

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
ON THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021**

Present

Councillor I Henderson
Councillor J Coles
Councillor M Daw
Councillor C Doolan
Councillor A Pitt
Councillor B Sandford
Councillor D Weir

Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales
County Councillor J Cooke
4 members of the public

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

1. Election of Chairman

Councillor B Sandford asked for nominations for the role of Chairman for the ensuing year and it was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor B Sandford that Councillor I Henderson be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Councillor I Henderson accepted the nomination and will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as soon as practicable.

Councillor I Henderson in the Chair

2. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Election of a Vice-Chairman

Councillor I Henderson asked for nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and it was proposed by Councillor B Sandford and seconded by Councillor A Pitt that Councillor D Weir be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. Declarations of Interest

A Declaration of interest was received from Councillor D Weir in relation to CIL funding for Rowington Village Hall.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2021

It was proposed by Councillor C Doolan and seconded by Councillor J Coles that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2021, having been previously circulated were agreed and will be signed as true record by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr A Marsden was present at the meeting to answer any questions relating to the request for CIL Funding for Audio Visual equipment at Rowington Village Hall.

Mrs V Morton raised concern regarding speeding vehicles, particularly on the bend near to St Laurence Church and County Councillor J Cooke explained that he was aware of this and suggested that the Parish Council and any concerned residents, contact the County Council with their concerns.

Mrs Morton also asked the Parish Council to make consideration for the growth of wildflower areas at the Playing Field and the Chairman explained that this was a matter which members were already considering under the proposed CIL projects.

7. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

8. Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

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

9. 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	
W20/1526	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	Granted
W20/1888	The Lyons Farm House, Rowington Green Outline planning application for a residential development of 2 dwellings	13/04/21	Object	
W20/1944	High Acres, Nunhold Road, Pinley Erection of stable	03/03/21	No objection	Granted
W20/1996	Weavers Cottage, High Cross Lane, Rowington Proposed replacement three bay garage and store with studio over	28/04/21	Object	
W20/2002	Weavers Cottage, High Cross Lane, Rowington Proposed stables, hay barn and menage	30/03/21	No representation	
W21/0470	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	14/04/21	No representation	

b) The following planning applications were considered and decided:

21/0073 & 0074LB – Oldfield Farm, Old Warwick Road, Rowington – Proposed demolition and replacement of 3no. porches.

The Parish Council made no representation to the application.

21/0131 – 1 Woodlands Cottage, Mill Lane, Rowington - Proposed refurbishment of existing dwelling, two storey side and single storey rear extensions, new detached garage, and associated internal and external works

Mr J Bates, who submitted the application made a presentation to members of the Parish Council in support of this application.

The Parish Council made no representation to the application.

10. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – Councillor J Coles – 16 May & Councillor M Daw – 30 May

11. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor M Daw reported that the Village Hall was still closed due to Covid- 19, but was open for the Elections on 6 May 2021.

It was possible that the hall would re-open on 21 June 2021.

It was still to be confirmed, but the Horticultural Show may take place on 30 August 2021.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the Village Hall remained closed due to Covid-19, but was open for the Elections on 6 May 2021, and it was still to be confirmed, but the Hall may -re-open after 21 June 2021.

12. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Councillor B Sanford raised concern regarding the dangerous slippery state of the Canal Towpath in two areas, near to the Tom 'o' The Wood PH and the bridge in Rowington and the Clerk was asked to raise this with the Canal & River Trust.

Councillor A Pitt reported there was a fallen tree blocking the footpath outside of the former Elephant & Castle PH and the Clerk agreed to report this to the County Council.

A member of the public enquired as to why there was a chain across the entrance to Lowsonford Village Hall and Councillor M Daw explained that this was a requirement of the insurance policy, due to the Village Hall being closed due to Covid-19. The defibrillator was still accessible via foot.

Following the recent installation of weight restriction signage near to Canal Bridge 41, the Clerk had raised issues with one of the signs as it appears to be incorrectly positioned.

13. Policies & Procedures

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations were reviewed by members and no revisions were made.

14. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

None to report.

15. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

National Code of Conduct – to consider the adoption of the Model Code of Conduct – deferred

16. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£758.44
HMRC	£84.39
Zurich Municipal Insurance	£712.40
WALC Subscription	£440.00

c) Received:

Precept	£10,215
CIL Payment	£10,963.22

Resolved unanimously.

17 Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been carried out and the report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. No matters were raised.

18. Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021

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

19. Accounting Statements 2020/2021

Following the Clerks report and circulation of the Accounting Statements, it was agreed that the Statements be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor. No objections were recorded.

20. CIL Funding

Rowington Village Hall

The Clerk had circulated three quotations for the installation of audio-visual equipment at Rowington Village Hall, which had been sourced by the Committee.

It was agreed that the application for funding met the criteria as set out by the District Council and after deliberations it was agreed unanimously that the request for £4,269.10 plus VAT be granted.

It was proposed by Councillor B Sandford and seconded by Councillor M Daw and resolved unanimously.

21. Future Meeting Dates

Parish Council meetings were no longer permitted to take place remotely and it was agreed that, unless any urgent matters arose, the meeting previously scheduled for 10 June 2021, would not take place.

