

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor J Coles
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor T Parker
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
2 members of the public were present for part of the meeting
Graham Stanley Minor Works Team at WCC
Warwick District Councillor D Armstrong

23. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of District Councillors K Aizlewood and R Hales and County Councillor J Cooke.

24. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Weir declared a personal interest in planning applications W24/0366 & W24/0511 and took no part in the discussions and decisions thereon.

25. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2024

It was proposed by Councillor T Remment and seconded by Councillor T Parker that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2024, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

26. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr & Mrs Joyce gave members a general overview with regards to the amended planning application W24/0534 at Clinton House and this was considered by members later in the meeting under Planning Matters.

27. Warwickshire County Council Matters (brought forward on the agenda)

Mr Graham Stanley of WCC, updated members on the following matters:

HGV Signage

Members had previously requested 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signs to be located at Finwood Road/Lapworth Street and on Old Warwick Road near the water tower to deter heavy goods vehicles from entering Lowsonford and causing issues on the narrow roads and using the canal bridges. Graham reported that these proposals were in place and the signs were on order.

Bus Stop on Old Warwick Road

Following the request for a hard standing and bus stop on Old Warwick Road, Rowington near to the junction of The Avenue, the Clerk had circulated the design drawings which were agreed by members. Graham was awaiting costings and would keep members updated on the progress. Nearby neighbours would be consulted before any works commenced.

Village Gateway Signage

Members had previously put forward four locations to the County Council and requested that a survey be carried to ascertain if those locations were suitable to install village gateway signage.

Due to the narrow verges, it was not possible to install village gateway signs at the two locations at Narrow Lane/New Road and Mill Lane near the canal bridge.

The request to install village gateway signs at Rowington - near to Navigation PH and Lapworth Street, Lowsonford near to the old railway bridge were suitable locations and members asked Graham to proceed with the project. The signs would include the village name, a 30MPH sign and 'please drive carefully'.

The total cost for the two locations of £4266 would be met from CIL funds. But it was possible that Councillor John Cooke might make a contribution from his delegated budget.

Members thanked Graham Stanley for attending, before he left the meeting.

28. Report from County Councillor

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

29. Report from District Councillors

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

30. 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 existing flat-roof single storey rear extension with a pitched roof, removal of canopy roof to rear of the property and the erection of a first-floor rear extension | 16/08/23 | Support | 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 | Refused |
| 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 | |
| W24/0230 | 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 | Granted |
| W24/0338 | Appletree Cottages, Old Warwick Road, Rowington Erection of two storey rear extension and the erection of a front dormer | 20/05/24 | No objection | |

b) Planning Applications

The following applications were considered and decided:

W24/0366 -Russett Cottage, Old Warwick Road - Proposed erection of a taller gable roof over existing single storey side structure with increase in chimney stack height

Members objected to the application and did not consider that there was any justification to carryout such works, in addition to the 29% increase already made to the property. Furthermore, the proposals are not aesthetically pleasing and not in keeping with the characteristics of the area.

W24/0497 & 00498LB - Peacock Farm, Peacock Lane, Holywell, Rowington - Erection of a rear dormer to the farmhouse, with other alterations and replacement fenestration to both the farmhouse and barn.

Members objected to the application and concurred with the views of the County Council Officers with regard to Archaeology, Conservation and Ecology concerns.

W24/0511 2 Fairview, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth - Erection of single storey side extension

No objections were raised.

W24/0534 - Clinton House, Old Warwick Road - Application for the variation of condition 2 (plan numbers) of application ref: W/22/0367 (Erection of single storey dwelling) to allow changes the approved design and incorporate a porch

Members agreed to support the application.

W24/0568 - Old Beams, Lapworth Street, Bushwood, Lowsonford – Removal of raised ground to level of existing patio and driveway with construction of new gabion retaining walls

Members objected to this application. Previous conditions applied to the development have not yet been met with regard to planting up of the gabions already in existence. The continued works to the property are at odds with the character of the Conservation Area, particularly in relation to the vista from the neighbouring white cottages and the street scene. Equally concerning is the removal of more of the ancient hedgerow which was previously removed.

