hall is currently closed due to Covid 19 and the lack of income would not cover the continuing overhead costs. However, a grant of £10,000 had been received from Warwick District Council.

215. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

The Clerk reported that Mr D Pickering of Lyons Farm, Rowington Green had carried out improvement works to the public footpath that led to Baddesley Clinton, to ensure a safe surface, which was previously difficult to negotiate in wet weather. The Clerk was asked to send the Parish Council's thanks to Mr Pickering.

Councillor D Lane raised concern regarding overgrown vegetation on the footpath adjacent to The Cumsey. The Clerk agreed to investigate whose responsibility it was to clear the area.

The Chairman had spoken to the landowner regarding drainage ditches adjacent to the footpath of The Cumsey who said that further work to these ditches would be carried out later in the year.

Councillor J Coles reported that an assessment had been carried out on the canal bridge (41) at Lowsonford and she had asked for a copy of that assessment. There was a 40-tonne weight restriction on the bridge and that was considered acceptable by the Canal & Rivers Trust, although there was no signage in place.

Given the burst main in the central structure of bridge 41 during winter of 2019/20, the Parish Council wish to understand the assessment process and view the documentation relating to decisions about this structure. As it was considered that there may be safety implications for the community.

216. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

Councillor M Daw was to join a training session led by WALC – Parish On-line.

217. Parish Activities

There were none to report.

218. Correspondence

Noted.

219. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£743.36
HMRC	£75.75
AMW Lawncare	£231.06
Rowington Village Hall Hire Fees	£150.00

c) Received:

None

Resolved unanimously that the above items of finance be approved.

220. Annual Governance Statement

Following a review of each of the items within the Annual Governance Statement, it was agreed unanimously that the Annual Governance Statement, would be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor. No objections were recorded. Proposed by Councillor M Daw and seconded by Councillor D Lane.

221. Accounting Statements

Following the Clerks report and circulation of the Accounting Statements, it was agreed that the Statements would be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor. Proposed by Councillor D Lane and seconded by Councillor D Weir.

Councillor D Lane asked the Clerk to ensure that the Auditors were aware that during the Covid -19 Epidemic, meetings had continued via Zoom and that practices have been put in place to ensure effective financial management was maintained.

222. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Councillor D Weir had previously circulated details of proposed village entrance signage and it was agreed that the proposed should be forward to the CIL Team at the District Council to ensure that it met with CIL guidelines.

Furthermore, a member of the public had asked the Clerk if the Parish Council would make consideration for a cycle/footpath from Rowington to Lapworth and the Clerk was asked to obtain further information for the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the WDC CIL Officer in order to ascertain whether or not, the proposed schemes were expected to be supported by WDC.

223. Rural Crime Initiative

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

224. Emergency Plan

The Clerk and Councillor M Daw were progressing with the Emergency Plan.

225. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 9 July 2020	Via Zoom
Thursday 13 August 2020	(Provisional)
Thursday 10 September 2020	Lowsonford Village Hall or via Zoom

226. Items for the Next Agenda

Whilst the Parish Council was unable to directly financially support individuals within the parish, it was agreed by all members that the Parish Council should look into ways of assisting persons via other organisations.

The Chairman raised the issue of Covid-19 reporting and the lack of detailed information at Parish level. District and County Councillors present at the meeting, explained that this was a recognised problem at both District & County levels.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Democracy

The Scheduled County Council meeting in May did not take place.

The Council has started online democratic decision making using Microsoft Teams. I took part in the first online democratic decision making meeting when I “attended” the County Council Regulatory meeting last week. Seminars are now also taking place on MS Teams and online attendance is much improved than when attending in person! The Council AGM is expected to take place on July 23rd.

Waste & Recycling

As from Monday 18th May most WCC operated tips re-opened including Cherry Orchard in Kenilworth. The Online booking system at all the sites seems to be working very well. There have been very few complaints about queuing or traffic problems around the sites.

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

New ‘Buy Eat Local’ campaign Businesses encouraged to feature in Local Video

Warwickshire County Council is inviting retailers and food establishments to send in short video clips from their mobile phones to have their businesses featured for free, in a series of short films to help promote each town.

The videos are part of a new ‘Buy Eat Local’ campaign, led by the County Council and partners, encouraging residents to continue to support local retail and food businesses, as we start to move out of the strict lockdown period.

Supermarkets, corner shops, banks, pharmacies and petrol stations have been able to remain open during the coronavirus lockdown. But that list is set to grow.

Warwickshire County Council connects with young people during Covid-19

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has created a series of adverts to communicate to a younger audience during the Covid-19 pandemic. The council has been sharing important messages in line with government guidance targeted at young people in Warwickshire across a variety of platforms.

In April the council launched the campaign which was in line with the governments messaging of staying at home to save lives. The adverts, encouraging young people to stay at home to protect others, reached over 115,000 children and young people across Warwickshire and were seen by young people over 240,000 times on Snapchat.

Bonfires and disposable BBQs putting communities at risk!

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is issuing a stark warning for people not to light bonfires or use disposable BBQ’s, following a number of incidents over the weekend where crews have been called to deal with bonfires that have got out of control.

Considering the moor fires in Lancashire, we would urge residents not to have fires in woodland areas or parks areas, where the ground is extremely dry. In these conditions, fires can spread rapidly causing devastation for both local communities and wildlife. Residents are also being reminded not to swim in outdoor waters in the warm weather.

Incidents like this also require a large amount of resources, not just from the fire and rescue service, but also the police, community and volunteer agencies.

Report from District Councillor George Illingworth

Warwick District Council has now paid out £30 million in local grants to 2300 local businesses on the Government scheme. There are some small additional WDC schemes so please encourage small businesses and voluntary community organisations to enquire via the WDC website.

Cllr Richard Hales is responsible for these funds and will explain more if required.

On 29th May 2020 at a virtual Annual Meeting of the Council I handed over the Chair to Councillor Martyn Ashford from Warwick. This was the start of another Municipal year.

Councillors John Cooke and Richard Hales continue with their portfolios and on Monday evening I was elected Chairman of the Standards Committee.

Most committees have now met virtually, and the proceedings have been live on YouTube so that public access is maintained. Public participation is a step further but is now becoming possible and Planning is the key one.

The possibility of resuming normal meetings is being investigated but there are no plans yet.

As part of recovery planning for the reopening of shops parking charges will not be reinstated on WDC par parks until 1 August 2020.

The revised WDC Council Tax bills have been issued reverting to the £5 annual increase for Band D and future amounts automatically adjusted to reflect overpayment