

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

**Present**

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)  
Councillor J Coles  
Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor A Pitt  
Councillor T Remment  
Councillor D Weir  
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall  
District Councillor K Aizlewood (for part of the meeting)  
District Councillor D Armstrong (for part of the meeting)  
No members of the public were present.

**86. Apologies**

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

**87. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were declared by Councillor A Pitt in relation to a financial request from The Old Folks Club and Councillor J Coles in relation to the Jane Ryland Charity.  
These Councillors left the room during consideration of those items.

**88. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 October 2023**

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

**89. Questions from Members of the Public**

No members of the public were at the meeting.

**90. 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.

**91. Report from District Councillors**

Councillor D Armstrong read the District Councils report which is also appended to these minutes.

**92. Planning Matters**

a) The following planning matters were reported.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Application Details</b>	<b>Comments required by</b>	<b>PC Decision</b>	<b>WDC Decision</b>
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	
W23/1376LB & 1375	Holywell Farm, Holywell Listed building consent for 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.	25/10/23	Object	

b) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

### c) Appeals

Appeal Ref: APP/T3725/W/23/3322154 Clinton House, Old Warwick Road, Rowington.

The appeal was made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.

The appeal was made by Mr & Mrs R Joyce against the decision of Warwick District Council.

The application Ref W/22/0367, dated 27 February 2022, was refused by notice dated 16 November 2022.

The development proposed is described as "erection of a self-build single storey dwelling."

Decision - The appeal is allowed, and planning permission is granted for the erection of a self-build single storey dwelling at Clinton House, Old Warwick Road, Rowington.

## 93. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspections Dates – Councillor A Marsden – 12 November & Councillor T Remment – 26 November

c) Dogs on Playing Field

The Clerk reported that she had now sought advice from the Dog Warden at Warwick District Council, with regard to the signage that states 'all dogs to be kept on leads'. The Dog Warden confirmed that it was difficult to monitor or govern dogs being off leads whilst on the playing field, but that she would attempt to visit whilst on her rounds.

Members discussed the disposal of the contents of the bins, the majority of which is dog excrement and is currently removed by either a local resident or members of the Parish Council.

The Clerk agreed to seek alternative ways to address this matter.

d) Play Area

The Clerk had asked Kompan to address an issue with the new gates as they were not fully closing and would request self-closing fittings.

The Clerk had also ordered new signs for the gates to request that dogs did not enter the small play area and request that the gates remained closed.

## 94. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor a Marsden thanked members of the Parish Council for the financial support towards the cost of the new cooker, which had now been installed.

The Village Hall Committee had met on 7 November. The Mistletoe Ball would be held on 2 December and tickets were on sale for £37 each.

New members were always welcome.

## 95. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

### Leaning Fence on Footway

The Clerk confirmed that she had now written to both parties of the adjoining land and reported the matter to Building Control at the District Council. No responses had been received to date.

### Bins at Lowsonford Canal Entrance

The Chairman confirmed that the unsightly bright orange large skip bins had been removed and replaced with less obtrusive grey bins.

### HGV's in Lowsonford

Following the incident reported at the last meeting whereby a large articulated lorry had become jammed on canal bridge 41 in Lowsonford, the County Council had confirmed that the signage at the turning in Lapworth to Lapworth Street, had been covered over because the County Council and the Canal & River Trust no longer considered there was an issue with the weight of vehicles using that bridge. Councillor J Coles stressed the importance of protecting and preserving this listed bridge and did not feel that HGV's should use the bridge.

The Clerk was therefore asked to respond to the County Council, requesting that signage be placed on all the previous points stating, 'unsuitable for HGV's'.

## 96. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

## 97. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

## 98. Finance

### a) Paid during the month:

None

### b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39
Rowington Village Hall Grant	£1894.67
AMW Lawn Care (BACS)	£176.57

### c) Received:

Allotment Rent	£273.00
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RESOLVED that the above items of finance be approved.

