

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

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor T Parker
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
District Councillor R Hales (for part of the meeting)
District Councillor D Armstrong (for part of the meeting)
County Councillor J Cooke
No members of the public were present.

104. Apologies

An Apology for absence was received from Parish Councillor J Coles.

105. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

106. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 2023

It was proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor T Remment that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

107. Questions from Members of the Public

No members of the public were at the meeting.

108. Report from County Councillor

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

109. Report from District Councillors

Councillor D Armstrong read the District Council's report which is also appended to these minutes.

110. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
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

The following applications were considered and decided:

W23/1564 & 1565LB – Whitley Elm Cottages, Case Lane, Rowington - Erection of a single storey extensions to create ancillary accommodation for the existing business, amendments to fenestration and internal alterations. Conversion of existing ancillary space to enlarge existing dwelling.

The Parish Council objected to the application as it is considered that this is an unnecessary over development of the area and out of keeping, particularly as the building is listed.

Furthermore, contrary to WDC Local Plan Policies CT4, H14 and HE1. The reasons put forward by the applicant in support of this application do not justify departure from the current policies which aim to protect over development of rural areas and listed buildings. The proposed building is considered out of keeping with the adjacent properties, overly large and not considered necessary for the continuation of the existing holiday letting business.

W23/1633LB & 1632 - Finwood Farm, Finwood Road, Rowington. Replacement of roof over existing utility, WC and family dining area, installation of conservation-style rooflights and other fenestration additions, replacement front porch, erection of a new garage with improved drive and replacement electric gate at the site entrance and associated internal alterations.

No objection was raised in respect of this application.

W23/1705 - The Lyons Farm House, Rowington Green. Application for variation of condition 2 of permission W/23/0493 to allow for amendments to the design, to include: Alteration to overall design of 3no. dwellings, Alterations to roof style, revision to fenestration and doors and internal alterations.

No objection was raised in respect of this application.

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

Members were unable to see any significant amendments to this application, which would justify a change in the existing response of its strong objections to the proposals, and therefore, members continued to object to the application.

111. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – None

b) Future Inspections Dates – Councillor A Coleman 24 December 2023

c) Tree Planting

The Clerk reported that 420 saplings were planted by volunteers in the community on Sunday 3 December and thanked all those who had supported this project.

Councillor a Marsden raised a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her continued support with regard to the Playing Field Project.

112. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor a Marsden reported that the Mistletoe Ball held on 2 December 2023 had been a huge success.

113. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Advisory Signage – HGV's Lowsonford

The County Council had responded with regard to the request for advisory signage and stated that there is a difference between structural limit signs and advisory signs. The bridge is rated to take 44 tonne vehicles which is the maximum allowable on UK roads and so a structural weight limit sign is not permitted.

Advisory signs can potentially be introduced for which Cllr Cooke had, some time ago, agreed to assist with funding. This exercise is currently with the Minor Works team to assess as one of Cllr Cooke's delegated budget schemes.

114. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

115. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

Noted – letter of thanks from Ian Wilson following the grant payment to Rowington Village Hall.

116. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£727.05
HMRC	£202.39
Water Plus (BACS)	£91.48
Laptop (BACS)	£299.00
ICO (DD)	£35.00
Nuneaton Signs (BACS)	£36.00
Old Folks Committee	£400.00

c) Received:

VAT Refund	£15,552.78
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RESOLVED that the above items of finance be approved.

117. Budget 2024/2025

The Clerk had circulated a proposed Budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025 which was considered by members.

Proposed by Councillor A Marsden. Seconded by T Remment and RESOLVED unanimously that the budget be approved.

Councillor D Weir asked members to consider the Parish Council employing an independent person to undertake the monthly payroll. Members did not feel this was necessary given that the payroll was operated online via HMRC and PAYE.

118. Precept 2024/2025

Having considered the 2024/2025 Budget, it was agreed unanimously to increase the Precept request to £22,000 for the financial year 2024/2025.

