

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor I Henderson – Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor C Doolan
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor A Pitt
Councillor B Sandford
Councillor D Weir

Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillors R Hales & G Illingworth

6 members of the public

74. Apologies

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

75. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

76. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 October 2021

It was proposed by Councillor J Coles and seconded by Councillor B Sandford that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2021, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as true record by the Chairman.

77. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr R Shepherd updated the Parish Council regarding the Ferncumbe News, which had not been published for some eighteen months due to Covid-19. A new Editor had revamped the newsletter, and this was to be printed in colour and the first revised edition would be distributed in December. Printing costs had been reduced, and it was hoped that new advertisers could be sought.

Mrs D Sly asked for an update regarding the speeding issues along the Old Warwick Road. The Clerk reported that she had met with Jeremy Wright MP and Councillor J Coles on 12 October 2021. Mr Wright agreed with the matters raised regarding speeding, and the overgrown vegetation around the flashing speed sign and was to flag this up with the County Council.

The Clerk also reported that Philip Seccombe, the Police and Crime Commissioner was to attend the December meeting of the Parish Council.

78. Warwickshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Clerk had invited Danielle Bristow to the meeting, but she was unable to attend. However, Danielle had submitted a report, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

With regards to the speed checks, the team has been to the location 4 times now in the past 4 weeks and conducted checks. We try to update our social media pages to raise awareness of speeding hot spots and I would encourage you to follow our pages if you aren't already - Facebook and Twitter - @WarwickCops

I am also aware that OPU (traffic) have been on location for random checks and that the speed van attends the locality as well.

Unfortunately, due to weather and the clocks going back, speed checks can only be done in certain locations due to safety and the team have to manage resources as well as varying demands.

I am aware that Warwickshire County Council Road Safety Engineering team did a site visit with the parish council. My understanding is that a request was made to reduce the limit from 40mph to 30mph along the Old Warwick Road by the Parish Council? The police do not make the decision when it comes to speed limits, nor do they have any powers over how the County Council spend their budget when it comes to traffic calming measures.

I believe that there are already flashing warning signs in place, but the lay out of the road does cause issues for officers to find a suitable location in order to conduct speed checks safely.

I have contacted Warwickshire Polices Traffic Management advisor and she will be pulling some speed data from the location to see what comes back from this.

As it stands, the team is aware of the location and the concerns about speeding and will continue to conduct speed checks as and when they are able to - however this is all we are able to offer I am afraid.

Warwickshire Police relaunched Community Speed watch back in August 2020, but due to the Covid Pandemic we have struggled to get people trained up.

We have received expressions of interest from 8 Lapworth residents, who are looking to get involved. A mass training session took place at Wolston Community Centre in July 2021, but there are still scores of residents across the whole of Warwickshire who are awaiting to be trained up. It is still hoped another course will be sorted this year, although it is anticipated this will most likely now be early 2022.

Suitable locations need to be identified in and around Lapworth and the relevant risk assessment carried out. Once this has been done and the volunteers have been trained, they will be ready to go.

With regards to a recent crime spike, I have looked at the reports of burglaries, thefts and suspicious circumstances over the last 3 months for the following locations:

Lapworth: 5 x theft from motor vehicle, 3 x suspicious incidents, 3 x Burglary or attempt burglary, 1 x theft.

Rowington: 1 x suspicious circumstance, 1 x burglary, 1 x attempted shed break in, 1 x suspicious circumstances where a male was arrested for suspicion of theft from motor vehicle.

Lowsonford: 1 x damage, 1 x burglary.

We are aware of a spike in vehicle crime, including thefts of motor vehicle, often referred to as car key burglaries. There is a current operation in place to tackle this and a briefing and tasking in place for extra patrols in your area. I would strongly encourage you continue to report any suspicious circumstances. Thank you to those of you who have already reported anything out of the ordinary. As you can see from the incident in Rowington, officers attended, and an arrest was made.

I would like to draw your attention to Warwickshire Connected - <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com/>

This is the new alerts system and is a similar set up to Community Messaging service that Warwickshire Police historically used.

If you have any community events coming up that you would like police engagement with then please let me know. We have various things that we can offer, like bike marking events or crime prevention advice. For the more rural areas we have officers who can mark tack as well and a Rural Crime Team that specialise in wildlife crimes.

Discussions took place regarding the contents of the report and the Clerk agreed to submit a suitable response.

79. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

80. Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

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

81. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W21/0019/FUL	Wyken Field, High Cross Lane, Rowington Outline planning permission for the erection of a replacement dwelling	11/08/21	Object changed to no representation	Granted

W21/0604/FUL	Willowbrook House, Preston Fields Lane, Rowington Demolition of an existing conservatory and the erection of an indoor swimming pool with glazed link to the main house	29/09/21	No representation	Refused
W21/0835 & 0836LB	Finwood Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Application for the conversion of rural building into a residential dwelling	23/08/21	No representation	
W21/0927/FUL	Land Adjacent to The Manor, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Erection of new dwelling and associated works including new pedestrian and vehicular access onto Old Warwick Road	20/07/21	Object	
W21/1079/FUL	The Old Farm, Quarry Lane, Rowington Change of use from dis-used agricultural barn to ancillary domestic outbuilding for leisure uses	27/07/21	No representation	
W21/1331/FUL	Land Adjacent to The Rising, Old Warwick Road Erection of detached five bedroom dwelling	23/08/21	Object	
W21/1314/FUL	Wells Farm, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green Proposed menage	02/09/21	Support	
W21/1348/FUL	Woodlands Cottage, Mill Lane, Rowington Proposed refurbishment of existing dwelling, erection of two storey side extension, erection of new detached garage, and associated internal and external works. (Resubmission of W/21/0131)	23/09/21	Support	
W21/1355/FUL	Barn at Little Manor Farm Barn, Manor Lane, Pinley Green Replacement tractor and equipment shed with new timber framed tractor and machinery shed with additional first floor storage, bat loft, and owl and swallow boxes for biodiversity	02/09/21	Object	
W21/1377/FUL	The Threshing Barn, Finwood Road, Rowington Erection of extension to 'cart shed' outbuilding	29/09/21	Support	
W21/1629/FUL	Oakdene, The Cumsey, Pinley Green Erection of a replacement garage	26/10/21	No Objection	

b) The following planning applications were considered and decided:

W21/1884 & 1885LB - Manor Farm, Holywell, Rowington - Proposed erection of single storey side extension

The Parish Council made no representation to the application, but agreed that this should be referred to the Conservation Advisory Committee.

W21/1861LB - Manor Farm, Holywell, Rowington - Proposed internal alterations including additional internal door fitted from hallway into study on ground floor; Construction of a partition wall in the existing ground floor utility to create a separate WC; Bedroom one on first floor to be converted into main family bathroom; Demolition of partition walls in bedroom two and bedroom three on first floor to create one larger double bedroom; Demolition of fitted wardrobes in master bedroom on first floor; Demolition of existing bathroom and cupboard in bedroom four on first floor, with creation of newly situated en-suite to form a guest bedroom.

The Parish Council made no representation to the application, but agreed that this should be referred to the Conservation Advisory Committee.

82. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 14 November – Councillor D Weir & 28 November – Councillor J Coles

c) Annual Play Area Inspection

It was noted that additional safety signage was required to all sports related equipment and the Clerk agreed to address this.

83. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor J Coles reported that there were three newly elected Trustees, and the next meeting was to be held on 16 November 2021. The decorating was almost complete and there was to be a Christmas Fayre on 4 December 2021.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the Village Hall hires are steadily returning to normal. Hirers of the Hall are attracted by the equipment recently installed and funded by CIL and the Committee is installing a wireless microphone package, all equipment which will update the Hall and attract hirers. Maintenance of the Hall is progressing and for example, the Hall has been recently decorated. The Management Committee Events Team is again organising social events, the next event being on the 4th December. This is being widely advertised locally.

84. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

At the last meeting, Councillor A Marsden asked if the Parish Clerk could contact Hansen's Coaches as there was currently no designated place for school children to wait for the school bus on Old Warwick Road. The Clerk had liaised with the coach company and WCC, who had agreed to seek a solution. The first stage was to arrange for a Road Safety Audit to be carried out by the Safety Engineering Team. Once the findings of this audit were available, WCC would engage an appropriate Engineer in the Minor Works Team to investigate the various options open, and produce a set of drawings and costings for consideration by all stakeholders. There will be a cost for this work. In previous such circumstances, the WCC Engineer would contact the local County Councillor to see if they would be willing to fund this from their delegated budget.

