

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor T Remment
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
4 members of the public were present

141. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillors J Coles, T Parker and D Weir, County Councillor J Cooke and District Councillors D Armstrong, K Aizlewood & R Hales.

142. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

143. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2024

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor A Marsden that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2024, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

144. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr & Mrs Clarke circulated a photo of street signage which they had taken from Ballidon & Bradbourne Parish Council. The bright yellow signage represented a warning to road users stating 'Expect the Unexpected – Slow Down'. Mrs Clarke asked members to consider sending the photo to the County Council to request that consideration be made to erect similar signs within the Parish and this was agreed by members.

Mrs S Beard asked members to consider the installation of bird boxes and a wild flower area on the playing field and it was agreed to add this to the next agenda for consideration.

Mrs S Beard raised concern as to the various speed limit signs on the approach to Rowington from Shrewley near to St Laurence Church. Since the new 30mph signage had been installed, the 40mph signs were still in place and the Clerk agreed to take this up with WCC Highways to obtain clarity and request the old 40mph signage be removed.

145. Report from County Councillor

In the absence of Councillor J Cooke, the Clerk read his report which is also appended to these minutes.

146. Report from District Councillors

In the absence of the District Councillors, the Clerk read their report which is also appended to these minutes.

147. 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	

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	19/12/23	Object	
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	14/12/23	Object	
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 alteration	21/12/23	No objection	Granted
W23/1749	Chenac, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green Conversion of former workshop into a 1-bed residential dwelling	15/01/24	Object	Refused
W23/1748LB	Manor Farm, Holywell Conversion of barn to create 2no. new dwellings and associated vehicular access	22/02/24	No objection	
W23/1769	Shepherds Fold, Finwood Road, Rowington, Conversion of barn, stable and store into a dwelling	11/01/24	No objection	

b) Planning Applications

The following applications were considered and decided:

W24/0162 - Gracedieu, Rowington Green, Rowington - Application for variation of condition 3 of permission W/80/0492 to remove agricultural use restriction.

Members raised no objection to the application.

W24/0171 & 0172LB - Finwood Hill Farm, Mill Lane - Application for the conversion of rural buildings to a residential dwelling, re-submission of previously approved W/21/0835 to allow the rebuilding of the metal barn and alterations to the fenestrations.

Members raised no objection to the application.

148. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – none

b) Future Inspections Dates – Councillor A Coleman 17 March & Councillor J Coles 31 March

149. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor a Marsden was pleased to report that the Simple Supper event held on 2 March had received 87 guests and generated a very positive income.

150. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

a) Monitoring of Public Footpaths

The Chairman relayed that some years back, members were designated public footpaths in which to monitor and report any issues to the Clerk, but this had since been overlooked.

Following discussions, it was agreed that members should take time to walk and monitor the public footpaths within the parish and report any issues to the Clerk.

Mr & Mrs Clarke kindly offered to volunteer their time to monitor footpaths in and around Pinley.

The Clerk was asked to report footpaths W42, W31, W39 & W35 due to broken bridges, obstructions and overgrown vegetation.

Furthermore, despite numerous reports to the County Council, no action had been taken with regard to the locked gates at Green Farm, Rowington Green and the Clerk agreed to follow up on this matter.

b) Proposed Bus Stop on OWR

The Clerk had met with Graham Stanley and Nigel Whyte from the County Council following the request from members for the formalisation of a bus stop on Old Warwick Road near the crossroads junction with Finwood Road and Rowington Green, for the safety of bus users, particularly school children.

The Clerk confirmed that County Council representatives support the view of the Parish Council that bus stop formalisation works comprising erection of pole (with a bus flag and timetable case attached) and provision of an area of hardstanding would provide a safer and improved waiting environment for schoolchildren using school transport provision and residents utilising the market day Flexi-bus service, particularly beneficial during inclement weather conditions.

Councillor J Cooke was aware of the matter and had kindly put forward a sum from his WCC Member Delegated Budget for Minor Highway Schemes to cover the cost of an area of hardstanding (including bus stop pole) and associated fees.

The WCC County Highways Minor Works Team would oversee delivery of the works, which is anticipated to commence on implementation during financial year 2024-25. A full survey will be carried out and neighbours will be notified.

