

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 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
District Councillor K Aizlewood (for part of the meeting)
Country Councillor J Cooke (for part of the meeting)
1 member of the public (for part of the meeting)

68. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors D Armstrong & R Hales.

69. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were declared from Councillors A Marsden, A Pitt & D Weir relating to a financial request from Rowington Village Hall. Those Councillors left the room during consideration of this item.

70. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2023

It was proposed by Councillor T Parker and seconded by Councillor T Remment that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

71. Questions from Members of the Public

No matters were raised.

72. Grants to Organisations

(This item was brought forward)

Councillors A Marsden, A Pitt & D Weir left the room during consideration of this item.

The Clerk had circulated a financial request to Rowington Village Hall for £1,894.67, which was 50% of the cost to purchase a new oven to replace the old cooker which was no longer fully functional.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Parish Council grant the request for £1894.67 to Rowington Village Hall from S137 funding.

Councillors A Marsden, A Pitt & D Weir returned to the room.

73. Report from County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke

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

74. Report from District Councillors

Councillor K Aizlewood read the District Councils report which is also appended to these minutes.

75. 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alterations to windows, internal alterations to layout including removal of interior wall	27/10/22	No representation	Withdrawn

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 material objection, but queries were raised	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	
W23/1082	Navigation Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Two storey side extension, raising eaves and insertion of 3no. dormers to rear	14/09/23	No representation	Granted

b) The following planning application was considered and decided:

W23/1376LB & 1375 Holywell Farm, Holywell - Proposed alterations to existing barn to facilitate new dwelling (Holiday cottage). Proposed alterations to carport including a gym and utility. Proposed demolition of Dutch barn and dog kennel and erection of replacement barn

Members unanimously agreed to object to the application on the following grounds:

Listed Barn - Contrary to WDC Local Plan Policy HE1

Change of Use of Listed Buildings from their original use will only be permitted where:

The original use has been demonstrated to be no longer appropriate or viable, and

The proposed use is sympathetic to the special architectural or historic interest and setting of the Listed Building and enhances the significance of the heritage assets.

The NPPF recognises that heritage assets are irreplaceable resources and requires local authorities to maintain and strengthen their commitment to stewardship of the historic environment, and to adopt suitable policies to protect it.

Councillors also have concerns relating to certain design elements of the proposal, particularly windows and doors, which do not appear to either respect or enhance the integrity and character of the building or its setting. This building is visible from the highway access points. Should consent be granted, any holiday let should comply with occupancy conditions applicable to furnished holiday accommodation.

Demolition and Replacement of Dutch Barn

The proposed new replacement barn is materially larger than the existing and thus not viewed as being policy compliant.

The applicants have recently received planning permission to replace an existing stable block and dog kennel and extend same, for "storage purposes" and the same reason is again put forward in support for the new barn. The requirement for domestic storage facilities is not understood to be a valid planning reason for development or change of use.

It is noted that the Conservation Officer has stated that "the Dutch Barn **may** be curtilage listed" but no further clarification has been provided on this point. Buildings and land associated with the Listed Building are generally curtilage listed. This question raised by the Conservation Officer relating to curtilage should be addressed.

Conversion of existing Car Port

Whilst in principle, this conversion does not appear to be overly contentious, the design elements of the proposed glazing do not appear to respect the architectural style and heritage of the Listed Building .

76. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Revised Play Area Inspection Forms

Following the refurbished play area and new equipment, the Clerk provided members with a new inspection form, which included a detailed schedule and guidance. The form had been drawn up by Play Safety, the Parish Council's RoSPA Inspection company.

c) Future Inspections Dates

Councillor J Coles, 15 October & Councillor D Weir, 29 October.

d) Dogs on Playing Field

Members discussed the issue of dog fouling and dogs on the playing field. Whilst there were clear signs asking dog owners to keep dogs on leads, owners continued to flout the rules, which was the likely cause of the continued dog fouling.

Following deliberations, it was agreed that the Clerk should initially seek advice from the Dog Warden at the District Council as to the most appropriate action to eradicate this ongoing problem.

e) Leaning fence on footway

Following legal advice from the County Council, the Clerk was asked to write to both parties involved in this issue, and WDC Building Control to report the issue of this matter raising concerns on behalf of the PC, should the fence fall onto the access path.

f) Overgrown Hedges & Vegetation

The Clerk was pleased to report that the contractors, Thomgarden had carried out extensive works to the overgrown vegetation on the perimeter of the playing field.