The next meeting was to take place at Lawsonford Village Hall on 8 July 2021, subject to the re-opening of the Hall.

22. Items for the Next Agenda & Observations from Parish Councillors

Councillor J Coles suggested that the Parish Council should consider holding a stall at the forthcoming Flower Show to encourage new members to join the Parish Council and this was agreed by all members. Members would take turns in managing the stall.

Councillor M Daw encouraged local organisations to apply to the Parish Council for funding.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Residents urged to take regular COVID-19 Tests

Throughout the pandemic it has become evident that testing is a key tool in our armoury to reduce the spread of COVID-19 along with hands, face, space, fresh air and vaccines.

As many as one in three people who have COVID-19 do not have symptoms and could pass on the virus without knowing. As restrictions ease and the country moves out of lockdown testing offers a way to; identify potential outbreaks, stop transmission and ultimately keep people safe.

It is recommended that people take tests at home or at a local test centre twice a week. There are currently six test centres in Warwickshire and roving mobile test units to test those who have no symptoms which helps reduce the spread of the virus. Additionally, people can order tests online or collect kits locally to test themselves at home, with regular testing also being carried out at some Warwickshire workplaces.

For more information about getting a COVID-19 test in the community, ordering a kit online or collecting home testing kits, go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidtesting

Second round of funding available through £1.5million business support grant scheme

WCC is inviting local small businesses in the retail, hospitality, tourism & leisure sectors and their supply chains to apply for a range of grants in the 2nd round of its Adapt and Diversify Grants.

The scheme was launched to support those businesses most affected by the Covid-19 crisis and it complements the Government grants available through the District and Borough Councils by providing additional support for investment in external expertise, new equipment or the refurbishment of property.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have been negatively affected by Covid-19 and have clear plans to adapt and diversify their business. Earlier in the year, the county made an initial £1m available for distribution among businesses drawing on funding made available through the Local Restrictions Tier status.

A further £850,000 is now available for small businesses to apply for in Round 2. Grants of between £2,500 up to £5,000 are available towards the costs of specialist advice – for example: accountants, legal advice, digital specialists – and between £2,500 and £20,000 for accessing speciality expertise and /or the purchase of new equipment, or the refurbishment of property that will help the business to diversify their offer and safeguard their immediate future and the jobs of their workforce.

Click here [web page](#) which also details other funding streams available to local businesses.

Warwickshire County Council to invest £1.86m in Fire Service's new control room technology

The investment will update the current CRS in line with a Home Office project to upgrade all communication equipment across all blue light services in the UK. The new CRS is an ICT system to manage and deploy resources including the mobilisation of fire engines and other vehicles to emergency incidents.

Warwickshire's new CRS is a cloud-based software system which will allow Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to connect to the central government's Emergency Services Network (ESN) critical communications system.

It will transmit fast, safe and secure voice, video and data across the 4G network and give first responders immediate access to life-saving data, images and information in live situations and emergencies on the frontline across the county. The system uses the ESN's high speed which will mean communication between the emergency services will take priority over all other network traffic.

The new system will also enable Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to embrace new and innovative technology and functionality, increase capacity for effective remote working, collaborate between other emergency services and improve availability and accuracy of information from control to responding crews.

This investment is being funded through Warwickshire County Council's Change Fund and Fire Transformation Fund respectively.

Record number of Warwickshire children receive first choice school offers

Thousands of children across Warwickshire have been offered places at primary schools, with a record number of children being offered a place in a reception class.

16th April – was National Offer Day, when children up and down the country learnt which primary school they would attend for the 2021/22 academic year.

In Warwickshire, 6021 children applied for a reception place, an increase of 1% on the previous year. Out of those, 91% have been offered a place at their first-choice school. A further 6% have been offered a place at either their second or third choice school. This means a total of 97% of children have been offered a place at one of their top 3 schools, with the remaining 3% offered alternative places. Every applicant who applied on time has been offered a place at a school.

Young politicians selected to help steer county through the year ahead

Young people with a passion for politics and ambitions to have a positive influence on Warwickshire have been selected for the county's Youth Council – and met virtually for the first time.

The 15 councillors were announced at an online event in March and will be in office for 12 months.

New members were elected for Nuneaton and Bedworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, Rugby and Warwick. They were joined by senior Warwickshire County Council members and officers for their first virtual meeting.

During their term of office, the youngsters will represent the views and interests of young people in their constituencies - both locally and nationally - by meeting councillors, MPs and other decision makers to take forward issues important to them. The Youth Council will also play a key role in county council's Child Friendly Warwickshire initiative – which aims to work with children and young people to ensure their views are heard and make a difference across the county.

Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

Joint working with Stratford District Council

The team have recently begun working with Stratford District Council to begin the development of a joint Local Industrial Strategy as part of our closer partnership working.

Warwick District Council

At our AGM the following appointments were made:

George Illingworth – Chair of Licensing Committee

John Cooke – Cabinet Holder for Place & Economy

Richard Hales – Cabinet Holder for Transformation & Deputy Leader of Council