

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor J Coles
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor T Parker
Councillor A Pitt
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
1 member of the public

53. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors, D Armstrong, R Hales & K Aizlewood and County Councillor J Cooke.

54. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

55. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2023

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor A Marsden that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

56. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr R Shepherd was pleased to report that the meeting of the Ferncumbe News Team held on 19 August 2023 at St Laurence Church was positive, and he encouraged residents to subscribe to the Parish Newsletter for an annual fee of just £10, in order to keep finances healthy.

Mr Shepherd also reported that Rowington PCC had agreed to register the Church Car Park with the Land Registry via a Solicitor.

The Chairman of the Parish Council confirmed that part of the car park, which was owned by the PC, was already registered with the Land Registry. Furthermore, she requested the PCC continued to ensure that access to the Playing Field, which was confirmed and documented in 2007 was also noted.

57. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

In his absence, the Clerk read Councillor Cooke's which is also appended to these minutes.

58. Report from District Councillors

In his absence the Clerk read the District Councillors' report which is also appended to these minutes.

59. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W23/0493	The Lyons Farm House, Rowington Green, Redevelopment of farm building to provide three 'barn-style' dwellings	22/05/23	No Representation	Granted
W23/0586	High Chimneys Farm, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Construction of new timber framed store for the keeping of firewood and potting of Christmas trees	12/06/23	No objection	Granted
W23/0710	High Cross Farm, Back Lane, Rowington, Erection of single and two-storey rear extension, and terrace.	13/07/23	No objection	Granted
W23/0718	Holywell Farm, Holywell, Rowington Proposed extension to existing stables, erection of new log store, solar panels	13/07/23	No objection	Granted

W23/0738	Oakdene, The Cumsey, Pinley Green Erection of a two-storey rear extension, a single storey side extension, a front porch, a two-storey front infill extension and a front dormer	13/07/23	No objection	
W23/0937	Cottage Farm, High Cross Farm Road Proposed erection of three dormers and the installation of a rooflight to the principle elevation of the garage to create a habitable room	01/08/23	No objection	Granted
W23/0986LB & 0985	Kingswood Farm, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Replacement of the existing flat-roof single storey rear extension with a pitched roof, the removal of a canopy roof to the rear of the property, the erection of a first floor rear extension and internal alterations to the existing rear extensions	16/08/23	Support	

b) The following planning application was considered and decided:

W23/1082 - Navigation Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth - Two storey side extension, raising eaves and insertion of 3no. dormers to rear.

Members of the Parish Council objected to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment and being in excess of 30%.

60. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspection Dates – Councillor D Weir – 17 September 2023

c) Play Area Project/CIL

The Clerk confirmed that Kompan had now completed all works to the new play area and footpath in a timely manner. The Official Opening was to take place on Saturday 16 September 2023 at 11.00am and representatives from Kompan would also be in attendance.

The Clerk also confirmed that a post installation inspection had been completed by Play Safety and no matters were raised. Play Safety was to provide the Parish Council with a revised and up to date play area inspection form.

d) The Clerk reported that herself and the Chairman had met on site to discuss the issue of the leaning fence from Clarendon Cottage. They had also met with Mr J Cauldwell who owns the land, which abuts the fence line belonging to Clarendon Cottage.

Mr Cauldwell clearly stated that the 5ft 'picket' style fence was installed by himself.

After which, the owner of Clarendon Cottage, installed the 6ft high panel fence and without permission, secured this to Mr Cauldwell's fence. Since that time, vegetation (ivy, buddleia and bamboo) has grown and pushed both fences over to an angle.

The concrete footway was laid by the PC to meet DDA requirements when the entrance gate was installed. This was agreed by Mr Cauldwell at the time, when he kindly granted access for users of the playing field.

Therefore, it would appear that the issue lies between Mr Cauldwell and the owner of Clarendon Cottage and is not a matter for the Parish Council.

However, the Clerk was asked to seek legal advice from the County Council due to the potential safety implications of the fence.

e) Overgrown Hedge Line

The Clerk had circulated photos of the overgrown hedge which backs onto Mr Cauldwell's land and it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes to have this cut right down and right back to its intended extent.

61. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

There were no matters to report, but the Chairman asked Councillor Coles to notify the Trustees of the Village Hall that the light above the defibrillator was not illuminated.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor a Marsden reported that bookings were healthy, and finances were buoyant.

62. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Incident on 16 March 2023 – Canal Bridge 40, Lowsonford

Councillor J Coles reported that the inquest regarding the drowning incident was held on Friday 14 July and Councillor Coles had attended.

The Coroner had recorded a verdict of ‘accidental death’.

According to the Coroner's Inquest, the gentleman who died, was fit and healthy, but tripped on the uneven steps which descend from the lock and landed in the deep water exit to the lock.

The Clerk had previously emailed the Canal & River Trust, but had received no response.

Councillor Jane Coles requested that the Clerk emails the Canal & River Trust again, to bring the matter to their attention and to request that safety measures be put in place so as to avoid any future accidents.

There is no barrier in place and the steps are steep and uneven, the safety life ring is not placed near the lock.

Councillor Coles requested that the Parish Council should make a formal request to see documentation that the CR&T made in respect of this drowning accident and that the Parish Council should raise the suggestion that a child friendly barrier (non-climbable) be fitted to the edge of the canal to prevent any further deaths at the base of the steps where the water is several meters deep.

The concern is that due to wear and tear the steps are crumbling, uneven and as a consequence, unsafe.

Litter Pick Lowsonford - Sunday 24 September from 10am to 12 noon

The Clerk had purchased litter pick equipment ready for the event and sought help via social media, all members were encouraged to attend. Announcements would be put in the notice boards.

Skip at Canal Entrance – Lowsonford

The skip has now been removed.

63. Meetings & Training Days

The Clerk reminded members to register for the online Code of Conduct training session to be held by WDC on 27 September 2023 at 6.00pm.

Councillor J Coles asked the Clerk to chase up the minutes of the Warwick Rural West Safer Neighbourhood Engagement meeting on 12 July 2023.

64. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

WDC Consultation - Updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – July 2023 – 29 August 2023

SDC - Notice of Consultation (24 July to 11 August) on the introduction of Local Connection Eligibility Test for the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register

WALC AGM - 15 November at 1.00pm

65. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39
AMW Lawn Care (BACS)	£192.85
Lowsonford VH Hire (BACS)	£49.50
Water Plus (BACS)	£26.36

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39
PCC Grant	£900.00

c) Received:

None

66. Items for the Next Agenda

Councillor A Marsden reported that Rowington Village Hall would be submitting a financial request to the Parish Council.

The Chairman requested an item relating to dogs on the Playing Field be included on the next agenda.

67. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 12 October 2023	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 9 November 2023	Lowsonford Village Hall
Thursday 14 December 2023	Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Work is set to begin on Phase 2 of K2L cycle route between Kenilworth & Leamington Spa

The second phase of construction of a new cycle route on the Kenilworth Road in Leamington Spa is due to starting on Monday 4th September. The Kenilworth Road Cycle Route is the first section of an ambitious Active Travel project to provide a 5km walking, wheeling and cycling route that will connect Kenilworth and Leamington Spa (K2L).

The new phase will involve completion of the cycle track alongside the east side of Kenilworth Road between Binswood Avenue and Northumberland Road and creation of a signed cycle route along Beauchamp Road and Binswood Avenue. Crossing facilities for cyclists and pedestrians will be provided at Cloister Crofts, Lillington Avenue and Clarendon Avenue.

Following recent consultation on additional parking restrictions, double yellow lines will be introduced along Kenilworth Road between Binswood Avenue and Gables House, just north of Northumberland Road. This should improve visibility for access to properties, help with the flow of traffic and keep the pavements and cycle track clear of obstructions.

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

Withdrawal of the Green Bus Service

Our officers have been in discussions with a range of transport providers and schools to find alternative transport options for all the young people affected. Following discussions, the council is pleased to announce that alternative travel provision has been secured for the 52 pupils eligible for school transport for whom the council has a statutory duty.

In addition, to support those families who have paid The Green Bus for school transport, Warwickshire County is working with a range of local bus and train operators, including Ridleys who have stepped in and found capacity within their existing routes. As well as existing services, Ridleys will be releasing two additional routes out of south Birmingham which will provide for many of the children.

