

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

Present

Councillor A Coleman
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 Councillors R Hales & G Illingworth
County Councillor J Cooke
2 members of the public

169. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

170 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Coles declared an interest in Item 183d below pertaining to The Kings Coronation due to her position as a Trustee on Lowsonford Village Hall Management Committee and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

171. Minutes of the Meetings held on 9 February 2023

It was proposed by Councillor J Coles and seconded by Councillor T Parker that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

172. Co-Option of a Parish Councillor

Allyson Coleman had submitted a CV expressing her interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and details had been circulated to members.

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor A Pitt that Allyson Coleman be co-opted to the Parish Council.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor A Coleman to the Parish Council and the Clerk would arrange for the necessary forms to be completed.

173. Questions from Members of the Public

No matters were raised.

174. Report from District Councillors

Councillor R Hales reported that the WDC Budget for 2023/2024 had been agreed and that Council Tax had been frozen for another year, by utilising Reserves and selling Riverside House.

WDC had agreed to support the local Food Bank by donating £1,000 a week.

Warwick District Council is urging households and individuals who didn't qualify for the Government's £400 energy rebate in autumn 2022, to see if they can apply for funding under a new 'alternative' scheme. The Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS AF) is providing £400 in energy bills support for households in England, Scotland, and Wales without a direct relationship to a domestic electricity supplier. This funding is provided by His Majesty's Government and will be distributed through your local authority. The scheme is now open to all eligible households across Great Britain with a closing date of 31 May 2023.

Subject to applications meeting the eligibility criteria, people who will be able to receive support under EBSS AF include:

- Care home residents and others in care facilities/sheltered accommodation (wholly or partly self-funded)
- Park home residents, and those living in houseboats and caravans who can provide proof of address

- Social housing and private tenants who pay for energy through a landlord on a commercial supply
- Homes on a heat network/private wire
- Off-grid homes
- Farmhouses with their own energy supply used for wholly domestic purposes

Those who are eligible for EBSS AF, will need to fill out a short online form via the GOV.UK website. This form can be found by searching “Apply for energy bill support if you do not get it automatically” into the search bar on GOV.UK or an internet search engine. Applications are made directly to His Majesty’s Government, not to or via your local authority (Warwick District Council). If you do not have online access, you can apply via a contact centre on 0808 175 3287 where a representative will guide you through the application process.

Once you have applied, your application will be processed and verified. After this if your application is successful, your details will be shared with your local authority, who will deliver the one-off, nonrepayable support. The payment will be made directly into your bank account in a single instalment.

175. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

176. 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	
W22/1727	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	Granted
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	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	Granted

b) The following planning applications were considered.

Councillor A Coleman declared a personal interest in planning application W22/1969 and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

W22/1969 - Great Pinley Farm, Nunhold Road - Change of use of outbuilding to a separate dwelling (family accommodation only)
No representation

W23/0138 - Annexe at, The Cumsey, Lye Green, Holywell - Application for Certificate of Lawful Development to establish use of building known as 'The Annexe' as an independent dwelling (Use Class C3) for a period in excess of 4 years
No representation

W23/0161 - High Cross Farm, Back Lane, Rowington
Raising in height of existing boundary wall to front of property. Repositioning of existing entrance gate and piers to new position, including increasing in height. Replacement of existing post and rail timber fence to front and side boundary with new taller close boarded timber fence.
No representation

W23/0162 - 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)

No representation

W23/0167 - Lowsonford Barn, Lapworth Street, Bushwood - Change of use of B1 (a) Office to a dwelling (Use Class C3)

No representation

W23/0201 - Pinley Croft, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green

Erection of single storey rear and side extension, replacement doors & windows and boxed eaves arrangement. Replacement smooth render finish to entire house and grey roof tiles

No representation

W23/0250 - 19 Kingswood Green, Lapworth - Install a PVCU conservatory to rear of property

No representation

W23/0267 - Holywell Farm, Holywell, Rowington - Replace like for like old wood shed as it is falling down and a danger. Extend stable block for extra storage and a work shop in line with the guidelines.