W24/0625 - Agricultural Building, The Lyons Farm, Rowington Green - Prior Approval application for proposed conversion of existing agricultural barn into one larger dwelling house (Use Class C3) and associated operational development under Schedule 2, Part 3 Class Q

Members objected to this application on the grounds of archaeological and environmental concerns. Policy NE3 of the Warwick District Local Plan states that development proposals will be expected to ensure that they lead to no net loss of biodiversity, and where possible a net gain. The NPPF goes further, requiring at para 180 that planning decisions should provide net gains for biodiversity.

W24/0686 - Highfields Farm, Back Lane, Rowington - Prior Approval for proposed Change of Use of Agricultural buildings to Dwelling house (Use Class C3) under Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q

Objection raised due to the proximity of the proposed dwelling to a narrow and dangerous bend. There are already three properties which exit on to this stretch of lane, one of which is obviously a working farm with the associated risk of large and slow moving traffic accessing and exiting the farm site. This is a fairly busy lane which is used as a “cut through” during peak traffic times.

31. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – none

b) Future Inspections Dates – Councillor J Coles – 23 June

c) 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, the Clerk agreed to follow this up.

d) Drainage of Land

Councillor D Weir agreed to investigate possibilities as to how the playing field could be drained.

32. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that the AGM had taken place on 4 June 2024. 4 armchairs had been purchased, a key safe was to be fitted to house the key for the AV equipment. Future events included a Fashion Show, Simple Supper and the Annual Mistletoe Ball.

33. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

a) Public Footpaths

Councillor J Coles raised concern regarding the unnecessary presence of road closure signage both before and after road works take place, particularly in the vicinity of the Fleur de Leys PH as passing visitors may assume that it was not possible to access the PH, and result in lost business.

d) Proposed Bus Stop on OWR – as above

c) Community Litter Pick

The Clerk was pleased to report that the Community Litter Pick took place on Sunday 2 June and 8 people had attended. Roads covered were Rowington Green, Old Warwick Road, Queen's Drive, Mill Lane, Haywood Lane, Dicks Lane, The Avenue, Finwood Road and the Church Car Park.

34. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

35. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

Presentation Slides from the SWLP Presentations

Good Councillors Guide – The Chaiman encouraged members to read this useful document.

WALC Seminar on Charity Law to be available in January 2025

36. Finance

a) Paid during the month

None

b) To be paid:

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Clerks Salary | £831.05 |
| HMRC | £246.33 |
| AMW Lawn Care | £479.87 |

c) Received:

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Allotment Rent | £273.00 |
|----------------|---------|

RESOLVED unanimously.

d) Request for Financial Assistance

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

e) Grant to St Laurence & St Luke’s for grounds maintenance

A complaint had been received regarding the unkempt state of St Luke’s Church grounds. It was noted that the Parish Council had made a grant of £150 towards the upkeep of the grounds.

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

As above.

38. Polices & Procedures

The Clerk had circulated a revised set of Financial Regulations which would be considered at the next meeting.

39. Items for the Next Agenda

Tennis Club Licence.

To consider applying for a reduction in speed limits throughout the parish.

40. Future Meeting Dates

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thursday 11 July 2024 | Lowsonford Village Hall |
| Thursday 8 August 2024 (Provisional) | Rowington Village Hall |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

Report from District Councillors

Net Zero DPD formally adopted

The Net Zero DPD has been formally approved by Council, meaning it now has full weight in planning decisions in the district. All new planning applications will be required to meet the DPD requirements, which will improve energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in new homes, lowering resident's energy bills and increasing use of technology such as rooftop solar panels. This is a key part of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan and Councillors are carefully waiting to see the impact on planning applications and decisions at planning committee.