Families who are looking to find alternative arrangements are advised to look at the Ridleys [facebook page](#) for the latest availability. A transport planner is also available to help families to plot journeys to school. The transport planner can be found [here](#).

New one-stop-shop to support transitions for children and young people in Warwickshire

With the new school year almost upon us, the thought of starting a new educational setting, or moving to a new phase in their education, can bring out a range of emotions for a child, young person, and their family, including excitement, anticipation, and anxiety. While some children and young people effortlessly adapt to these changes, others require additional support to navigate the changes a new environment can bring.

To create a positive experience and help with a successful transition, it is important to begin preparations as soon as possible. This is why Warwickshire County Council has worked closely with parents, carers and professionals to create a one-stop-shop for advice and guidance to support smooth transitions. Families and professionals can now easily access a set of comprehensive resources online to help prepare for any changes ahead. Whether it's moving from nursery to primary school, from primary to secondary school or looking at post-16 options and preparing for adulthood; the new Transitions webpages have information to guide you.

Resources include a new transitions animation, checklists, transition forms, activities for children and young people and videos. Within each set of resources there is guidance tailored to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

New timelines have also been created to provide parents and carers with an overview of key activities throughout the school year, to ensure important deadlines aren't missed and to support conversations with education settings. Specific timelines are provided for each transition stage, both for children and young people with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or those in receipt of SEN support, and those without. All transitions resources can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/transitions.

£350,000 available as second round of County Council's digital grant launches

A further £350,000 funding has been approved by the council to support the growth of ambitious businesses looking for external finance in the digital creative sector.

The Digital Creative Recovery Grant scheme was created in January to assist businesses with product development or key activities that lead to obtaining further private sector investment. Such was its success, the Council will now offer a [second round](#) of match-funded grants between £10,000 to £30,000 with applications welcome for five weeks from today.

The fund is open to small and micro businesses in the digital creative sector who have been in business for a minimum of three years. It is designed for businesses that are already looking to raise finance to grow but are facing challenges in securing private sector investment, or those accelerating activities to put them in a position to raise additional finance.

For more information, please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dcfund>

Cycle September is back for 2023!

Residents and businesses are encouraged to get cycling and sign-up with “Love to Ride” to take part in Cycle September.

Warwickshire County Council is part of 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.

Cycle September is Love to Ride’s global bike riding event, bringing together riders of every level to promote the benefits of cycling. The campaign is a great opportunity for communities, businesses and individuals to engage in a fun challenge that will help them meet their health, wellness, and sustainability goals.

The aim of the month is to get more people riding bikes for leisure purposes – for commuting to work, for popping to the shops or to meet friends. It’s not about who rides the most miles, it’s about encouraging others to get involved with cycling and its many benefits.

[Sign-up with Love to Ride now](#)

Report from District Councillors

Warwick District Council Report to Parish Councils, Abbey and Arden

Councillors for Abbey and Arden

The councillors for Abbey and Arden are:

Kyn Aizlewood – Kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk

David Armstrong – David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk

Richard Hales – Richard.hales@warwickdc.gov.uk

Please feel free to contact us with any issues.

HS2 community funds

The HS2 Community and Environment Fund (CEF) offers funding up to 75k for projects providing benefit to local communities. We are keen to encourage Parish Councils to take advantage of this fund, and you do not need to be right next to the HS2 line to be considered. Kenilworth Town Council has been successful in the past. Ideas for projects could include improved cycle, equestrian and pedestrian access routes, landscape and nature enhancement projects, improvements to sports and recreational facilities, and refurbishment of community facilities. More details can be found at <https://hs2funds.org.uk/home>

Local Plan Call for Sites

The results of the latest call for sites under the South Warwickshire Local Plan have been released at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/call-for-sites.cfm. Many locations across Abbey and Arden have been put forward. Please take a look at your local area on the interactive map at the above website. It’s important to note that these sites are not approved at this stage, but have been proposed by land owners as potential locations for housing developments under the plan. As Abbey and Arden councillors we are against surrounding existing settlements with new housing developments and will be arguing against the suitability of the majority of these sites. A public consultation on ‘Preferred Options’ is due later this year and will be the next key chance for residents to have their say on the developing local plan.