

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 9 MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor T Parker
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
3 members of the public were present for part of the meeting

1. Election of Chairman

The Clerk had received one nomination for the role of Chairman for the ensuing year, which was from Councillor Allyson Coleman.

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor T Remment that Councillor Allyson Coleman be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Councillor A Coleman accepted the nomination and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor A Coleman in the Chair

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillors J Coles & A Marsden, District Councillors D Armstrong & K Aizlewood and County Councillor J Cooke.

3. Election of a Vice-Chairman

The Chairman asked for nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Councillor A Marsden had expressed his interest via email, to be nominated for the Office of Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor T Parker that Councillor A Marsden be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 April 2024

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor T Parker that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2024, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

Concerns were raised regarding a property that was being let as an Air B & B due to noise, possible drug use, pollution and trespassing. The matter had been referred to the District Council and Warwickshire Police, who were addressing these concerns.

7. Report from County Councillor

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

8. Report from District Councillors

District Councillor R Hales read the WDC report which is also appended to these minutes.

9. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
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	25/10/23	Object	Granted

	demolition of Dutch barn and dog kennel and erection of replacement barn			
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	Granted
W23/1375 & 1365LB Amended 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.	11/04/24	No objection	Granted
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	
W23/1747	Manor Farm, Holywell, Rowington Conversion of barn to create 2no. new dwellings and associated vehicular access	17/04/24	No objection	
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	
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	14/03/24	No objection	Withdrawn
W24/0230	Annexe at, The Cumsey, Lye Green, Holywell Modification of existing access by removing the existing wooden gate and installing a new gate set back within the site. Replace the existing grassed entrance with hard standing to formalise a separate access and driveway	11/04/24	No objection	
W24/0245LB & 0256	1 Kingswood Cottages, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Retrospective Application for the installation of gate and rear garden pergola	11/04/24	No Objection	Granted

b) Planning Applications

The following application was considered and decided:

W24/0338 – 3 Appletree Cottages, Old Warwick Road, Rowington - Erection of two storey rear extension and the erection of a front dormer

Members raised no objection to the application.

c) Article 4 Direction

Article 4 Direction is a statement made under the Town & Country Planning Acts that removes all or some of the permitted development rights on a site. It is used to protect the special character or appearance of Conservation Areas. It means that certain alterations that might otherwise not have needed planning permission, would require it.

Councillor D Weir asked members to consider requesting the District Council to consider adopting this statement for Lowsonford Conservation Area and the Clerk was requested to write to the LPA.

10. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – none

b) Future Inspections Dates – Councillor T Remment – 12 May & Councillor T Parker – 26 May

c) Bird Boxes

The Clerk reported that 8 bird boxes had now been purchased and installed on trees at the playing field.

d) Tree Survey on Playing Field

The Clerk reported that the tree survey took place on 1 May and no report had been received as yet.

e) Playing Field Maintenance

Councillor D Weir raised concerns following the continued rainfall, which had resulted in the playing field being water logged. It was agreed to investigate the drainage and make improvements if possible.

11. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that repairs to the hall had been undertaken, including replacement of the downlights in the bar. Some minor repairs to the car park were to be undertaken.

Hall hires had increased from the previous year and it was noted that recent events organised by the Village Hall Events Working Party have been very successful with more events planned.

12. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

a) Public Footpaths

No progress had been made with regard to the issues previously reported to the Footpaths Team at the County Council.

d) Proposed Bus Stop on OWR

No update had been provided.

13. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

14. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters – noted.

South Warwickshire Local Plan – Second Call for sites.

15. Finance

a) Paid during the month

Wharton Consultants – initial payment	£595.44
Bird Boxes	£31.24

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£831.05
HMRC	£246.33
Clear Councils Insurance	£487.76
Rowington Village Hall (Tennis Club Licence Fee)	£150.00
Waterplus	£36.90
Rowington Village Hall Room Hire	£72.00
WALC Subscription Fee	£485.20
Npower Electricity Supply at Telephone Kiosks	£185.05

c) Received:

CIL Funds	£22,450.78
Precept	£11,000.00
Tennis Club Licence Fee	£150.00

RESOLVED unanimously.

d) Request for Financial Assistance

A request for financial assistance had been received on behalf of Lowsonford Village Hall for £210 and this was deferred to the next meeting as further information was required in order to consider the application.

16. Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been carried out and the report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. No matters were raised.

17. Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024

Following a review of each of the items within the Annual Governance Statement, it was agreed unanimously that the Annual Governance Statement, be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor. No objections were recorded.

18. Accounting Statements 2023/2024

Following the Clerks report and circulation of the Accounting Statements, it was agreed that the Statements be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor. No objections were recorded.

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

The Clerk had liaised with Graham Stanley following the last PC meeting, but no response had been received to date.

20. Tennis Club Licence Renewal

This was deferred to the next meeting.

21. Items for the Next Agenda

Drainage on Playing Field

22. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 13 June 2024	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 11 July 2024	Lowsonford Village Hall
Thursday 8 August 2024 (Provisional)	Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.23pm.

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Strategic Economic Plan approved at Cabinet

This is a Warwickshire-wide strategy that sets out the purpose for Warwickshire to have an economy that is ambitious, inclusive and sustainable which will be achieved by working with a wide range of partners and focus on building a strong viable and resilient economy.

Work is already underway to establish a delivery plan that will underpin and help achieve the key objectives in the SEP.

Warwickshire's Strategic Economic Plan highlights the work that the county and its partners are doing with three pillars that are key to developing an economy that is fit for the future that will grow and create jobs for all of the county's communities and will be sustainable and contribute to the county's net zero carbon emission targets.

