

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 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  
County Councillor J Cooke  
3 members of the public

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

**357. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**358. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors D Weir & A Pitt in relation to CIL funding for Rowington Village Hall.

Councillor D Weir also requested a dispensation with regards to the CIL funding request at Rowington Village Hall, and this was granted by the Clerk.

A Declaration of interest was received from Councillor M Daw in relation to CIL funding for Lowsonford Village Hall.

**359. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor M Daw and seconded by Councillor J Coles that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021, having been previously circulated were agreed and will be signed as true record by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

**360. Resignation of a Parish Councillor**

The Chairman reported that James Moore had submitted his resignation due to work and family commitments. The Parish Council gave thanks for his time served on the Parish Council.

**361. Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

**362. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke**

Councillor J Cooke read his report, which is also appended to these minutes.

**363. Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales**

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

**364. Planning Matters**

a) The following planning matters were reported.

| <b>Application Number</b> | <b>Application Details</b>   | <b>Comments required by</b> | <b>PC Decision</b> | <b>WDC Decision</b> |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| W19/1746                  | Field at Haywood Lane and junction with Case Lane, Mousley End, Rowington<br>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       |                     |

|                   |   |          |                   |           |
|-------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| W20/1526          | Barn at Rear of Little Manor Farm, Manor Lane, Pinley Green<br>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      | Refused   |
| W20/1796          | Holly Farm, High Cross Lane, Rowington<br>Erection of an extension to existing barn to form a garage and carport  | 4/02/21  | No representation | Withdrawn |
| W20/1944          | High Acres, Nunhold Road, Pinley<br>Erection of stable  | 03/03/21 | No objection      |           |
| W20/2113          | The Old Farm, Quarry Lane, Rowington<br>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 | 29/01/21 | No representation | Withdrawn |

b) There were no planning applications to be considered.

### 365. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – Councillor B Sandford, 7 March & Councillor C Doolan, 21 March 2021

c) Vote of Thanks

Members gave a formal vote of thanks to John Greenaway and Sue Beard for their continued support with regards to the playing field, John and Sue regularly emptied bins and picked up any fouling from wild animals and confirmed their wish to continue to support the Parish Council.

### 366. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

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

Rowington Village Hall

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

Mr S Williams, Chairman of the Village Hall was present at the meeting and confirmed that Rowington Village Hall would be open for the Elections to be held on 6 May 2021.

### 367. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Canal Bridge 41 – Lowsonford

There was no update on this matter, but it appeared that the temporary road signage was still in place.

Councilor M Daw reported that an 80cm sinkhole near Willowbrook Barn, off Preston Road in Lowsonford had caused an incident with a horse rider and the Clerk had raised this with the County Council.

County Councillor J Cooke had also followed this up with the County Highways as a matter of urgency.

Ms S Beard raised concern regarding the bridle path near to the canal bridge and Foxbrook in Rowington as the natural hedge had been cut back and replaced with laurel hedging.

Ms S Beard asked if it was possible to keep some of the grassed verges from being mowed, to ensure a more natural habitat for wildlife. Councillor Cooke agreed to address this with the County Council.

Councillor J Cooke reported that the County Highways Team had agreed to address the poor conditions of the road on Haywood Lane.

### 368. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

None to report.

### 369. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

Warwick District People's Inquiry into Climate Change - Launch of Recommendations

### 370. Finance

#### a) Paid during the month:

None

#### b) To be paid:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Clerks Salary                               | £758.04 |
| HMRC  | £85.48  |
| MI Business Services Annual Renewal Website | £150.00 |
| AMW Lawncare                                | £954.00 |

#### c) Received:

None

Resolved unanimously.

### 371. CIL Funding

The Chairman reminded members with regards to the guidelines of spending CIL funding and that all quotations should be submitted to the Clerk. Three quotations were required for each project. Any spending would be made via the Parish Council and not directly to any organisations.

1. Project proposals must identify a project champion who will drive the project forward;
2. The need for accountability and transparency in decision making, including publication of applications;
3. The Parish Council will operate primarily in an oversight and governance role;
4. Clear implementation timetable and budgets as part of the application;
5. Regular monitoring of progress and reporting;
6. An assessment of the benefit to the community;
7. Priority to be given to projects that benefit a large number of residents or are a capital asset for the Parish;
8. The Parish Council will probably not support projects where alternative sources of funding are readily available;
9. The need to maintain parity between the different parts of the Parish; and
10. The Parish Council will operate under Statutory Provisions and will not approve projects that are not supported by the CIL team at Warwick District Council.

#### Potential Projects

1. Wildflower proposal (with the possibility of incorporating 3 below)
2. Rowington Village Hall audio visual installation
3. Playing Field - Outdoor Gym equipment, drainage at the playing field, fencing of the childrens' play equipment
4. Village signs and map boards
5. Defibrillators in former telephone boxes
6. Wooden benches at suitable sites e.g., Pinley Green

It was agreed that projects relating to children should be made a priority and that any projects should be communicated with the public, particularly with regards to the Playing Field.

It was proposed by Councillor B Sandford and seconded by Councillor A Pitt that £1,500 be allocated for spending to obtain drawings for the proposed project at the Playing Field and this was agreed unanimously.

Mr S Williams, Chairman of Rowington Village Hall had submitted a request for an Audio Visual system and the Clerk suggested that a further two quotes be submitted to the Parish Council for consideration once Covid restrictions allowed. The Village Hall was very popular but lacked modern technology.

At the next meeting, Councillor Daw would be asking members to consider interpretation boards and maps to be erected in the Parish.