No representation

177. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – Councillor T Parker – 5 March & Councillor A Pitt – 19 March

c) Play Area Project/CIL

The Clerk confirmed that a second quotation for tree works had been received for £540 including Vat and a further £60 was required to submit the Tree Application to the LPA, which had now been submitted by the Arboriculturist.

d) Tree Planting – Playing Field

Following the tree planting proposal which had been put forward by Heart of England Forest, it was agreed that this could be reconsidered at a later date, once the new play equipment had been installed and the Clerk was asked to follow this up, with a view to Amy Bambridge making a presentation at a Parish Council meeting.

178. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Mr M Burgin, a Trustee of the Village Hall, reported that the Management Committee continued to work to increase bookings and it was hoped that Kings Coronation event would generate new interest.

Rowington Village Hall

The Chairman reported that a recent 'Pudding' event was successful and the All Sorts Sale would take place on 25 March. A Simple Supper was to be held on 13 October 2023 and the Christmas Dinner on 2 December 2023.

179. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Canal Bridge 41 at Lowsonford

As no progress had been made with regards to the request for advisory signage, the Clerk was asked to follow this up with the County Council.

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 did not consider it to be an issue but would re-visit the area in May 2023.

Potholes

Councillor J Coles expressed her thanks regarding the repairs to the potholes near the canal bridge on Finwood Road. The road had been improved, but there were still potholes which needed attention and she asked the Clerk to contact the County Council to follow this up.

180. Meetings & Training Days

The Chairman had attended the SWLP Consultation Session.

181. Car Park Ownership

Mr R Shepherd, Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council had raised concern regarding the ownership of the car park. Whilst it was understood that the PC owned the area immediately to the right of the entrance, and the PCC owned the remainder, it did not appear that the land had been registered. Councillor A Coleman agreed to follow this up with Mr R Shepherd, as she may still have a copy of the deeds.

182. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters
Noted.

SWLP Issues & Options

The Chairman had circulated a draft response to members which was agreed, and the Clerk was asked to submit this to the District Council.

183. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39

c) Received:

None
Agreed Unanimously.

d) Request for Funding

Lowsonford Village Hall had requested funding of £750.00 to support the King's Coronation Event for £750 and the Clerk had circulated details.

It was agreed unanimously to grant the request of £750.00.

184. Parish Events

The Importance of Being Earnest at Rowington Village Hall on Thursday 23 March at 7pm
Spring Flower Show – Lowsonford Village Hall on Friday 24 March at 7.30pm
All Sorts Sale at Rowington Village Hall on Saturday 25 March at 2.00pm

185. Ferncumbe News

The Clerk submits a summary of the PC meetings for publication in the Ferncumbe News, but the Chairman believed that this should be sent only as draft minutes.

It was agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting, but in the meantime, the Clerk would continue as before and make reference to minutes being available on the website. Councillor J Coles drew attention to newsletters from adjoining parishes.

186. King's Coronation – Bench

The Chairman asked members to consider the installation of a bench to mark this historic event, and it was agreed that a bench, should be installed on the play area, once the project had been completed.

The Clerk would investigate costs and circulate full details to members.

187. Confidential Items

Under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press were excluded from the meeting for this item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

a) Allotments Agreement

The Agreement between Rowington Almshouse Charity and Rowington Parish Council, was clarified and the Chairman would liaise with the Clerk to view documentation.

b) Tennis Club Licence

Consideration of the licence terms were discussed and the Clerk was to follow this up with Mr I Wilson with a view to issuing the licence reverting back to the Parish Council and revision of terms.

c) Insurance Quotations

The Clerk circulated details of three insurance quotations. One from the current provider and two from other companies. It was agreed that the Clerk follow up with BHIB Insurance Brokers, being the best value for money.