77. Reports from Village Halls

Lowsonford Village Hall

Councillor J Coles reported that Lowsonford Village Hall Trustees had met on 10 October 2023.

The newly refurbished hall is now in excellent shape largely due to the commitment of the Trustees. The team continue to look at ways to improve the efficiency of the building to drive down running costs and carbon footprint.

The grounds are tidy, the new heating controls efficient and bookings are in excellent shape.

The Trustees are delighted with the progress made and kind local support.

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor a Marsden reported that bookings were healthy, and he thanked members of the Parish Council for the financial support towards the cost of the new cooker.

78. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

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

This event was attended by six people who had collected three bags of litter from the roads in Lowsonford.

It was agreed that the next litter pick should be held in the Spring, in Rowington.

Broken hydrant and faulty covers along Narrow Lane and adjacent to the bridge by St Luke's

The Clerk had reported this issue to Severn Trent who had addressed the matter.

Incident – articulated lorry Canal Bridge 41

Councillor J Coles raised concern regarding a recent incident that had occurred at 1.30am where a 41 Tonne articulated lorry had become jammed on Canal Bridge 41 in Lowsonford. The lorry was stuck for more than an hour, after reversing and scraping the surface and bridge, and finally reversed out due to there being no exit route suitable for such a vehicle.

The lorry driver eventually managed to free the vehicle, and it was understood that the incident had occurred due to the M42 being closed and the driver had been diverted through Lapworth.

However, given the height of the bridge in Lapworth, the driver was forced to turn right into Lapworth Street, because the HGV warning sign had been concealed by a large sticker. That signage was to prevent HGV's using the Lapworth Street route towards Lowsonford.

Bins at Lowsonford Canal Entrance

The Clerk had contacted the Canal & River Trust to report that these bins were full and over flowing. The Canal & River Trust had agreed to address the matter.

79. Meetings & Training Days

The Clerk and Councillor A Pitt attended an online training session on 27 September organised by the District Council relating to the Code of Conduct.

80. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

Shrewley, Wroxall, Environment Action Scheme (SWEAT) Meeting on 14 October at Wren Hall

81. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39
Kompan	£86,374.11
Play Safety (Rospa inspection following installation) BACS	£498.00
AMW Lawn Care BACS	£164.75
Ian Wilson Internal Audit BACS	£225.00
Moore External Audit BACS	£252.00
Mr R Watson (installation of notice board) BACS	£300.00

c) Received:

Precept	£10,715.00
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RESOLVED that the above items of finance be approved.

82. External Audit

The Clerk was pleased to report that no issues were raised following the external audit.

83. Remembrance Sunday – 12 November 2023

The Clerk reported that there would be a short outdoor service at St Laurence Church on Sunday 12 November at 10.45am and Councillor A Pitt agreed to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

84. Items for the Next Agenda

Car Charging Points in Rural Areas

Old Folks Club Financial Request

85. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 9 November 2023 Lowsonford Village Hall

Thursday 14 December 2023 Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Warwickshire County Council's finances and performance were the subject of review at the meeting of Cabinet on 14 September.

Demand for services, inflation, market capacity and an increasing growth in the gap between spending on key services and funding all combine to create the most difficult financial position the Council has faced in over a decade.

Following the quarter one budget forecast, Cabinet considered the forecast position and approved the development of a financial action plan to mitigate against overspending and address how we will balance the books.

Performance was also reviewed with two agenda items examining council performance. Complaints received and upheld by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman were considered in a report which demonstrated that Warwickshire is below the national average in terms of complaints upheld.

A second report considered performance against key aspects of the Council Plan, with checks against targets. This was also set against a backdrop of increasing demand for services such as social care and home to school transport, with the report charting delivery.

In other items, the Warwickshire Bus Service Improvement Plan was discussed with Cabinet approving how over £2m of Government funding over the next year would be spent, with the recommendation that a plan for a second £2m tranche of spending be presented at a subsequent meeting.

Cabinet also endorsed the annual plan for Youth Justice, a statutory requirement which will look at the changing focus of youth justice as it, too, faces new challenges. Again, Warwickshire is ahead of its West Midlands neighbouring authorities in keeping its young people out of protective custody.

Warwickshire's Youth Council is calling for 11-18-year-olds living or studying in Warwickshire to step forward and nominate themselves for the forthcoming Youth Council elections.

The Youth Council elections give a platform for young people to listen to each other and talk about what matters to them and elected members go on to represent the concerns and ideas of Warwickshire's youth. It provides them with a unique chance to advocate for change on issues that affect children and young people, and actively engage with decision-makers, including MPs and local councillors. This engagement takes various forms, including organising events, leading campaigns, delivering impactful speeches, participating in debates, and more.