Proposed by Councillor A Coleman. Seconded by Councillor A Marsden.

RESOLVED Unanimously.

119. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL)

This was deferred to the next meeting in order that Councillor D Weir could provide full details.

120. Items for the Next Agenda

To report the resignation of Anne Pitt following her move out of the area.

Bus Stop on Old Warwick Road

Pension – Clerk

121. Future Meeting Dates

Members agreed to the 2024 Schedule of Meetings for 2024.

Thursday 11 January 2024 (Provisional)

Rowington Village Hall

Thursday 8 February 2024

Lowsonford Village Hall

Thursday 14 March 2024

Rowington Village Hall

The public meeting closed at 8.34pm.

122. Confidential Items

Under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press will be 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.

The Clerk drew members attention to the fact that her annual salary had not been progressed through the spinal column points as set out in her contract dated April 2017. This was considered by members of the Parish Council, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to pay the back pay as set out in the schedule presented to members.

The Clerk had circulated a paper on behalf of NALC which set out the National Pay Increase. NALC had recommended that Parish Councils back pay staff from April 2023.

A full set of Confidential Minutes was also produced.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to back pay the Clerk from April 2023 to date.

The public meeting re-opened at 8.50pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

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

County Councillor Report – Councillor J Cooke

Warwickshire Local Resilience Forum and REACT have signed Memorandum of Understanding

This ensures WLRF will be able to call on REACT's experienced and skilled volunteers in emergencies and crises in Warwickshire. WLRF comprises expert partner organisations, including councils and emergency services. These partners help Warwickshire residents prepare for, respond to and recover from major emergencies or incidents.

A WLRF exercise week in September helped these partners work together even more effectively to keep people safe during emergencies.

REACT is a charity which consists of volunteers undertaking disaster response work in the UK and internationally. Many REACT volunteers have served in the Armed Forces or as emergency service responders.

REACT also recently launched a Flood Response Appeal to train and equip new teams of volunteer Flood Responders.

WLRF will be able to work with REACT to support its response to emergencies, helping WLRF protect as many people as possible.

West Midlands measles cases prompt MMR vaccination call

People in the West Midlands are being urged to check that they, and all family members are up to date with their MMR vaccine. Measles has been confirmed in the region. Since 1 October 2023, there have been 19 confirmed cases in the West Midlands, with an increasing number of likely cases.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) West Midlands is working with local authorities and local NHS partners to make sure that anyone in the region who needs an MMR vaccination is aware that there is an increased risk of catching measles, following confirmed cases in Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry.

The individuals currently affected are all recovering, but hospital treatment was necessary for a few. Most of the measles cases we're seeing have had **no** doses of the MMR vaccine. One dose of MMR is at least 95% effective in preventing measles and the second dose gives maximum protection.

Symptoms of measles appear 7-10 days after contact with the virus and include:

- cold-like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, sneezing and cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- high temperature (fever), which may reach around 40 deg C.
- a non-itchy, red-brown rash usually appears 3-5 days later (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body), spots may be raised and join to form blotchy patches – which may be harder to see on darker skin tones

£4.6 million Business Growth Warwickshire Programme unveiled

The £4.6 million Business Growth Warwickshire Programme, developed and commissioned jointly by WCC, County's District & Borough Councils is designed to engage with over 2,000 businesses, more than 500 of which will receive intensive, bespoke support.

Business Growth Warwickshire will create over 150 jobs and safeguard over 250 while enabling more than two hundred businesses to improve their productivity. Over 180 businesses will receive a bespoke decarbonisation plan to help them to reduce their carbon footprint and save money on their energy bills. The programme will help save over 1,200 tonnes of greenhouse gas, helping Warwickshire to become more sustainable and move towards net zero.

