

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor J Coles
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor T Parker
Councillor A Pitt
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir Chairman
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillor G Illingworth
3 members of the public

27. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor B Sandford, County Councillor J Cooke and District Councillor R Hales.

28. Election of a Vice-Chairman

The Chairman asked for nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillors J Coles & A Pitt both asked to be considered for the Office.

Councillors T Remment, T Parker and A Marsden voted in favour of Councillor A Pitt. It was therefore proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor T Remment that Councillor A Pitt be elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor A Pitt thanked members for their support.

29. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2022

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor A Pitt that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as true record by the Chairman.

31. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr G Harrington gave an overview regarding the history, printing and circulation of the Ferncumbe Newsletter and explained that he and Mr R Shepherd wished to provide a wider distribution to cover those households in Rowington Parish, who do not currently receive a copy. It was hoped that this would generate a greater advertisement interest from local tradespeople and encourage more subscriptions. Mr Harrington asked members to consider financially supporting the proposal by making a grant of £1800.

Members asked various questions, which were answered, and the Chairman asked the Clerk to include the request on the next meeting agenda for formal consideration.

32. 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.

33. Report from District Councillor G Illingworth

Councillor G Illingworth reported that following the decision not to proceed with the merger with Stratford District Council certain minor reorganizations of staff duties have taken place to reflect responsibilities and all existing threats to jobs have effectively been removed. This is obviously beneficial to staff.

Following the Council AGM some responsibilities of members have also taken place. Clearly all the merger actions have finished. Cllrs Richard Hales and John Cooke retain their exiting Portfolios with minor changes and John takes on all responsibility for Planning. Work with Stratford on a combined South Warwickshire Local Plan will continue, though some decisions will now be made more locally.

Councillor Illingworth had now handed over Chairmanship of Licencing and Regulatory, but will Chair the Conservation Area Committee and become the Heritage Champion.

Councillor Illingworth outlined his position as a member of the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee and issues discussed at the last meeting he had attended. Councillor Illingworth reported that Birmingham Airport was now 84% back on track pre covid figures, but that people were blaming the airport for present problems, but it is in fact the airlines who are responsible.

Councillor A Marsden raised concern regarding parking charges at Birmingham Airport and Councillor Illingworth agreed to raise this at the next Consultative Committee which would be held in September, he would also raise the recent changes to the flight path which had meant that there was now an increased number of planes over the parish.

34. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

| Application Number | Application Details | Comments required by | PC Decision | WDC Decision |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| W21/1944 | Land at Peacock Lane, Holywell, Rowington Proposed change of use of land for the siting of a log cabin for three years as a temporary rural worker's dwelling, and to regularise the commercial equestrian use (retrospective) | 10/12/21 | No representation | |
| W21/1994 | Shepherds Fold, Finwood Road, Rowington Conversion of barn to dwelling | 10/12/21 | No representation | |
| W21/2179 | The Paddocks, Shrewley Road, Shrewley Erection of lunging pen and menage. Formation of new vehicular access with parking and erection of a gated entrance with fencing | 28/04/22 | Support | |
| W22/0161 | Ednam Meadow, The Cumsey, Pinley Green Replacement two storey dwelling along with the removal of an existing container from the application site | 27/04/22 | Object | |
| W22/0299LB & 0298 | 2 Kingswood Cottages, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Erection of proposed first floor rear extension over existing flat roof extension. Erection of single storey rear extension. Installation of two sun pipes to roof | 21/04/22 | Support | |
| W22/0365 | Weavers Cottage, High Cross Lane Erection of proposed single storey orangery replacing existing conservatory. Erection of single storey front extension. Proposed reconstruction of existing ground and first floor extensions to the rear of the original dwellings (approved under applications ref W83/0792 and W84/0625) | 08/04/22 | Support | |
| W22/0367 | Clinton House, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Proposed erection of single storey dwelling. | 20/05/22 | Support | |
| W22/0763 | Woodlands Cottage, Mill Lane, Rowington Erection of replacement dwelling and outbuildings and associated landscaping works | 7/06/22 | Support | |

b) The following planning applications were considered and decided:

W22/0575 – Holly Bank, Lapworth Street, Bushwood, Lowsonford. Replacement conservatory, new kitchen door replacing existing window, existing front gable to be rendered, replace 2 dormer windows with skylight, replace existing door with new door DDA compliant access West - replace skylight with dormer.

Members agreed to support the application as there was no impact on neighbours and it was considered that the application was an improvement in the visual appearance and made the property DDA compliant.

W22/0785 – Old Posthouse, Rowington Green – Enlargement of existing open porch and repositioning of front door.

Members agreed to support the application and concluded that this was an improvement to the property, with no increase on the overall footprint.

The Chairman referred to Planning Application W22/0786 for the Old Posthouse, Rowington Green, which was shown on the WDC website, but had not been received by the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to query this with the Planning Officer.

c) Appeals

Appeal Ref: APP/T3725/W/22/3290377

Barn at Little Manor Farm Barn, Manor Lane, Pinley Green. The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.