### d) Request for Funding

Councillor A Pitt left the room during consideration of this matter.

The Clerk had received a financial request from the Old Folks Luncheon Club for £400 to support the annual Christmas Lunch for all residents over the age of 65.

Resolved unanimously, that the Parish Council grants £400 from S137 funding to support this important event.

### e) Parish Council Laptop

The Clerk reported that the PC laptop was almost seven years old and no longer running efficiently.

It was proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor T Remment that the Clerk purchases a new laptop and supporting software and security.

Resolved unanimously.

## 99. Jane Ryland Charity

Councillor J Coles left the room during consideration of this matter.

The Clerk asked members to consider re-appointing Mr Brian Taylor as a nominated Trustee to this charity.

Resolved unanimously to re-appoint Brian Taylor to the Jane Ryland Charity.

Members asked the Clerk to relay their sincere thanks to Mr B Taylor for his support and continued commitment to this charity.

## 100. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL)

The Clerk had circulated a breakdown of CIL funding income and expenditure to date, which indicated an income of £94,552.22 & Expenditure of £85,126.70 ex VAT, and £9,425.52 in unspent funds.

The first tranche of income was in May 2019 - which means the PC has until April 2024 to spend the remaining funds.

The Clerk had set up a Lloyds Bank higher interest account (Business Banking) which had earned £527.35 in interest during the last four years.

A VAT claim had been submitted to HMRC for £15,500.

The Clerk therefore invited suggestions for the spending of the remainder of the CIL funds.

The Chairman asked members to revisit a previous suggestion of village gateway signs and Councillor D Weir agreed to circulate her previous costings and suggested locations ahead of the next meeting.

A bus shelter for the protection of users, particularly school children on Old Warwick Road was also suggested.

**101. Car Charging Points in Rural Areas**

The Clerk had circulated an email from the District Council regarding Car Charging Points in Rural Areas.

The District 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 was now looking for residents help to nominate possible locations.

Following deliberations, the Clerk was asked to submit a request for the District Council to consider installing car charging points at both Rowington & Lowsonford Village Halls.

**102. Items for the Next Agenda**

Revised pay scales from NALC and Clerks Pay relating to Spinal Column Point rises.  
Ferncumbe News Distribution.  
Staff Annual Appraisal.

**103. Future Meeting Dates**

Thursday 14 December 2023                      Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37pm.

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

## Report from County Councillor J Cooke

### Reporting Vehicle Speed Concerns - Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership

The joint approach from Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire County Council is for members of the public (including councillors and key community representatives) to submit their concerns via the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership website [Enforcement and Community \(warksroadsafety.org\)](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/enforcement-and-community). This is the central reporting method for speed concerns within Warwickshire, which enables a consistent and data-led approach.

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is bringing partners together to improve the approach on how we investigate and respond to residents' concerns of speeding in their area. A consistent and data-led approach has been developed which considers all types of personal injury collisions reported and average speed data at the location. To report a speed concern please visit [Enforcement and Community \(warksroadsafety.org\)](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/enforcement-and-community) and click on 'Reporting Speed Concerns.'

### Warwickshire County Council's Councillor Grant fund open for applications

Warwickshire County Council's (WCC's) Councillor Grant Fund has reopened for applications from community and voluntary groups across the county.

Earlier in the year over £318,000 was distributed to support a wide range of projects that will bring positive outcomes to local communities. The application window reopened on 16 October as the Council looks to award the remaining funds.

The County Councillors' Grant Fund provides each of WCC's 57 Councillors with an allocated fund of £8,000 to support small-scale projects within their area that have a positive impact on the wider community.

The fund is aimed at projects that build community capacity and support initiatives that improve access to services; financial capability; reduce loneliness and isolation; promote equality and inclusivity; enhance the physical environment; and reduce environmental impact.