Election 4th July

Notices of a parliamentary election for the constituencies of Kenilworth and Southam and Warwick and Leamington have been posted on our website along with dates, deadlines and ID requirements. Please remember to register to vote, and bring the required voter ID! There are also details of temporary paid positions assisting us with polling stations and the election count.

D Day 80th Anniversary

The 80th anniversary of the D Day landings was commemorated across the district on the 6th June. Beacons were lit at Newbold Comyn and Kenilworth Castle as a symbol of the peace and light which emerged from the darkness of war. Throughout the month we will be remembering the bravery and sacrifice of all those who have served our country and also celebrating local regiments with our Armed Forces Day in St Nicholas Park on 29th June and a military style opening of Fusilier's Way on 22nd June.

Finally, some short highlights. Creative Hub renovation works at Leamington Town Hall began in late May. Kenilworth will host its first Clean Air Day on Sunday 16th June from 10-3 at Abbey End, a family-friendly event raising awareness of air quality and empowering residents to take action. District Council mowing has restarted after a successful No Mow May. Please let your councillors know of any issues outstanding.

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Keeping your children safe at home this Child Safety Week 2024 and beyond

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is proud to support the annual Child Safety Week campaign, which runs from 3rd to 9th June 2024.

It's natural for children to have accidents as they grow, develop and explore the environment around them, but there are lots of small steps parents and carers can take to keep their children as safe as possible in the home and avoid accidental harm. Once again, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is proud to support the annual Child Safety Week campaign, which runs from 3rd to 9th June 2024. Organised by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), this year's national awareness campaign is themed "Safety. Sorted!" and aims to raise awareness about child accident prevention while providing parents and carers with practical safety tips.

As a child-friendly county, one of WCC's aims is to ensure that all children and young people in Warwickshire are safe. Services within the council have planned an exciting week of events to promote child safety to professionals, partners and residents.

Warwickshire County Council extends its thanks ahead of Volunteers' Week

Next week (3-9 June) is Volunteers' Week, a time to recognise all it is that volunteers do for their community, and this year marks 40 years since Volunteers' Week began.

To celebrate the many volunteers in Warwickshire, we will be shining a light on the work that they do in the county, as well as sharing information about how others can get involved.

According to a recent study done by The National Council for Voluntary Organisations, over 20% of volunteers do so for local community or neighbourhood groups, making it the most popular cause to volunteer for.

Some of these areas within the County are Health transport, Country parks, Libraries and Heritage and Culture. WCC has a variety of ongoing volunteer opportunities that individuals can take part in that haven't been mentioned above, such as getting involved in time banking or becoming an Independent Panel Member to hear school admissions appeals. More at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/volunteering.

Warwickshire County Council's Councillor Grant fund is still open for applications!

Each year, Warwickshire County Council allocates £8,000 to each of its 57 councillors for them to support small-scale projects within their division, whose aims align with the some of the many following areas: improve access to services; reduce loneliness and isolation; improve physical and/or mental health and wellbeing or improve the local area to support the ambition of becoming a Net Zero county by 2050.

The full category list can be seen on the website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>

Applications can be submitted on the council's website, and there are two different forms depending on whether the grant needed is over or under £350. Applications can be submitted from Monday 20 May at 9am, and the deadline for submission is Sunday 30 June at 5pm.

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

Smokers urged to make use of stop smoking services in Warwickshire for World No Tobacco Day

As part of World No Tobacco Day last Friday 31 May WCC is encouraging more smokers in Warwickshire to quit.

WCC recently received £786,180 in funding from the government to increase stop smoking services and reduce smoking rates across the county. Over the next 12 months the council will also be raising awareness around the dangers of smoking as well as vaping, with the clear message: if you don't smoke, don't vape.

There are over 66,000 people in Warwickshire who smoke, which is 13.9% of adults aged 18+ in the county (Source: [Annual Population Survey](#), Office for National Statistics, 2022). Smoking rates vary across Warwickshire, with the highest rates in Rugby and the north of the county (Source: [OHID, fingertips](#)).