Decision - The appeal is dismissed.

35. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 12 June Councillor A Pitt & 26 June Councillor J Coles

36. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor J Coles reported that the AGM was to take place on 23 June and all members of the Parish Council were invited to attend.

Rowington Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the AGM had taken place on 8 June and further social events were to take place. A Simple Supper event on 15 October and Christmas Dinner on 3 December 2022. Maintenance works were on going and additional outdoor lighting was to be considered. Improvements to the heaters were to be considered. Stephen Williams had now stood down as Chairman following his role of fifteen years.

37. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

The Clerk read an email from Richard Roberts of WCC regarding an update on the Canal Bridge 41 in Lowsonford.

Councillor Coles thanked the Clerk for her persistence in the matter and asked her to respond to Mr Roberts, and did confirm that this was likely to require persistent and coherent pressure to WCC, Canal & River Trust (CRT) and Severn Trent.

The main issue remains the concern of the CRT structural report of 2016 which has not been resolved.

Indeed WCC as one of the main stake holders in this matter appears to have fulfilled their obligation to repair the surface of the road.

CRT claimed that the porous surface of the road contributed to the deterioration of the mortar and brick work of the bridge. This is only one such cause of deterioration, others are Severn Trent huge pipe leak, bridge structural water erosion of stone and brick below the water line, lastly the bridge is placed at a very slight angle, which makes narrow boat navigation difficult.

There is a frequent scraping and collision with the corner of the bridge which has eroded over centuries which can be seen.

Councillor Coles further requested sight of the Assessment certificate and all information relating to the evidence base, on which any decisions have been made about the structural condition of the bridge.

The Parish Council remains concerned on behalf of the safety of residents and bridge users regarding any lifting of any weight limit signage restrictions.

At this point remain opposed to any decision to remove the 13-tonne limit signage. Moreover, the Parish Council may consider that representation may be made to reduce the weight limit further such is local concern.

The Clerk agreed to follow up on these matters and relay any progress to members.

Councillor A Pitt reported that a street name sign on St Laurence Close had been damaged and the Clerk agreed to address this.

38. Policies & Procedures

a) Current Policies

The Clerk had circulated a list of all current Policies & Procedures for review and members agreed that no changes were required. These included: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Staffing Committee, Annual Governance Procedure, Freedom of Information, Risk Assessment and Funding Policy.

b) Social Media Policy

The Clerk had circulated a draft Social Media Policy for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor A Pitt and seconded by Councillor A Marsden that the Social Media Policy be adopted.

c) Grievance Procedure

This was deferred to the next meeting.

39. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

Invitation from BHHW Parish Council to attend a Climate Emergency Meeting on 12 October 2022. Councillors A Pitt, D Weir, T Parker, T Remment and J Coles agreed to attend.

40. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Memorial Benches (CIL Funds) | £2421.00 |
| Signs Express Jubilee Banners | £178.80 |
| Expenses to S Jay for Jubilee | £27.07 |

b) To be paid:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Clerks Salary | £672.31 |
| HMRC | £184.23 |
| Clerk's Expenses BACS | £2.45 |
| Ferncumbe News Grant | £300.00 |
| Zurich Insurance | £775.82 |
| Memorial Benches BACS | £35.00 |
| Water Plus BACS | £13.44 |
| Second City Band Jubilee BACS | £270.00 |
| Wedding Pizza Co. Balance for Jubilee BACS | £500.00 |

c) Received:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Warwick District Council Jubilee Grant | £500.00 |
|--|---------|

d) Bank Signatories

The Clerk agreed to update the bank mandate Resolved unanimously.

41. Rowington Parish Jubilee Celebration Sunday 5 June 2022 from 2pm to 6pm

The Clerk was pleased to report that the event had been a huge success, and all members and the Clerk had received some really positive comments.

The event had run well within the budget. A report would be submitted to the District Council as per the terms of the £500 grant.

42. Planning Committee

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council seeks to establish a Planning Committee, which would meet only as required, which was the recommended practice for dealing with planning applications, which arose between meetings. The Chairman asked the Clerk to seek advice from WALC before proceeding.

43. Staff Committee

The Chairman asked for three members to stand on the Staffing Committee and the Clerk suggested that four members would be more practicable. It was agreed that Councillors D Weir, T Parker, T Remment and A Marsden be elected to the Staffing Committee. The Clerk was to revise the Terms of Reference to include for four members.

44. CIL Funding

Proposed improvements to the Playing Field, Play area improvements, outdoor gym equipment, community orchard space and wildflower planting for biodiversity
Deferred due to the absence of Councillor B Sandford.

Jubilee Benches

The Clerk was pleased to report that one of the benches had been installed on the cricket pitch in time for the Jubilee event. The two remaining benches were to be installed during the next two weeks.

45. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 14 July 2022 Lowsonford Village Hall

Thursday 8 September 2022 Rowington Village Hall

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

To consider an Honorarium payment to the Clerk for her work for the Rowington Parish Jubilee Celebration

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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

Report by County Councillor J Cooke

Kenilworth residents invited to comment on improvements to footbridge near St John's Church

The footbridge between Clarke's Avenue and Farmer Ward road is to be improved by a jointly funded scheme with WCC in partnership with Kenilworth Town Council. The well-used path across a footbridge between Clarke's Avenue and Farmer Ward road is to be improved by a jointly funded scheme with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) in partnership with Kenilworth Town Council.

Local residents of Kenilworth are invited to share their views on the proposed improvements which will include the removal of barriers plus the widening and resurfacing of the path to create a shared use route for walking and cycling.

More detailed information, including a [scheme plan and feedback forms are available online](#) or at Kenilworth Library.

Special Educational Needs Seminar

Parents and carers are invited to a webinar to learn how to have effective early conversations and seek support if they believe their child has a special educational need or disability (SEND).

The latest SEND webinar to be hosted by Warwickshire County Council in partnership with Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice will offer guidance for parents and carers to help them have early conversations.

The webinar is taking place on **Thursday 9 June, 1.30pm - 2.30pm** and will be recorded for those unable to attend on the day.

Parents and carers can [register to attend the webinar here](#).

Could you see yourself becoming a firefighter?

That's the question Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) is asking all adults to consider ahead of recruitment set to take place this summer. The service will be hiring 'wholetime' firefighters – full-time firefighters who take on a range of duties aimed at preventing incidents alongside responding to emergency situations. The role requires no previous experience and is open to anyone over 18 with a full UK driving licence.

WFRS will be holding a series of online information sessions and recruitment taster days from 14 June onwards. The online information sessions will provide an overview of what it takes to become a firefighter and how the recruitment process works, with useful hints and tips for getting through each stage.

The taster days begin 2 July and provide a more in-depth look at the firefighter role, with the chance to experience some of the practical elements of the recruitment process.

A full list of dates and the opportunity to book a place can be found here: <https://bit.ly/wfrs-recruitment>

Warwickshire's Greenways under the spotlight on BBC Countryfile

If you were watching BBC's Countryfile programme on Sunday 29 May, you may have seen a segment on the Lias Line Greenway, a new stretch of National Cycle Network Route 41, due for completion in July.

The new path connects to Warwickshire County Council's Offchurch Greenway and links Rugby, Long Itchington and Leamington Spa, with a segment of the route taking visitors along the Grand Union Canal. Passing by villages and wildlife reserves, the greenway not only offers a beautiful path for humans, but also provides much needed routes for connecting wildlife habitats and gives those who travel along it the opportunity to see a wide variety of local species, including rare varieties such as the Great Crested Newt.

The project has been coordinated by Sustrans, a national charity which aims to make it easier for people to walk and cycle.

Sustrans are responsible for the National Cycle Network, which has created over 12,000 miles of signed cycle routes throughout the UK.

You can view the Warwickshire Greenways edition of the [Countryfile programme on BBC iPlayer](#).

Homes for Ukraine Update from WCC

As at 25th May, 408 Ukrainian guests have arrived in Warwickshire (based on their visa status). A further 615 guests have been matched to hosts in Warwickshire, meaning the total number of guests could rise to 1,023. Warwickshire has a total of 396 matched hosts.

Accommodation checks: To date, 297 accommodation checks have been completed. This represents 74% of the 399 properties that have been offered to the scheme.

Disclosure and Barring Service checks: A total of 336 DBS checks have been initiated across the 396 host households involved in the scheme.

We have updated and redesigned the dedicated page for the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The "News" section has been added and updated with scheduled events for sponsors and hosts, news releases and member briefings.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ukraine>

New £1million round of Small Capital Grants programme is launched

Warwickshire County Council is pleased to launch the 2022/23 round of its enduringly successful [Small Capital Grants \(SCG\) programme](#).

Since 2015, the SCG programme has awarded over £2million to Warwickshire businesses as part of a £14 million package of finance, loans and grants for Warwickshire businesses.

The SCG programme has already created more than 200 jobs around the county.

Applicants must usually have a minimum of 12 months of proven trading history, however start-up businesses with significant growth potential and trading history will be considered. Priority will be given to businesses with the ambition and characteristic to scale-up.

For more information or to register an interest in receiving support, please email business@warwickshire.gov.uk

During Child Safety Week and beyond, take steps to minimise accidents

The County Council is supporting the annual Child Safety Week campaign next week (6 – 12 June), a national awareness campaign from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). This year, Child Safety Week has a theme of 'Safety in mind' to make sure busy families have the 'Safety in mind' that really matters, especially when under pressure.

Throughout the week, the Council will be sharing advice and themed posts around some of the actions people can take to keep children safe. For Child Safety Week tips and learning resources follow WCC on Facebook and Twitter or sign up to the Family Information Service Newsletter for a whole host of advice.

For more info go to:- <https://www.capt.org.uk/about-child-safety-week>
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/parenting-support/7>