188. Future Meeting Dates

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 9.20pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Record number of Warwickshire children offered one of their top three secondary school choices

March 1st is National Offer Day, when Year 6 children and up and down the country learn which secondary school they will attend for the 2023/2024 academic year.

This year, there were 6,720 Warwickshire children who applied for a secondary place by the application deadline of 31 October, a fall of 0.75% compared to the previous year. Of those, 80.3% have been offered a place at their first-choice school. A further 14.1% have been offered a place at another of their school choices, meaning a total of 94.4% have been offered a place at one of their top three preferred schools.

Almost all parents and carers now apply for their secondary school place online. They will receive an email, or can check their online parent portal, on Wednesday 1 March to get details of their school offer and instructions on what to do next. Letters to the remaining applicants have been posted.

To help families to make their school applications, Warwickshire County Council have produced a series of animated videos full of advice and guidance and have held online webinars where parents and carers can ask questions of the admissions team. All of these are available to watch on the Warwickshire County Council YouTube channel. The deadline for Warwickshire parents to respond to their secondary school offer is 15 March. More information on how to do this is on the Warwickshire County Council website at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions>

National funding gives supported internships in Warwickshire a boost!

Young people in Warwickshire with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will benefit from a life changing supported internships programme, thanks to a grant of £105,000 from the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi).

The grant, which will be distributed over a three-year period is designed to support more young people with additional needs to have greater choice and control over opportunities that prepare them for adult life and enable them to gain long-term meaningful employment. Currently, only 4.8% of people nationally with special educational needs and disabilities gain permanent paid employment in the UK, compared to 80% of their peers.

Supported internships help young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) to achieve paid employment. The programme gives young people the skills they need for work by learning in the workplace. Supported internships are unpaid, and last for at least six months. Where possible, young people move into paid employment at the end of the programme. As well as time at the employer, young people complete a personalised study programme. The study programme includes the chance to study for relevant qualifications.

Find [more information on supported internships in Warwickshire click here.](#)

Kids need clean air! Drivers asked to switch off their engines when parked, waiting or stationary

This campaign aims to educate drivers of the benefits of switching off their vehicle engines when stationary, with a particular focus on engine idling outside schools during drop-off and pick-ups.

It is important for engines to be switched off when waiting or stationary. Engines left running - Idling - increase the amount of exhaust fumes in the air, with these fumes containing harmful gases which pollute the environment, contribute towards climate change, and are linked to health conditions such as respiratory illnesses and lung and heart disease. Idling often occurs outside schools at drop off and pick up times, which means children are exposed to increased air pollution.

Major funding scheme nears £3m in small business investment and has proved an emphatic success

A funding scheme created to boost the local economy by helping SMEs with access-to-finance has now invested nearly £3million in small businesses.

The [Duplex Investment Fund](#), introduced in 2019, is a combined grant and loan initiative jointly managed by Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP), the [Coventry & Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust](#) (CWRT), Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council and the [Midlands Engine](#).

Warwickshire County Council's input to the scheme saw it recently pass the £2m loans milestone. A total of £2,094,670 loan monies has been disbursed to 29 businesses by WCC which has also allocated £829,627 in grant monies.

The knock on effect of this investment by the council has been considerable with £805,901 investment from the private sector attracted. Employment has also been created and protected - in total, 167 new jobs are forecast, 61 have been created and 149 safeguarded with three apprentices to be taken on.

Rogue Trader Sentenced to Five Years' Imprisonment

The prosecution was brought by Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards Service following an investigation.

At Warwick Crown Court on Friday 11th March 2022, Mr Darren Mitchell (aged 47 and of no fixed abode) was found guilty of four offences contrary to the Fraud Act 2006 and one offence contrary to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Darren Mitchell traded as Stately Paving Ltd offered driveway block paving, building and landscaping work. He first door knocked the elderly resident's bungalow in July 2014 and agreed to block pave his driveway and remove an old greenhouse.