If all is agreed and a suitable solution is found, then funding of the physical stop and any shelter would have to be established. The WCC budget for such works is currently unavailable and may remain so for a while yet. Therefore, alternative means would be sought from either the Parish Council or the County Councillor, or a combination thereof.

The results of the audit were outstanding, but the Clerk was to chase this up.

85. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

Councillor I Henderson had attended the WALC Annual Conference on 22 & 23 October 2021.

Councillor D Weir to attend the Understanding Employee Responsibilities on 27 November 2021.

86. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters - noted

87. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£660.04
HMRC	£182.79
Play Safety	£99.00
MI Business Services	£65.00
WALC	£30.00

c) Received:

None

Resolved unanimously.

d) Request for Funding

The Clerk asked members to consider a request for funding from the PCC for £900 towards the upkeep of footpaths at St Laurence and St Luke's Churches.

This was agreed unanimously.

88. CIL Funding

a) Defibrillators in telephone kiosks at Pinley & Lowsonford

The Clerk updated Members on the purchase of the two new defibrators which were now installed and commissioned.

The Clerk was awaiting the delivery of the paint.

The Chairman agreed to clean the TK at Pinley and Councillor A Pitt and the Clerk would clean the TK at Lowsonford. The Clerk was waiting for costs for signage at the two defibrillators at Lowsonford and Rowington Village Halls.

b) Playing Field – Proposed Improvements
Deferred.

c) Gateway Signage – Councillor D Weir agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

89. Parish Events

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 14 November 2021.

A short outdoor service was to take place at 10.45am and all were welcome to attend.

90. 2022 Meeting Dates

The Clerk had circulated draft meeting dates for 2022 and these were agreed by members.

91. Future Meeting Dates

9 December 2021 at Rowington Village Hall. Members were invited to join the Chairman for light refreshments after the meeting.

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

Queens Jubilee

WALC Community Grant Funding

There being no further business the meeting 8.35pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

WCC launches new loneliness campaign in time for National Befriending Week 2021

Warwickshire residents who feel lonely or socially isolated are set to benefit from a countywide campaign which looks to provide advice about health and wellbeing, signpost to local support services and offer tips and advice on beating loneliness and isolation.

[According to research](#), loneliness is said to be as harmful to health as other well-known risk factors such as obesity and smoking cigarettes and substantial evidence shows that having a lack of social connections can significantly increase the risk of premature mortality, so finding ways to help residents suffering from isolation is one way we can improve overall health for everyone.

In a recent survey undertaken across Warwickshire, half of respondents reported experiencing loneliness. A figure which is echoed on a national level, with research conducted by the Campaign to End Loneliness finding that 45% of adults – the equivalent of 25 million people - feel occasionally, sometimes or often lonely.

Those in need of help and support can look out for resources and help on WCC's social media channels (Twitter @Warwickshire_CC, Facebook @WarwickshireCountyCouncil or Instagram @bestwarwickshrie) or visit the website at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mental-health-wellbeing/talking-loneliness

Fair Chance Employer scheme to be launched

The Fair Chance Employer programme is designed to work collaboratively with education providers and employability groups, helping employers to “level up” their opportunities by offering Warwickshire residents with supportive needs equal access to careers.

The scheme, which will launch in November 2021, aims to promote and celebrate inclusive employment and will call out to employers who would like to become a Fair Chance Employer and engage with high-priority talent pools keen to access work opportunities.

The programme aims to unlock more than 200 jobs to jobseekers who experience mental health, disability and learning barriers, as well as women and Armed Forces veterans returning to work, young offenders, young care leavers and care leavers.

The Fair Chance Employer programme will be led by a dedicated Warwickshire County Council Business Skills Advisor who will work with employers to increase awareness of inclusivity and diversity in the workplace, whilst creating opportunities for work experience, internships and apprenticeships to support progression into full time employment.

The Warwickshire Skills Hub, home to the Fair Chance Employer Programme, will also launch a digital jobs board, creating a platform for Fair Chance Employers to list their jobs and interact with potential candidates in a less formal way. If you are an employer who is recruiting and would like to explore how the Fair Chance Employer programme could help your business then contact the Warwickshire Skills Hub team on skillshub@warwickshire.gov.uk

A tree for every resident in Warwickshire

A leafy Warwickshire for all residents to enjoy as Warwickshire County Council commits to extensive tree planting.