For all referrals to these programmes, businesses should contact the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub in the first instance on 0300 060 3747 or <https://www.cwgrowthhub.co.uk>

Take actions for a greener and more sustainable Warwickshire

As the world gathers for the crucial COP-28 summit in the United Arab Emirates, Warwickshire County Council is launching a new campaign to encourage residents to make small but tangible commitments towards a greener and more sustainable future.

This new campaign is calling upon everyone to sign up for some climate change pledges from a carefully curated list spanning various aspects of daily life, such as: energy and home; food and waste; garden and nature; transport and travel; shopping and clothing; and social and community.

- Anyone can commit to making their pledges here: [Warwickshire's Green Pledges – Warwickshire Climate Emergency](#)
- Find out more about COP-28 here: <https://unfccc.int/cop28>
- For more information about how Warwickshire County Council is facing the challenges of the climate change emergency, visit: <https://www.warwickshireclimateemergency.org.uk/>

Final marriage ceremony after 50 years of “I do” at Pageant House

Leamington based couple Hannah and Alexander were the final couple to be married at Pageant House, at 11am on Tuesday 21 November, with the ceremony overseen by the longest-serving registrar Sue Lloyd, who joined the service in 1984.

Records show that Pageant House has been in use by Warwickshire’s Registration Service since 1974, with the ceremony room seeing thousands of weddings over the last five decades.

The building takes its name from the Warwick Pageant of 1906, as the then mayor of Warwick loaned the house to the organisers of the pageant.

Earlier this year the Registration Service licenced and launched newly refurbished ceremony rooms at St John’s House in Warwick. The Jacobean mansion is home to two beautiful ceremony rooms. Both rooms feature grand fireplaces, elegant chandeliers, large windows to let in plenty of light, and striking dark wood or warm oak panelling on the walls. To find out more about booking St. John’s House as your ideal ceremony venue, visit the [Ceremonies in Warwickshire website](#).

Almost 20,000 Illegal Vapes Seized by Trading Standards

In the past 18 months, WCC Trading Standards has seized 19,600 illegal vapes from retailers.

The wholesale price of an oversized illegal vape is around £5, resulting in a direct loss to sellers of almost £100,000 to date.

Illegal disposable vapes, which are often sold under the counter, are usually advertised as containing more than 600 puffs, an indication that the vapes contains more nicotine e-liquid than the 2ml limit. The 2ml limit is designed to help prevent nicotine poisoning, the results of which include nausea, vomiting, and headaches.

County Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety said:

“Oversized illegal vapes may contain much more nicotine than a UK standard legal vape, so it’s important that we get them off the streets. Warwickshire Trading Standards will continue to both advise businesses and, where necessary, carry out enforcement exercises, both to remove illegal vapes and prevent the sale of vapes to under 18’s.”

Please report the sale of illegal vapes to Warwickshire Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Warwick District Council Report to Parish Councils, Kenilworth Abbey and Arden Ward

Glyphosate weedkiller reduction trial

The District Council is looking to pilot reducing the number of weedkiller sprays in the district, as part of our plans to improve biodiversity and reduce harmful chemical use. Currently we spray twice per year as part of our street cleaning contract, including around tree bases. We are aiming to trial moving to one spray per year and not spraying around tree bases. Each ward of the district is being asked if they would like to participate in the trial, and in Abbey and Arden we are seeking the views of Parish Councils during December.

Podback recycling scheme

We have introduced coffee pod recycling into our normal recycling waste collections through partnership with Podback. See https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20470/recycling/1913/podback_recycling_service for instructions on how to use the scheme, which allows used coffee pods to be collected at the same time as other waste.

National Tree Week – Local tree planting events

National Tree Week took place 25 November to 3rd December. In the District tree planting events are scheduled for 3rd December in Rowington and 9th December in Hampton Magna where more than 400 trees donated by the Woodland Trust will be planted. Any people or organisations interested in further tree planting in the District are very welcome, please get in touch with one of your councillors.