He returned to the property again and again together with others unknown, pressurising the resident in to paying for more work including fencing, repairs to windows, building a brick shed and laying new turf.

Some of this work was never done or wasn't needed and the pensioner was charged grossly excessive amounts. A Trading Standards expert witness estimated that the true value of the work carried out by Mr Mitchell and his workmen was less than £20,000, with remedial works being required costing approximately £3,835. The victim had been charged £120,000. Over time the resident was systematically defrauded of over £100,000.

£2 bus fare cap to be extended in Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months, making it cheaper for residents to travel by bus.

The scheme means that bus passengers in Warwickshire will only pay a maximum of £2 for a single bus journey, regardless of the distance travelled. The Government has committed £75million of further investment to extend the scheme, previously running until the end of March, to continue until 30 June 2023. A further £80million has been confirmed to protect vital bus services people rely on for work, education, medical appointments and shopping.

In Warwickshire, the following operators are signed up to the scheme: Stagecoach, Arriva, National Express Coventry, National Express West Midlands, Pulhams, A&M Group - Flexibus (Service 9 only) and IndieGo PLUS Demand Responsive Transport (DRT).

Over 29 tonnes of carbon saved by cyclists in Warwickshire over the last six months!

Last year, Warwickshire County Council joined the Love to Ride family of partner organisations, giving residents, businesses and community groups access to the best rewards and resources that encourage cycling for travel, not just leisure.

Following a very successful Cycle September campaign, use of the app from individuals, businesses and communities across Warwickshire has continued to increase, resulting in:

- 639 riders in Warwickshire
- 39 Workplaces
- 42,943 trips made by bike, of which 40% were for a specific purpose like shopping, commuting to work or errands, rather than for exercise reasons
- 578,958 miles ridden by bike.

There is also extra help available for anyone thinking about getting back on their bike, including popular Dr Bike Sessions which are taking place across Warwickshire over the Spring and where residents can bring their bikes along to have them adjusted and security tagged and the Cycle Buddies scheme, where new cyclists are offered support from more experienced ones.

To start your cycling adventure today, visit: <https://www.lovetoride.net/warwickshire>

Support helps Ukrainians to work in Warwickshire

Warwickshire Skills Hub offers those from Ukraine now settling here the warmest of welcomes and, through the Warwickshire Ukrainian Employability Programme, access to opportunities to build a career and livelihood in the county.

The objective of the scheme is to provide direct access to jobs that local employers have shaped, in conjunction with the Skills Hub's Fair Chance Employment Programme. This has proven to be an effective way to build inclusive jobs locally and boost engagement between Ukrainian jobseekers and employers who are tackling significant skills shortages.

Over 100 Ukrainian refugees have signed up for the programme. Over 50 of these have now built their CVs and are working with the team to search and apply for jobs with many of these having improved English skills from ESOL lessons.

Ukrainian Working in Warwickshire Programme employment sessions have been running at Warwickshire Community Skills Hubs in Rugby, Atherstone and Leamington. Please go to <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ukraine-2/information-ukrainians/6>

Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund Wildflower corridor in Warwick Hospital

The £22,980 in funding will allow the South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust to create a wildflower corridor at the rear of Warwick Hospital. The new corridor will be accessible to staff, patients and visitors. This area will be the first wildflower habitat at the hospital, providing much-needed urban greenspace and increasing biodiversity at the site.

The benefits of the wildflower meadow to the hospital, its patients and the wider community include:

- Increased plant diversity will, in turn, attract insects and other invertebrates (including butterflies, bees, spiders and millipedes), and birds.
- Flowering species of wildflowers will add a changing palette of colour to the urban environment of the hospital throughout the seasons.
- Increased carbon and harmful particulate capture in an area of the town of Warwick that is heavily developed, with limited access to green spaces

John Cooke 1st March 2023