

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON
LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor J Coles
Councillor T Parker
Councillor A Pitt
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir - Chairman
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
Warwick District Councillor R Hales
County Councillor J Cooke
8 members of the public for all or part of the meeting

150. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillor A Marsden & District Councillor G Illingworth

151 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Coles declared an interest in Item 166 below pertaining to The Kings Coronation due to her position as a Trustee on Lowsonford Village Hall Management Committee.

152. Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 January 2023

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor J Coles that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

153. Resignation of a Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported the resignation of Ben Sandford due to increased commitments to his work.

154. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr T Webb spoke regarding his planning application at Ednam Meadow (W22/1727) which the Parish Council had objected to at the December 2022 meeting. Mr Webb gave an overview on the amended application explaining that the LPA was satisfied to approve the application.

This was later considered under item 157c below.

155. Report from District Councillors

Councillor R Hales reported that the WDC Budget for 2023/204 was being considered and was to recommend freezing Council Tax for the next financial year. This was to be considered at Committee on 27 February 2023.

It was further reported that WDC was near the top of the list for Business Grants awarded.

156. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

157. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W22/1561LB & 1560	Oldfield Farm, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Proposed raising of roof to rear extension and installation of French windows, alterations to windows, internal alterations to layout including removal of interior wall	27/10/22	No representation	
W22/1666	Land Adjacent to Kingswood Farm, Old Warwick Road Erection of one detached dwelling and garage together with associated parking and landscaping (re-submission of W/20/0388)	14/11/22	No representation	Granted

W22/1727	Ednam Meadow, The Cumsey, Pinley Green Replacement of two storey dwelling along with the removal of an existing container from the application site (Resubmission of W/22/0161)	09/12/22	Objection Withdrawn on 9/2/23	
W22/1788	Stables, High Paddock, Back Lane, Rowington Conversion of existing rural building to form a dwellinghouse following removal of existing static dwelling and stable units	14/12/22	No Representation	
W22/1803	Wyken Field, High Cross Lane, Rowington Application for approval of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to Outline Planning Permission ref: W/21/0019 (Erection of a replacement dwelling)	13/01/23	No Representation	Withdrawn
W22/1885LB	Hillside, High Cross Lane Alterations to curtilage listed outbuilding to facilitate alternative ancillary use including insertion of first floor. Replacement of window to principle listed dwelling	13/01/23	No Representation	Granted
W22/1937	Shepherds Fold, Finwood Road, Rowington Conversion of stables building to one bedroom dwelling	13/01/23	No Representation	
W22/1967 & 1968LB	1 Kingswood Cottages, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Erection of single storey side/rear extension	13/01/23	No Representation	

b) There were no planning applications to be considered.

c) Re-consideration of a Planning Application - Special Resolution in accordance with Standing Orders Item 11a: (A resolution (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within 6 months except either by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 3 councillors of the Council, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee).

W/22/1727 - Ednam Meadow, The Cumsey, Pinley Green.

The Case Officer for this application had submitted the following information and had requested the Parish Council to reconsider its decision to object to the application:

Regarding the consultation response received from the Parish Council for this application, Officers wanted to draw members attention to previously approved Class AA Prior Approval reference: W/20/1420. Officers note that the objection comment raises concerns that the proposal is materially larger than the existing dwelling. However, the submitted proposal is no greater scale or volume that what has been previously approved under the Class AA, therefore such increase can be achieved under Permitted Development Rights. Please see amended proposed drawings dated 23rd January 2023.

Following deliberations, Members considered the Special Resolution circulated by the Clerk to reverse the decision made on 8 December 2022 having regard to additional information provided and it was agreed unanimously to withdraw the Parish Council's objection to this application.

The Resolution was signed by the Chairman and Councillors A Pitt and J Coles.

158. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – Councillor T Remment – 19 February

c) Play Area Project/CIL

The Clerk reported that Greyhound Construction who would be employed by Kompan, to install the new play equipment had met on site with herself and the Chairman. It was established that it was not possible to gain access via the church car park due to the size of the equipment and vehicles. Therefore, the Clerk and Chairman had then met with Mr J Caldwell, who owns the private access road and scrub land, from Old Warwick Road to the rear of the play area. Mr Caldwell, gave permission for the Parish Council and its contractors to use the access road and scrub area for access and storage.

However, an Ash tree at the entrance would need pollarding and a willow tree, which was leaning, needed removing due to its obstruction.

The Clerk had obtained one quotation and was awaiting a second quotation. The Chairman asked if the Tree Surgeon was an Arboriculturist and the Clerk confirmed the tree surgeon was. The Chairman advised that the Ash and Willow trees were in a Conservation Area and a planning application was likely to be required and should this be the case, an Arboriculturist would be able to submit the planning application. Members delegated authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to consider and accept a quotation for the work.

The Clerk to confirm whether planning permission is required for the work and to arrange for any necessary applications to be made.

Members authorised the Clerk and Chairman to use Delegated Powers to pursue the works, subject to a second quotation.

It was also agreed that the Clerk approach the Tree Officer at the LPA to ascertain if a Planning Application was required as the tree in question is in a Conservation Area. If a Planning Application was required, it would be in the interest of Mr Caldwell to submit this.

The Chairman stated that at the site meeting, the Contractor had advised that the play equipment to be installed, would have to be moved due to the proximity of the trees on the boundary line. Members had been circulated with a plan indicating the revised position of the play equipment.

Tree Planting

The Chairman advised that this should be considered after the play equipment had been installed because of the issues arising with the new play equipment having to be moved away from the proximity of existing trees.

Councillor T Remment objected to this as he said the Parish Council had agreed to trees being planted and asked Councillor J Coles if could she remember this discussion at the Working Party meeting. Councillor Coles advised that she could not remember any discussion regarding trees and suggested that planting of trees on the playing field will need to be considered after the play equipment has been installed. This is because, by definition this is a playing field and checks need to be made with certainty that the covenants on the playing field are adhered to.

159. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited Mr Burgin, a Trustee of the Village Hall to speak. He advised that bookings had been down due to Covid, but were now increasing. The Village Hall takes £9,000 a year to run and they were doing more fund raising to keep going.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burgin for his report and re-opened the meeting.

Rowington Village Hall

There were no matters to report.

160. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Canal Bridge 41 at Lowsonford

Members considered the emails from the County Council regarding advisory signage, and it was agreed that the Clerk should email Councillor J Cooke and County Highways to request that advisory signage be installed, at the same locations as the previous temporary signage. The signage to be requested was for 'Unsuitable for HGV's'.

It was further noted that the road was a 'Classification C'.

Overgrown Vegetation on Old Warwick Road

Mr M Newham, Locality Officer at The County Council Highways had responded regarding the large hedge at the Finwood Crossroads, and he considered that the hedge had been cut back to a satisfactory depth and height by the landowner. However, members did not agree, and the Chairman advised that an accident had recently occurred at this location and overgrown vegetation could have been a factor. Councillor A Pitt felt that the hedge did in fact obscure visibility for motorists using the junction. The Chairman asked Councillor A Pitt if she wished to pursue this and it was proposed by Councillor A Pitt and seconded by Councillor T Remment that the Clerk be requested to address the matter.

Potholes

Councillor J Coles raised concern regarding the potholes near the canal bridge on Finwood Road and she had reported these herself to the County Council Highways.

161. Allotment Licence

The Chairman requested the Allotment Licence and the Tennis Club Licence be deferred until Cllr Marsden could be present. The Clerk was happy for the licenses to be discussed.

The Chairman advised that these items should not be considered in public having regard to the Clerk's contract and the requirement to draw up the licenses. The Clerk said she wished them to be discussed.

Mr Greenaway was present to talk about the Allotment Licence. He said there had never been a licence between the Parish Council and the Allotments. The Chairman referred to the Allotments Association, however, Mr Greenaway said they were not an Association. He said that individual plot holders sign agreements which he raised, and he collected the allotment rent.

