

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2021**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor C Doolan
Councillor M Daw
Councillor A Pitt
Councillor B Sandford
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales
No members of the public

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

324. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor J Cooke.

325. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

326. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 December 2020

It was proposed by Councillor J Coles and seconded by Councillor A Pitt that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020, having been previously circulated were agreed and will be signed as true record by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

327. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

328. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

329. Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

The Clerk had previously circulated the District Council report, which is also appended to these minutes.

330. 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	
W20/1389	The Holt, Lapworth Street, Bushwood Proposed erection of aluminium-framed glass conservatory and blocking up of bathroom window	06/11/20	No objection	
W20/1526	Barn at Rear of Little Manor Farm, Manor Lane, Pinley Green Alteration and conversion of existing stable and barn to three bedroom dwelling	23/11/20	No objection	
W20/1613 & 1614LB	Finwood Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Rowington Application for Listed Building Consent for the conversion of rural building into a residential dwelling.	11/12/20	No objection	

W20/1292	Barn at, Mousley House Farm, Case Lane, Rowington Notification for Prior Approval under Class Q(a) and (b) of the GDPO for Proposed Change of Use of agricultural building to dwelling (Class C3)	11/12/20	No representation	
W20/1497	4 Appletree Cottages, Old Warwick Road Demolition of detached garage and erection of a first floor front extension and a first floor side extension.	24/12/20	No representation	

b) The following planning matters were considered and decided:

W20/1716 – The Threshing Barn, Finwood Road, Rowington – Erection of an extension to garage
Members raised no objection to the application.

W20/2113 – The Old Farm, Quarry Lane, Rowington - Application for Prior Approval under Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Use Class C3) and associated external alterations.
Notification for Prior Approval under Class Q(a) and (b) of the GDPO for Proposed Change of Use of agricultural building to

Members agreed to make no representation to the application, but did support the Landscape Officers concerns.

331. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates - Councillor I Henderson, 24 January - Councillor D Weir & 31 January - J Coles

332. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor M Daw reported that the Village Hall was still closed due to Covid- 19.

Councillor M Daw gave his thanks to Councillor R Hales for his support with regards to the recent application for grant funding.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the Village Hall remained closed due to Covid-19.

Councillor D Weir gave her thanks to Councillor R Hales for his support with regards to the recent application for grant funding.

333. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Canal Bridge 41 – Lowsonford

Mr R Roberts, Bridge Maintenance Team Leader at WCC had forwarded a set of draft drawings for the Parish Council’s consideration and invited member’s comments. Those drawings gave details of permanent signage to replace the current temporary weight limit restrictions Lowsonford Canal Bridge following a safety audit.

Furthermore, Mr Roberts gave his intentions to schedule the works for around Easter time, so that next year's WCC budget may lend itself to the exercise and lead in times, in order to secure the road closure.

There were temporary signs in place, and it appeared that these would not be replaced with permanent signs, and the Clerk was asked to enquire as to why there were no proposed signs at Lapworth Street, near the water tower, where it meets with Old Warwick Road and High Cross Lane, where it meets with the crossroads at Pinley Green.

Following consideration, members agreed to the proposed signage, save for, Sign C22-004-001001B at the centre of the triangle in the centre of Lowsonford Village, which may not be necessary.

334. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

WALC – 13 January Councillor C Doolan attended Meetings & Risks

WALC – 25 January Councillor A Pitt to attend The Planning System

WALC – 2 February Councillor A Pitt to attend Purpose, People & Powers

WALC – 9 March Councillor A Pitt to attend Community Engagement

335. Correspondence

Noted.

336. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£758.04
HMRC	£85.48
Clerk’s Expenses (stamps)	£7.80
Paul Ashwin (Bus Shelter Repair)	£430.00

c) Received:

None

Resolved unanimously.

337. Budget & Precept 2021/2022

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 2021 and estimates for the financial year 2021/2022, including Budget Notes to support the figures.

Councillor D Weir requested that a decrease of £2,000 be made to the proposed S137 budget and the Playing Field Maintenance budget be increased by £2,000 which was agreed by Members.

Having considered the reports, it was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor M Daw and resolved unanimously that the Parish Council maintains the current level of Precept of £20,430.00 for the financial year 2021/2022.

338. Future Meeting Dates

- Thursday 11 February 2021
- Thursday 11 March 2021
- Thursday 8 April 2021

339. Items for the Next Agenda

Proposed signage for ‘No HGVs’ at Queens Drive, Rowington.

CIL Funding – Proposals received so far, included, village entrance gates, audio & visual upgrade at Rowington Village Hall, Wild Flower projects, foot path from Rowington Green to Lapworth and ANPR cameras at access and egress points.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Warwickshire's Director of Public Health urges calm as cases rise

Dr Shade Agboola has called for Warwickshire's residents to take a measured approach to the news and has asked that they remain vigilant and keep to the guidelines of hands, face space.