With the 2021/22 tree planting season underway, and as world leaders gathered in Glasgow for COP26, WCC has ambitious tree planting plans for coming years that will see a tree for every resident planted across the county.

This tree planting has been strategically planned to restore parts of forests and wooded areas that have been long lost to time, such as the ancient Forest of Arden, which once covered most of the county and beyond into Staffordshire and Worcestershire. To this end, the Council has been successful – along with partners in the District and Borough Councils – in their bid for £212k from the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescape Fund to plant 2000 standard trees. These native trees will be restoring hedgerows on local authority-owned farms and public open space in the more rural areas of the county.

Warwickshire County Council produces plan to improve bus services

Warwickshire County Council has reacted to the government's National Bus Strategy by producing the county's [Bus Service Improvement Plan \(BSIP\)](#).

The plan sets out the improvements that are needed to transform bus services in Warwickshire, as well as being a document which will support the council in its bid to central Government for a £150million share of the £3bn funding available to local authorities to help boost bus travel over a three-year period (2022-2025).

The plan has been developed collaboratively with local bus operators following engagement with the local community and other partners. This included a county-wide survey with a total of 1,563 responses, engagement with user groups and interviews with stakeholders. [Bus Service Improvement Plan \(BSIP\)](#).

New look Local SEND Offer set to make a difference in Warwickshire

The Local Offer is a one stop shop for parents and carers and families of children with SEND up to the age of 25 to help them to access clear and accessible information on education, health and social care, training and employment, leisure and support in preparing for adulthood. It aims to provide information and support from early help through to more complex needs.

The new and improved site - <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send> has been produced in collaboration with parents, carers and children whose experiences and opinions have helped shape the new look and feel to ensure that the site is easily accessible and has the right information and advice. Warwickshire County Council would welcome any feedback to fis@warwickshire.gov.uk.

WCC unveils Children and Young People Strategy 2021 – 2030

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet has approved a new Children and Young People Strategy which outlines the council's commitment to ensuring children and young people have a voice and are supported to be the best they can be. The strategy's goals and ambitions were shaped by feedback from a survey completed by over a thousand young people across Warwickshire and will be the council's approach to working with partners, families and communities between now and 2030 to help youngsters reach their potential.

The strategy reflects the exciting new Child Friendly Warwickshire programme which is bringing the county together in a collective effort to ensure our children and young people are heard, safe, happy, healthy and equipped with the skills to lead the best lives they can.

To find out more about Child Friendly Warwickshire and to get involved visit <https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1642278725-5117>

New website helps to highlight Adoption

Adoption Central England (ACE) - the regional adoption agency for Coventry, Solihull, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire – improved their website to make it easy for people to understand the whole adoption process and offer a useful resource for everyone including birth parents, adopted adults or prospective and current adopters.

ACE is the first adoption service to become a certified Dyadic Psychotherapy Practice (DDP). ACE apply the principles of DDP within all relationships, inviting open and engaged conversation so that everyone feels heard and their experiences validated. This is also replicated on the website which highlights that ACE treat everybody who needs support with empathy, acceptance and respect.

The new resource allows for easy access of information and navigation around the site, key features include:

- Steps to adoption
 - Family Connexions – a service for birth family members
 - Clear signposting to support
 - Information about step-parent adoption
 - Information for adopted adults
- More info at <https://www.aceadoption.com/>

Help for residents to meet household costs through winter

Central Government recently announced that a new £500 million Household Support Fund grant will be made available to local authorities in England, as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic.

Warwickshire's allocation is £3.47million to cover the period 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. The funding will be distributed via Warwickshire County Council's Local Welfare Scheme.

Priority support is being offered to families with children eligible for benefits related free school meals during school holidays as it is recognised that some families who are struggling financially have difficulty covering these periods. Those eligible and registered children will automatically be receiving support towards food costs over the October half term via Huggs supermarket vouchers.

Report from District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales

We are still working through our end of year accounts and expect to have those signed off by December and has been mentioned we have awarded a joint new waste management contract which starts in August 2022, where we are changing the collections to a mixture between weekly to 3 weekly collections - [Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils announce new waste contractor - Warwick District Council \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](#) We were having issues with our green waste collection, but hope to have resolved those issues now.

We are working through the responses to our potential merger with Stratford District Council, ahead of our meeting on Monday 13th December.