The Chairman advised that the problem was that the Parish Council had no documentation and the importance and need to protect the Parish Council's position with regard to land it had an interest in. Following further discussion, Mr Greenaway passed the Chairman a copy of an Agreement and advised that the Council would need to obtain a copy of the initial Agreement made in 1976. He said he would let the Clerk have copies of the documentation. The Chairman thanked Mr Greenaway for attending the meeting and for his input.

162. Tennis Club Licence

With regard to the Tennis Club Licence, the Chairman advised that the Council had no documentation and again stressed the importance of protecting the Parish Council's position with regard to the village hall and land which it owned.

A member of the public asked did the Parish Council own the Village Hall and the Clerk confirmed this.

A member of Rowington Village Hall Management Committee who was present at the meeting, advised that the former Clerk used to draw up the licence for the Tennis Courts and check with him annually with regard to the rent. He advised that the rent should cover the expenditure incurred which it did not. The current Clerk had asked him to raise the licence for the Tennis Courts which he was doing. He suggested that the Chairman speak to a member of the Village Hall Committee for advice as to why the Management Committee are now raising the licence for the Tennis Court. The Chairman thanked him, but advised that she would prefer to seek advice from the Council's professional advisor.

Councillor J Coles thanked the Chairman for her work and due diligence in her investigations into regularising and seeking historic documentation on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the Allotment Association and the Tennis Club.

163. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

The Chairman asked the Clerk to publicise information relating to the forthcoming local elections.

SWLP Issues & Options

The Chairman encouraged members to participate in the online session on the 16th February. A response was delegated to the Clerk and Chairman, who would circulate a draft response for members' views and comments.

164. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39
Water Plus	£47.70

c) Received:

None

Agreed Unanimously.

165. Internal Auditor

It was proposed by Councillor A Pitt and seconded by T Remment that the Parish Council employs the services of Mr I Wilson to carry out the Year End Internal Audit.

166. King’s Coronation – Afternoon of Saturday 8 May 2023

Mr M Burgin reported that Lowsonford Village Hall Trustees were hoping to mark this occasion by organising a parish event and provide food, drinks, competitions, children’s activities, music, quiz, tombola and a raffle, details of which were circulated to members.

However, funds would be required, and Mr Burgin was asked to write formally to the Clerk in order that this could be included on the next agenda for consideration.

167. Defibrillator Training

The Clerk had been requested to investigate the costs of running a second event for parishioners, and she reported that the cost for this would be £175 for up to 50 people.

It was agreed that this should be re-visited next year.

168. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 9 March 2023	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 6 April 2023	Lowsonford Village Hall
Thursday 27 April 2023 – Annual Parish Meeting	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 18 May 2023 – Annual Meeting	Lowsonford Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Firefighter presented award for 'heart-warming' efforts to help a family while off-duty

An off-duty firefighter who helped a family who had been in a motorway car accident has been presented with an award for his actions. At the request of the family involved, who expressed their gratitude for his support in their time of need, firefighter Gareth Procter from Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) was given the Chief Fire Officer's Certificate of Commendation.

Describing the incident, Amit Parmar said: "We were involved in quite a serious accident on the motorway at 6am. I had my family with me, including our two children. Gareth stopped to help us while off-duty. He took care of my children and gave them water. He waited for the police to arrive and helped sweep the motorway, clearing the rubble. He helped take out all our suitcases and comforted us.

"We would like to thank him from the bottom of our hearts. It's heart-warming to find that there are still good people out there willing to help others. He's an asset to our county."

Online business resource 'COBRA' available for free through Warwickshire Libraries

Warwickshire County Council's library service is promoting use of their latest free online business resource COBRA, which is a complete business reference adviser tool available to support anyone who is looking to start a business, write a business or marketing plan, or conduct research into a new market.