Smokers can already access free stop smoking support across Warwickshire via the [quit4good website](#). WCC has also recently improved the stop smoking support offer with the introduction of the government 'Swap to Stop' programme which offers smokers over the age of 18 access to support to quit with the help of vape 'quit kits'. Almost two-thirds of people who use a vape, along with support from their local Stop Smoking Service, successfully quit smoking.

Parents and carers of children who will be starting Year 6 in September are being encouraged to prepare early for their child's secondary school application.

Warwickshire County Council have a range of resources to help families find their priority school and to choose which schools to include on their application form. This includes a map of all the Warwickshire secondary schools and a [short, animated video](#) full of helpful tips on identifying which schools might be right for their child.

Although the window for applications to start secondary school doesn't open until September, the Council hopes that by sharing this in the summer term, parents and carers will use the time to look at school admissions arrangements, visit school websites and read inspection reports, so that they are ready to visit those schools for open evenings once the autumn term has started. Secondary school applications can be made online from the start of September and must be submitted by 31 October 2024.

Parents and carers wanting more information on how to apply to secondary school should

visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-secondary-school-place>

The economic outlook for Coventry and Warwickshire has improved after the first three months of the year.

The [Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce](#)'s latest Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) says the region is in better shape than it was at the turn of the year.

The survey, delivered in partnership with Prime Accountants Group, is analysed by the Economy & Skills Group at Warwickshire County Council. From the responses of businesses across the services and manufacturing sector, it gives scores out of 100 where anything above 50 indicates growth and anything below 50 is negative.

The overall economic outlook now has a score of 60.1 based on the survey results compared to 55.2 at the end of 2023. The outlook is calculated based on a range of questions around orders, both at home and abroad, employment prospects and investment and cashflow.

The survey showed that domestic orders in both the service sector and among manufacturers have risen significantly among those firms surveyed. However, it also revealed a dip in overseas sales. Employment prospects in both sectors was still in positive territory but remained fairly flat compared to three months before, which may suggest a cooling in businesses' desire to hire new staff.

There was also a significant rise in the potential for investment and general cashflow with both the service sector and manufacturing moving above 50 having been below at the end of 2023.

Business confidence in the service sector hit 70.7 and although it fell in manufacturing in the region, it was still well above 50 at 59.5.

WCC Trading Standards is supporting Citizens Advice to help used car buyers steer clear of problems

Citizens Advice's National Consumer Service is offering top advice tips to the estimated 3.5 million people nationally who are currently looking to buy a used car.

New data from Citizens Advice reveals last year the charity's National Consumer Advice Service received a complaint about a used car every three minutes.

The majority of these (66%) complaints were about defective goods, while 13% concerned safety issues.

With 3.5 million people across the country currently looking to buy a used car, Citizens Advice is sharing its top tips with motorists.

Top tips to help put a stop to unexpected issues motorists might face when buying a used car:

- Check the trader
- Look for an established firm with a good reputation. Look for a garage that is a member of the Consumer Codes Approval Scheme, this means you can act through the Code Sponsor if something goes wrong.

- You're entitled to expect that the vehicle is roadworthy, unless you and the seller clearly agree it is bought for scrap or for spares and repair.
- Check the car's history

You'll need the seller's permission to have the vehicle inspected. Make sure to keep a copy of all inspections or checks, either by taking a screenshot or downloading the information.

- Check the car's details with the DVLA using their free online vehicle checker and check the MOT history on GOV.UK
- Get a private history check. This might cost up to £20 but will give you valuable information about serious problems the car might have. If you're still not sure - get an independent report. This will give you detailed information about the car's condition and will cost around £120 to £250.
- Inspect the car and take a test drive. You should arrange to view the car in daylight, preferably when it's dry - it's harder to spot damage to the car if it's wet.

Contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 if you need more help - a trained adviser can give you advice over the phone.