Members thanked the Clerk for her persistence and requested that she contact Nigel Whyte and Graham Stanley to request that they proceed with the works.

Agreed unanimously.

c) Community Litter Pick

Following the Community Litter Pick which took place in Lowsonford in September 2023, it was agreed to hold one in Rowington, and the Clerk would organise and publicise this event.

151. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

152. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters – noted.

153. Finance

a) Paid during the month:

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£831.05
HMRC	£246.33
MI Business Services	£170.00

c) Received:

None

RESOLVED that the above items of finance be approved.

d) Request for Financial Assistance

Rowington Tennis Club had submitted a financial request towards the cost of cleaning the tennis courts ahead of the Centenary Celebrations in June 2024 and it was agreed to grant the club £250 towards the project.

Agreed unanimously.

154. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL) – Village Gateway Signage

The Clerk was requested to put forward the following locations to proceed with the installation of Village Gateway signs:

Lowsonford

- One in the vicinity of the old railway bridge as you drop down into the village from Lapworth Street.
- One approaching the canal bridge from Narrow Lane/New Road - both in the 30mph sections.
- One on Mill Lane near the canal bridge.

Lapworth

Near to the Navigation PH

Rowington

Near to Cock Horse/Christmas Tree Farm

These signs would be plain with a 30mph limit.

Members asked the Clerk to liaise with Mr G Stanley of WCC and organise a site visit if required with herself and the Chairman in order to progress this project.

RESOLVED unanimously.

155. Internal Auditor

It was resolved unanimously to employ Mr Ian Wilson for a further year to carry out the year end internal audit.

156. Items for the Next Agenda

- Bird Boxes on the playing field
- Wild flower area on the playing field.

157. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 11 April 2024	Lowsonford Village Hall
Thursday 25 April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 9 May 2024 – Annual Meeting	Lowsonford Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Warwickshire joins the UK SAYS NO MORE campaign to end Domestic Abuse

The UK Says No More campaign is a driver of change and one that Warwickshire is backing to help promote the support services available throughout the county for victim-survivors. Warwickshire says NO MORE.

Domestic abuse does not discriminate and can affect anyone regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age.

In line with the ethos of the UK Says No More campaign, last year Warwickshire County Council, along with the Safer Warwickshire Partnership released its three-year partnership approach to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Warwickshire.

The Safer Warwickshire Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, 2023 – 2026, has been developed in partnership with a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations across Warwickshire and outlines how agencies will work together to tackle VAWG.

Anyone worried about domestic abuse for themselves or someone they know can find support at www.talk2someone.org.uk Follow #YouAreNotAlone on social media.

Raising awareness of the support available for those who self-harm

On this year's Self-Harm Awareness Day on Friday 1st March, Warwickshire County Council reminded residents that Self-Harm Awareness Day has been running for over 20 years and aims to raise awareness around what is often a very misunderstood topic, working to tackle the stigma of self-harm, which can lead to secrecy and a failure to seek much-needed support.

Self-harm is a term used to describe any behaviour where someone causes hurt to themselves. Any behaviour that causes injury can be classified as self-harm regardless of how minor or how high-risk that behaviour is.

There is no one single reason why individuals might self-harm, but it is commonly a behaviour that is intended to relieve emotional distress or to communicate that they are distressed.

According to NHS Digital, it's estimated that 1 in 14 people in the UK self-harm. Almost 4 in 10 (36.8%) of young people are reported to have tried to harm themselves, according to the Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2023 report).

For those who are struggling or feeling overwhelmed with their mental health, there's a range of support networks available, such as the Coventry and Warwickshire Mental Wellbeing Line. Open 24/7, the friendly and compassionate team is trained to help people who are feeling anxious, stressed, or low. The team can be contacted by calling 0800 616171.

National Secondary School Offer Day 2024 in Warwickshire

The percentage of Warwickshire children offered one of their top three school choices climbs for the third year running! Thousands of children across Warwickshire will be offered places at secondary schools today with a record number of children being offered one of their top three school choices.

March 1st was National Offer Day, when Year 6 children and up and down the country learn which secondary school they will attend for the 2024/2025 academic year.

This year, there were 7,172 Warwickshire children who applied for a secondary place by the application deadline of 31 October, an increase of almost 7% on the previous year.