She said: "We are now hearing that there are cases of the new strain of the coronavirus in Warwickshire. This is inevitable given that the county is part of the commuter line to the south east where this new strain appears to have emerged from and it is clear that it is not confined to that region.

"The new strain of the virus is very similar to what we have been dealing with to date. The main way in which it varies from the original strain is that it seems to be up to 70% more highly transmissible but, in terms of symptoms and effects, both strains appear to be the same."

"We need to keep on doing what we have been doing. Wash our hands regularly for 20 seconds especially after being out, wear a face covering where necessary and keep a 2m social distance from anyone who is not in your bubble. Keep visits short and if you have any symptoms, get a test."

"But we must keep heart. Alongside those measures, we have the increasing presence of lateral flow test sites, which will help us to stop those who are showing no symptoms from unwittingly passing on the virus, and increased vaccinations now coming on stream."

Warwickshire focuses on support for residents and businesses as the county moves into Tier 4

Following from the Government's decision that Warwickshire is now in Tier 4, Warwickshire County Council wants to ensure that Warwickshire residents and businesses are able to get the support they need.

WCC are reminding those in need that there are a range of advice and support services available to them. These include the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme which provides essential help for food and energy to our most vulnerable residents; self-isolation payments of £500 to those on low incomes or certain benefits who will lose income as a result of having to self-isolate; and a range of financial support for businesses that have been impacted or forced to close.

Details of all of these, and how to access them, can be found online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk or by calling the Warwickshire County Council hotline on 01926 410410.

Warwickshire businesses and organisations are asked to support their clinically extremely vulnerable employees

Following the announcement that Warwickshire entered into the new Tier 4 restrictions on the 31st December, those people identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) have been advised to avoid contact with others as much as possible. This means that they are strongly advised to work from home and, if that is not possible, then they should not attend work.

For those Warwickshire businesses and organisations who have CEV employees, they are being asked to speak to their staff as soon as possible about the new guidance and to make arrangements for them to work at home. If employees cannot work from home, then employers should consider whether their CEV employees will be eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough), which has been extended until 30 April 2021. Employees may also be eligible for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), to support them to stay at home and follow the guidance.

Further information for employers is available at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusbacktoworkguidance>

Warwickshire County Council approves opening of children's home in the County

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved that a WCC operated, Ofsted registered, residential children's home will be opened for up to four Children in Care, in late Autumn next year. This is the first time that the county will have run such a facility since the 1980s.

The decision comes as the county council seeks to stabilise its position in an increasingly volatile external market. As more local authorities have sought to place some of their Children in Care (CIC) in homes managed by external providers, placements have been harder to secure due to the added demand. As well as increasing costs, this has meant that some children are being placed at a significant distance from their homes. Children placed by the county council with external providers are currently based an average 50 miles from their homes.

The move to reintroduce residential accommodation will complement and support the existing offer of fostering. Initially, the homes will have an intake of four children of 12 years and under with at least two adults on site at all times to mirror a typical family ratio, alongside a manager or deputy.

Benefits will include keeping children closer to their families, education and health and social care providers. It will also make quality assurance easier, with all aspects of the children's support network being closer.

Beware Fake COVID-19 Tests Warn Trading Standards

Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards is warning consumers to beware of scammers offering bogus COVID-19 tests and fake 'COVID free' certificates.

Warwickshire Trading Standards is currently investigating a case in which a consumer may have unwittingly paid over £100 to fraudsters for a 'quick-turn-around' COVID-19 test and received a fake 'all-clear' certificate in return.

The genuine laboratory named on the certificate has confirmed that it was previously unaware of the 'testing firm', did not carry out the test or issue any certificate.

The 'quick-turn-around' tests were being advertised on social media, targeted at individuals who do not have symptoms, but require proof of a negative test result, for example before embarking on a flight or for work purposes. Consumers requiring private tests normally have to pay for them, at a cost of around £150.

Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

The continuing lock down means that various financial Covid support schemes have been extended or renewed. There is a specific fund aimed at non-rated businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure industries which have been mandated to close down. All schemes are detailed on the WDC website.

The Council in a special meeting has agreed to set up a local housing company to build suitable houses to address the District housing need. This is an arm's length arrangement, but the company remains wholly-owned by the District Council. Some other authorities already have similar successful schemes.

Leamington Spa is in line for a £10m Government grant supporting high streets and retail centres in the recovery period.

The Interactive Futures Conference will take place on-line 16 to 20 February. This will showcase the talents and creativity of the Leamington Spa games hub. Last year I attended an event as Chairman, and it was quite a revelation to learn of the standing and importance of this local industry.

The two planning applications for the Council leisure facilities in Kenilworth are about to be submitted.