For more information and to submit an application, visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>

### Parents and Carers Invited to Join "Applying for a Primary School Place" webinar

Parents and carers with a child that is due to start in Reception or move to a Junior School in September 2024 are invited to join the school admissions team on Thursday 9 November at 7pm to get advice and guidance on how to apply for their school place. This applies to children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 for Reception, and any child currently in Year 2 at an infant school who is planning to move to a junior school.

The webinar is open to everyone and free to join. A recording of the event will also be made available via the [School Admissions YouTube Playlist](#) shortly after for those not able to join on the day.

To book a place, go to [www.eventbrite.com/e/737955162757](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/737955162757)

Please note: Applications for primary school places can only be made after 1 November 2023. All applications received by the deadline of 15 January will receive a school offer on 16 April next year, which is National Offer Day. Any applications submitted after the 15 January deadline will only be considered after this, meaning the child is much less likely to be offered a place at a preferred school.

Applications can be made online after 1 November at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryplace](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryplace).

### Visit Warwickshire Libraries to enjoy learning how to use new digital Hublets for e-reading

Warwickshire County Council libraries are delivering a series of free drop-in sessions between November 2023 to January 2024 to support new and existing customers in learning how to use Hublets, which are free digital tablet devices available in most Warwickshire library settings for e-reading.

Hublets are now available to use at Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth, Southam and Stratford libraries, and allow users to enjoy eMagazines, eNewspapers, eBooks, and other online eResources without the need to have or bring their own digital devices to the library.

The drop-in sessions to learn how to use the Hublet devices are taking place between 10:30am – 12:30pm on:

- 13 December at Kenilworth Library 13 November at Warwick Library

### Warwickshire Buses: The new name for bus service improvements across Warwickshire

Buses are good for our health, good for the economy and good for the environment and Warwickshire is committed to making them better!

This vision for bus travel in the County will be achieved through the introduction of measures aimed at helping to achieve the growth in bus passenger numbers, which were set out in the National Bus Strategy for England (Bus Back Better), published in March 2021.

Bus patronage in Warwickshire has been steadily increasing over the past year as the industry continues to recover from the pandemic and people regain confidence in using public transport and the Council is keen to see this growth continue.

A report recently went to Cabinet which set out the Council's plan for improving services across the county over the coming years, which included:

- Fully integrated bus services on the Warwickshire Bus Network.

- The availability of simple multi-bus operator tickets, multi-modal tickets and ‘tap on / tap off’ fare payment, like London.
- Bus priority measures on the local highway network.
- High quality and standardised information for all passengers.
- Improve and expand turn-up and go (demand responsive transport) services.
- Increasing bus use through behaviour change activities that encourage modal shift; and
- Financial support for bus services.

Find out more about the Warwickshire Bus Services Improvement Plan

at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4524/cabinet-supports-improving-bus-services-across-warwickshire>

## **Report from District Councillors**

### **Newbold Comyn Cycle trails, Leamington Spa**

The Newbold Comyn Cycle Trails are now officially open. The new facility offers cyclists (and non-cyclists) of all ages the opportunity to learn, exercise and develop cycling skills, keeping active! The Trails include twelve wellbeing walks alongside the new cycle trails.

### **Abbey Fields Swimming Pool, Kenilworth**

Having discovered medieval remains at the proposed site of the new swimming pool, the Council must now decide how (or if) to proceed with the replacement scheme.

We (Richard, Dave and myself) have all raised concerns about the proposed approach – to concrete around and over the medieval remains– and we have asked whether an alternative site might serve people better? We also recognise the importance of having a local swimming facility in Kenilworth, preferably as soon as possible. Views across Kenilworth appear divided. The District Council will make a decision at its meeting on 15 November.

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)**

Work progresses with the SWLP and officers have recently proposed a revised timescale, resulting in a delay to the next consultation phase, on preferred Option(s). This is likely to be re-programmed to the autumn of 2024. The Joint Committee (of Warwick and Stratford District Councils) is to be convened later this month to reappraise the overall “plan for a Plan”.