Of those, 81.4% have been offered a place at their first-choice school. A further 13.9% have been offered a place at another of their school choices, meaning a total of 95.3% have been offered a place at one of their top three preferred schools. More information for parents and carers on school admissions is available at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions>

Investment Award Lands in Coventry and Warwickshire

The Coventry and Warwickshire area has again been recognised in an annual international award - sponsored by The Financial Times - recognising foreign investment strategy and economic potential.

Coventry & Warwickshire's place as a leading centre for (FDI) foreign direct investment has been recognised in the latest 'fDi Intelligence's European Cities and Regions of the Future 2024' awards.

The Coventry & Warwickshire area placed second for FDI Strategy, up one place on last year, and with top 10 placings for Economic potential and business friendliness. The rankings benchmark European cities and regions according to their economic, financial, and business strengths.

Young people, their families, local businesses and education providers invited to learn about Supported Internships at special twilight event

Taking place on **Thursday 14 March 2024, 3pm to 7pm at Eliot Park Innovation Centre in Nuneaton**, Warwickshire County Council's Supported Internships Fair will give young people and their families and carers, along with local businesses and education providers, a first look at new guidance developed to provide improved information on supported internships.

This free event is a unique opportunity to hear about successful supported internship programmes from local employers National Grid, Nuneaton Signs and George Eliot Hospital. Local education providers and support services will also be on hand to

provide information and answer questions, including North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, King Edward VI College, Warwickshire College Group and Stratford-upon-Avon College, as well as Warwickshire's Supported Employment Service, Warwickshire Skills Hub and Prospects.

A helpful [Supported Internships Fair Access Guide](#) is available to help plan your visit and know what to expect when you arrive.

Assisting people to remain safe, healthy and independent

Staying as independent as possible helps people to be safe and healthy, and there is a range assistive technology available to support people, including self-help devices, equipment, and solutions.

Assistive technology (AT) is a term used to describe any standalone device or system that can help a person to increase the ease or safety of any aspect of their day-to-day living and make things easier for them.

Warwickshire County Council's [AskSARA website](#) offers practical information and advice to help 'make life easier.' It gives people the opportunity to access a range of self-help gadgets, equipment and assistive technology solutions.

Educaterers supports healthy eating initiatives

Did you know school caterers, Educaterers provides 120,000 meals a week in over 180 primary schools in Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Birmingham, Coventry, and Staffordshire?

But the company does more than simply provide school meals. It encourages pupils and students to make healthy food choices and to care about what they fuel their bodies with. A great deal of planning and expertise goes into ensuring menus don't just contain nutritionally balanced and varied meal options but are interesting and topical too.

Report from Warwick District Councillors

Council Budget set

On February 21st Council approved the budget for the next year. This included raising the District Council part of the tax by 2.99%, equivalent to £5.29 per year, or 11p per week, for a Band D dwelling. Although any raise is unwelcome, this is below inflation and was seen as necessary to keep the Council's budget balanced in the long term. Part of the budget is allocated to contract an additional fly tipping response team, which will reduce response times and counter the increase in fly tipping across the district. Other key elements of the budget include improving the energy efficiency of Council buildings, supporting renewable energy generation projects, such as rooftop solar, in the District where they will deliver a return on investment, and maintaining service provision for core services.

SWLP update

The key discussion at the moment is around the overall number of houses to be built. The consultant's current advice is for a significantly higher number of houses than the Standard government formula, while the joint Green-Labour administration's view in the corporate strategy is that we should minimise the use of greenfield sites where possible. We remain constrained by the very tight rules that the government impose but recognise that having a sound plan is better than the chaos of 'anywhere' development that no plan would bring. These discussions are entering a critical phase so now is the time to contact us with any views or input.

Leisure Centres and Paddling pool Renewal

There are multiple updates on leisure centres in the district this month. Castle Farm held its official opening on 24th February. Abbey Fields Pool has been approved to continue with construction expected to commence in March. Councillors have also approved funding to refurbish and upgrade the paddling pool at Victoria Park, stopping a cycle of repairs and increasing costs. The new pool is planned to have improved seating, shaded areas, and far less maintenance downtime. Construction will begin in the Autumn.

Finally, Garden Waste permit renewals are open, covering 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. See www.warwickdc.gov.uk/gardenwaste