COBRA is a new addition to Warwickshire Libraries' e-Resource offer, and features more than 4,000 factsheets, market reports, contacts and sources of funding and support. It also provides hundreds of practical guides to help start up more than 350 different types of business. Access to COBRA is available by visiting Warwickshire Libraries' [Business Resources webpage](#), and is free to use with a Warwickshire Libraries membership card. To sign-up as a library member, which is also free, you can speak to a member of staff at your local library or visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jointhelibrary

Four weeks left to have your say on SEND Home to School Transport!

Families and professionals living or working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have just 4 weeks left to have their say on proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Service for children and young people aged 0-25.

A consultation to discuss plans to improve the way that families access specialist transport for travel to and from school or college is open until Sunday 26 February 2023.

The consultation has included both face to face and online events. If you missed the online broadcast, you can see it [here](#). To find out more and to respond to the consultation visit ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/. An easy read version of the survey can be found [here](#).

'Gold Medal Award' for the Hospital to Home team at Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service

The Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) Hospital to Home (HTH) team was delighted to receive a 'Gold Medal Award' from the Emergency Care Improvement Support Team, NHS England, presented by Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer of the NHS, on 20th January 2023 at Warwick Hospital.

The award is in recognition of the innovative service HTH provides in helping elderly and vulnerable patients return home safely after hospital stays. The team works across Warwickshire to transport patients home and help them settle back in.

This might include making a cup of tea, putting the heating on or getting a food shop in. They also carry out Safe and Well checks for the resident, which involve looking for potential fire and safety hazards and ensuring working smoke alarms are installed.

Free webinar for learner and young drivers is a great success

Over 200 people attended a young driver's road safety webinar held by Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership.

Couldn't attend? Watch the whole session here: <https://warksroadsafety.org/together-on-the-learning-to-drive-journey/>

The 'Together on the Learning to Drive Journey' webinar organised by Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership and supported by FirstCar took place on Wednesday 25 January 2023 and far exceeded attendee expectations with over 200 residents taking part. The webinar provided essential information, support and guidance on a range of timely and important topics for learners, new drivers and parents/carers including:

- The DVSA 'Ready to Pass?' campaign and how it helps learners understand to prepare for their driving test and check if they are ready, and how it supports parents and families of learner drivers
- Essential information on choosing a first car
- Vehicle safety and maintenance
- The challenges new drivers face that could compromise safety.

Impressive bridge deck move marks important milestone for A46 Stoneleigh Junction

Improvements to the Stoneleigh Junction took an important step forward this month with the successful move into position of the scheme's new bridge deck.

The £38m A46 Stoneleigh Junction improvement scheme aims to:

- Reduce the regular delays and queueing traffic;
- Improve road safety for all users; and
- Ensure the junction has the capacity that will be required to meet future growth in the sub-region.

The new bridge deck was constructed by specialist contractor Colas Ltd away from its supports in order to minimise disruption to one of the busiest parts of Warwickshire's strategic road network. The deck was then installed into its permanent position using a deck lift and transportation method over the weekend of 21/22 January.

Once the construction was complete, the 740 tonnes bridge deck was jacked to full height in the off-line area during the week prior to the move, by the experienced team from Sarens. It was then lifted using a self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT), carried into position across the A46 and lowered onto the new abutment walls.

Cllr Wallace Redford, Warwickshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, said: "This was an incredibly impressive piece of engineering and construction by our contractors at Colas and Sarens and marks a really exciting milestone for the Stoneleigh Junction Improvements.

Work begins on new cycle route in Leamington Spa

The scheme will involve construction of a new cycle track alongside the east side of Kenilworth Road between Binswood Avenue and Northumberland Road and a new signed cycle route along Beauchamp Road and Binswood Avenue between Leamington Spa town centre and Kenilworth Road. Crossing points will also be upgraded to provide facilities for both cyclists and pedestrians.

The main phase of works will take place between January and mid-April. Some of the traffic signals upgrade works and other elements, which are subject to statutory consultation in February, are expected to be delivered in a second phase in the summer. Local residents will receive regular scheme updates and these will be available online

at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cycling/cycle-route-schemes-consultation/6>