Councillor J Coles had provided details of wild flower projects and it was agreed that two further quotations were required.

**372. Future Meeting Dates**

8 April 2021

22 April 2021 – Annual Parish Meeting

13 May 2021 – Annual Meeting

**373. Items for the Next Agenda**

None of note.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

## Report from County Councillor J Cooke

County Council Leader responds to the Government's roadmap out of lockdown

CLr Izzi Seccombe, Leader of Warwickshire County Council said: "Warwickshire County Council welcomes the Prime Ministers' announcement that, nationally, we are in a position where lockdown restrictions can begin to be lifted, but it remains essential that our residents continue to do the right thing for Warwickshire and follow the rules so that we can continue to drive down the rates of infection and hospital admissions.

"We recognise how difficult the last months of lockdown have been and would like to thank our residents for the sacrifices that they have made, which means that restrictions will begin to be lifted. There is still a way to go, as we move towards a more normal way of life, and COVID-19 testing and support for the nationwide vaccination programme remain essential in reducing the transmission of the virus in our communities."

The County Council continues to provide laptops to vulnerable children and young people

WCC has now finished distributing laptops to the county's more vulnerable children and young people to support their remote learning.

WCC purchased over 3,000 devices, which will be passed on to various groups of young people. All needs identified by schools, settings and colleges were met by the County Council. The need was identified through a demand assessment survey carried out with schools earlier this term. Schools will receive the devices, own them, and distribute them to the pupils they identified as requiring this support.

The second release and delivery of laptops, numbering around 2000, have been distributed to the remainder of schools and settings who did not receive devices in the first phase of distribution. In this phase, young carers and Children Looked After (CLA) as well as special schools to support pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and Infant Schools received laptops and equipment.

The laptops are fully equipped with Windows 10 Home edition, firewall and anti-virus and have full three-year warranties. A further purchase of MiFis with unlimited data has also been made to support learners whose households do not have internet connectivity.

Residents set to save £££'s on their energy bills thanks to Warwickshire Switch and Save

Following a successful reverse auction between competing gas and electricity suppliers this February the winning supplier in all categories was Shell Energy. It is also great news for the environment as the Shell Energy offers residents 100% renewable electricity.

In Warwickshire, thousands of households have registered an interest to switch with the scheme and it is still not too late to register and find out if you too can save money on your energy bills. The offer will remain open until 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 for online registrations and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for postal registrations. If you have not already signed up to the scheme you can NOW: <https://bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/warwickshire/landing> and receive a free, instant, no obligation quote.

Warwickshire County Council unveils striking new looks for eight of its gritters

Following a successful naming competition, WCC is pleased to unveil new images for each of its newly-named gritters.

Earlier in the Winter, Warwickshire County Council asked the public to pick names for its five new gritters, which had recently joined the County's fleet. The rules were simple: be creative, be original, be funny and the Warwickshire Public did not disappoint, with hundreds of suggestions coming in by email, by telephone and across social media channels.

selection of these names, work has taken place to design an image to go with each name and Warwickshire County Council are now pleased to unveil a few of these above.

Every time weather requires gritting, the Warwickshire County Council gritting fleet treats approximately 1,100 miles of carriageway over 29 different routes. The average number of times that there is a requirement to treat roads is approximately 60 per year, so it is in the region of 66,000 miles per annum travelled by Warwickshire gritters. That is around three times round the entire planet!

The county holds around 14,000 Tonnes of salt in stock across five depots at the start of winter and in an average winter it will get through around 12,000 tonnes. Salt stocks are kept topped up in case of prolonged spells of cold and icy weather.

Fire and Rescue Service recognised by Fire Inspectorate for Covid community work.

Warwickshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) has been recognised for its response to the Covid-19 pandemic by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

These efforts have been acknowledged in a letter from HMICFRS, following a recent inspection looking at WFRS's response to Covid-19. HMICFRS said they "were impressed" with how WFRS continued with responding to emergency incidents, whilst increasing the support available to help those most vulnerable in the community during the pandemic.

WFRS has provided a range of additional support to help communities during the pandemic. Some of these extra activities include: staff making regular telephone calls to vulnerable people to check on their welfare; delivering food parcels, prescriptions, and PPE to vulnerable residents; and transporting people from hospital to their homes.

#### **Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales**

95% of the over 65 year-olds in Coventry and Warwickshire have now had at least one Covid vaccination. This is apparently the highest vaccination rate in the country.

Various Covid support schemes continue and Richard Hales has all the details. The District has an excellent record for distributing the money allocated by the Government to those that need and deserve it. There are some disturbingly low rates in some other areas.

At the last Council Meeting, members overwhelmingly agreed to two major decisions:

Despite the significant extra costs in the last year and the continuing loss of certain income streams the Council has produced a balanced Budget without cutting services. This means a District Council Tax increase of £5 per year for Band D properties. This includes an allocation towards climate change, avoiding the additional levy considered last year.

The District portion is, of course, only about 10% of the total Council Tax bill.

The Council has also agreed to investigate a closer relationship with Stratford District Council and the possible creation of a Super District, as a means of cutting costs and maintaining services in the future. Stratford District Council has agreed the same idea.

The Peoples Climate Change Inquiry has launched its results and they are available at:

[https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20468/sustainability\\_and\\_climate\\_change/1636/warwick\\_district\\_people\\_s\\_climate\\_change\\_inquiry/3](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20468/sustainability_and_climate_change/1636/warwick_district_people_s_climate_change_inquiry/3) or by searching the WDC website.

When I watched the councillor briefing, I was concerned that the rural areas would be represented, but the second speaker was from Lapworth so all was well.