Participating in the Youth Council empowers members to develop important life skills, including public speaking, marketing and communications (including social media outreach), project management, teamwork, budgeting and resource allocation, and social skills.

For further information on the Warwickshire Youth Council elections and the nomination process, please visit <https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/heard/2>

Through World Alzheimer's Month during September WCC has been raising awareness about dementia and how people can support others in their community affected by the disease.

Creating dementia friendly communities supports Warwickshire residents with dementia to live well with a little help from other people. By understanding more about dementia friends and families of people living with dementia can help them to be more involved with their community and continue to do the things they enjoy and maintain independence. Dementia Friends is a national campaign from the Alzheimer's Society which aims to change the way people think, act and talk about dementia. A Dementia Friend is somebody that learns about dementia so they can offer practical and emotional support to those with the condition. Dementia Friends can also get involved with volunteering, campaigning and raising awareness. More information about Dementia Friend is at <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>.

For more information about dementia and the support available, visit Warwickshire's [Living Well with Dementia website](#)

Parents and carers of children currently in Year 6 are being reminded to apply for their child's secondary school place by the deadline of 31 October 2023.

Last year, there were 6,720 children who applied by the deadline for a Warwickshire secondary school place, with 80% being offered their first-choice school and a further 16% being offered a place at another of their school choices.

Application can be made here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-secondary-school-place>

Each year there are families who are disappointed on National Offer Day (1 March), when they are offered a school that doesn't reflect their preferences at all. This is often because they only apply to one school, instead of using more of the six possible choices on their application form. Families that miss the 31 October deadline are also much less likely to get offered a place at a preferred school.

Can you help with the roll out of electric vehicle charging?

The Council was recently allocated £3.3m from Tranche 1 of the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capital Fund. Based on current estimates, this funding will allow for the delivery of up to 2,000 charging sockets at both on-street and in car park locations. In order to deliver on this, it is now looking for residents help to nominate possible locations.

Anyone can make a location suggestion by using the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BqqwiCdZu0uok4nMJxOsggWAQybZILFLvdy6xvOGDIUM0hHTUFPNVpBQkg3UII2VU1LR1JDWkNBuYQIQCN0PWcu>

The Council is particularly interested in hearing about those areas where there is a high demand for electric vehicle charging, such as:

- Residential streets with no off-street parking
- Public car parks
- Rural locations

Effective from October 1st, the introduction of Section 156 of the Building Safety Act mandates that all businesses, irrespective of their size, employee count, or business type, must comprehensively document their fire risk assessments and fire safety arrangements. Additionally, the revised legislation stipulates that in residential buildings housing two or more domestic premises, residents must receive information regarding fire risks and the fire safety measures implemented for their protection.

Many premises will be affected by the changes including small shops, take-aways, holiday lets and small blocks of flats. The main changes businesses need to be aware of are:

- All businesses will need to record a fire risk assessment and fire safety arrangements in full – regardless of the number of employees, and size or type of business.
- There are increased requirements for cooperation and coordination between Responsible Persons in multi occupied buildings or those where the occupier and owner are not the same person.
- In residential buildings with two or more domestic premises residents must be provided with information on the risks from fire and the fire safety measures provided to keep them safe.

For information visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fire-safety-legislation/new-requirements-businesses-building-owners-building-safety-act-2022>

Warwick District Council Report

Biodiversity Photo Competition

Calling all photography enthusiasts: capture the wonders of nature in Warwick District

To support the development of Warwick District Council's [Biodiversity Action Programme](#), we would like to introduce the Warwick District Biodiversity Photography Competition – an exciting opportunity to showcase the rich natural environment of Warwick District! The Biodiversity Action Programme aims to protect, conserve and enhance a number of habitats and species of great importance to the district.

The competition will run for 5 weeks from **Friday 29 September to Sunday 5 November 2023** which includes October half term. Whether you are a seasoned photographer or simply enjoy snapping pictures on your phone whilst out and about, we welcome you to submit your best shot that captures the theme of 'Biodiversity in Warwick District'. Some examples could include:

- Flower rich grasslands with lots of insects
- Woodlands and parks

- Birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals
- Hedgerows
- Rivers
- Wetlands and ponds

Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, we have a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each polling district. We also have a duty under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, to review their polling districts and places at least once every five years.

The current review of polling areas in Warwick District is live from Monday 2 October to Friday 10 November. Please give your feedback to [Polling station review 2023 \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)