Highlighting mental health and wellbeing support available to residents throughout May

Throughout May, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) will be signposting to the variety of mental health services available across the county and highlighting the importance of looking after your mental health and wellbeing, whatever your situation.

Having a baby is an exciting time, but it can also be worrying, and things don't always turn out as expected. Lack of sleep, changes to relationships, breastfeeding and other challenges can make you feel low or anxious. One in five women and one in ten dads need help with their emotional wellbeing during pregnancy or in the first year after their baby is born. Seeking help early is important as it will speed up recovery.

It is important to share your feelings and to ask for help, this could be with family or friends, or with professional services such as your midwife, health visitor, GP, or local Children and Families Centre. They recognise the highs and lows of having a baby and want to support parents to have the best possible experience with their new baby.

<http://warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/help-new-expectant-parents>

Supporting Warwickshire parents with their mental health

It's World Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day on 1 May so Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is reminding parents of the support available to them across the county if they are struggling.

Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day is part of Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week which aims to raise awareness of perinatal mental health problems, advocate for women and families impacted, change attitudes towards parental mental health and help people to access the information, care and support they need to recover.

According to the [World Maternal Mental Health Day website](https://www.worldmaternalmentalhealthday.org/), as many as 1 in 5 mothers experience some form of maternal mental health problem.

<https://wmmhday.postpartum.net/>

Council celebrates completion of first section of Kenilworth to Leamington cycle route

The first stage of the ambitious new cycle link between Leamington Spa town centre and North Leamington has now been completed. Phased construction work on this phase of the scheme began in January 2023 and has included:

Pedestrian and cyclist crossing refuge on Clarendon Avenue.

Signed on-road cycle route along Beauchamp Road and Binswood Avenue.

Segregated cycle track along the eastern side of A452 Kenilworth Road.

Upgrade of pedestrian crossings to combined pedestrian and cycle crossings.

Continuous footway/ cycle track crossing at Woodcote Road east.

Priority crossing for pedestrians and cyclists across Cloister Crofts.

Crossing refuge between Cloister Crofts and Northumberland Road.

Extension of parking restrictions (double yellow lines) on both sides of Kenilworth Road.

Further details of the Kenilworth to Leamington Cycle Route are available online

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

WCC Educational Psychology Service presents webinar series supporting school transitions

Warwickshire Educational Psychology Service (EPS) has created a series of webinars to help parents and carers guide their children through important school changes. The series of short videos are designed to offer valuable guidance and support during key phases such as Nursery to Reception, Year 6 to Year 7, and Year 11 to Post 16 options.

They aim to provide practical advice and suggestions on how parents and carers can best prepare their children for these significant transitions. Covering topics such as preparations before the transition, what to expect on the first day, and strategies for managing the subsequent weeks following the transfer, the webinars serve as an invaluable resource for families during times of change.

The webinars are readily available for viewing on the Warwickshire Educational Psychology Service

website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/educationalpsychology>.

Businesses and residents encouraged to comment on the Transforming Leamington project

Businesses and residents have plenty more opportunities coming up to comment on the Transforming Leamington project. Anyone with an interest in protecting and improving the town is very welcome to get along to meet the team, see the emerging ideas and have their say at the following events:

Monday 29 April - Tuesday 21 May, Exhibition at Leamington Library

Wednesday 8 May, 17:00-19:30, Old Town Drop-in, 1 Mill Street

For more information, including an online survey, please visit transformingleamington.co.uk

Work to improve Queensway and Ford Foundry Roundabouts start date announced

Work on the improvements to Queensway and Ford Foundry roundabouts will start on May 13th, Warwickshire County Council announced this week. The announcement comes after the appointment last month of CR Reynolds as the contractor for this major road improvement project. When completed, the scheme will see traffic signals at the two roundabouts, additional lanes, shared footway and dedicated off-carriageway cycle routes, and enhanced crossing facilities to enable more effective and safer crossing of roads. Due for completion in Summer 2025, the project will complement existing routes and create a corridor of connected cycling and walking links to help facilitate active travel.

For further information, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/europaway

Warwick District Council Report

Planning

In an earlier Update we reported on work to agree a local Development Control Plan (DPD), which places an expectation on developers to deliver new homes and buildings in Warwick District that are “Net Zero Carbon in use”, substantially reducing environmental impact.

This has now received approval from the government’s planning inspector and will be formally considered for adoption by the Council. Reducing the carbon footprint of all buildings is a key priority for WDC, which will be amongst the first councils in the country to implement this planning policy. It will require developers to play their part in designing homes that do not use fossil fuels, therefore avoiding the need for expensive retrofits when the old-style energy systems become redundant.

SWLP update

WDC continues to work alongside Stratford District Council Work to develop a new Local Plan for the South Warwickshire area. The initial options are being whittled down to a smaller number which focus on the need for new housing, ideally making use of existing transport corridors (road and rail) as well as employment location.

There is a growing expectation that South Warwickshire will plan for sizeable levels of inwards migration, bringing new people, skills and opportunities to the area. The Council will place emphasis on an approach that is environmentally friendly, creates additional employment, addresses social housing need and makes use of any “brown field” sites, before looking to urbanise agricultural land. Some Parish Councils have requested early engagement with WDC as the new Plan starts to take shape and officers are currently providing a series of on-line briefing sessions to update Parish Councillors accordingly.

No Mow May

Yes, it’s that time again! You may have seen a national report which featured WDC (amongst many others) and the policy seeking to encourage spring pollinators, whilst learning practical lessons from last year’s initial No Mow May. It works, so why not try it at home?

Your 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