

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor J Coles
Councillor A Marsden (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor T Parker
Councillor T Remment
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
2 members of the public for all or part of the meeting
Mr Graham Stanley from WCC was also in attendance for part of the meeting

Councillor A Marsden in the Chair

60. Apologies

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

61. Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Coles declared an interest in item 74(d) below and took no part in the discussions or decisions thereon.

62. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2024

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

63. Resignation of a Parish Councillor

The Vice-Chairman reported that Mrs Allyson Coleman had submitted her resignation to the Parish Council.

Mrs Allyson Coleman was in attendance and queried why the subsequent retraction of her resignation had not been accepted. The Vice-Chairman and the Clerk both confirmed that the law did not support the retraction of a resignation from a Chairman and having sought advice from both the Monitoring Officer and WALC, the Clerk had a legal duty to inform the Parish Council and the District Council of that resignation.

The Vice-Chairman invited Mrs Allyson Coleman to submit a request to the Parish Council to be co-opted at the next meeting if she so wished.

Mrs A Coleman left the meeting.

64. Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Clerk had circulated a co-option form which had been received from Mrs Lucy Firth, inviting members consider her application to be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Members agreed unanimously to co-opt Lucy Firth on to the Parish Council and Councillor L Firth completed the necessary forms.

65. Questions from Members of the Public

No matters were raised.

66. Report from County Councillor

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

67. Report from District Councillors

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

68. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

| Application Number | Application Details | Comments required by | PC Decision | WDC Decision |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 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 | 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 | Withdrawn |
| W24/0497 & 0498LB | 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. | 13/06/24 | Object | Granted |
| W24/0511 | 2 Fairview, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Erection of single storey side extension | 13/06/24 | No objection | Granted |
| 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 | 13/06/24 | Object | |
| 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 | 13/06/24 | Object | Granted |
| 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 | 26/06/24 | Object | Prior Approval Granted |
| W24/0792 | Finwood Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Rowington Proposed underground septic tank and underground LPG tank to serve approved barn conversion | 24/07/24 | No representation | Granted |
| W24/0821LB | Finwood Hill Farm, Mill Lane, Rowington Application for the conversion of rural building into a residential building, to include underground septic tank and underground LPG tank. Re-submission of W/21/0836/LB | 25/07/24 | No representation | Granted |
| W24/0922 | Chenac, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green Conversion of former workshop into a 1-bed residential dwelling | 13/08/24 | Object | Refused |
| W24/0927 | Land to North East of High Cross Lane, Shrewley Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian, construction of stables, hard standing and outdoor arena. | 08/08/24 | Object | |
| W24/1012 | Agricultural Building, 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 | 23/08/24 | No Representation | Prior Approval Granted |

b) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

c) Appeals

Site Address: Chenac, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green. Description of development: Conversion of former workshop into a 1-bed residential dwelling. Application Reference: W/23/1749. Appeal reference: APP/T3725/W/24/3347746
Appeal start date: 21/08/2024

Site Address: Whitley Elm Cottages, Case Lane, Rowington. Description of development: Erection of a single storey extension to create ancillary accommodation for the existing business, amendments to fenestration and internal alterations. Conversion of existing ancillary space to enlarge existing dwelling. Application Reference: W/23/1564 & W23/1564LB. Appeal reference: APP/T3725/W/24/3348356 Appeal start date: 02/09/2024

d) Article 4 Direction

Councillor D Weir asked for this item to be deferred.

69. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – none

b) Future Inspections Dates - Councillor D Weir, 15 September & Councillor A Marsden, 29 September 2024

c) Tree Survey & Works Required on Playing Field

Following the recent tree survey, the Clerk had invited five companies to quote for the works, but had only received three quotes, which were discussed with members.

It was agreed unanimously to request D J Trees carry out the required works. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the District Council prior to that work to ascertain whether or not, permission was required. The quotation was for £720 including Vat and the works were to include:

T3- Silver Birch -remove deadwood T4 - Turkey oak - remove dead limb south facing T5- Common elder - sever ivy at base T6- Norway maple - remove hung up branch T7- Weeping willow remove deadwood T10- Common pear- lift crown 1.5 meters.

d) Drainage of Land

Councillor D Weir had met with a drainage consultant on the playing field with regard to a quotation being provided for work required to existing drainage which had been installed approximately 50 years ago. This was to rectify flooding issues. A copy of the existing drainage previously installed had been provided to the Contractor.

The Consultant had asked for clarification as to whether the water drained into the ditch on land immediately adjoining the recreation ground, as opposed to across agricultural land.

Following discussion, Councillor D Weir agreed to liaise with a nearby neighbour to check if he was aware if the water drained into the ditch on his land.

e) Annual Play Area Inspection

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual RoSPA play area inspection was booked with Play Safety and would take place in September.

f) Revised Play Area Signage

This was deferred to the next meeting.

70. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor A Marsden reported that two social events were due to take place in October and December and the All Sorts Sale would take place in March 2024.

Lowsonford Village Hall

No matters to report.

71. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

a) Roads & Drains in Lowsonford

The County Council had confirmed that drainage and gully clearance would take place later in the year.

b) Proposed Bus Stop on OWR

Graham Stanley who was at the meeting, confirmed that due to visibility splays and safety concerns, it was not possible to install a bus stop and hard standing on Old Warwick Road near to Hennessy House. Mr Hennessy had confirmed that was happy to allow buses to pull into his driveway to allow for the safe pick up and drop off of bus users, particularly school children.

c) Speed Limits

Graham Stanley confirmed that it was not possible to reduce the speed limit at any point along Old Warwick Road.

d) 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signage required on Back Lane, Lawsonford

The Clerk agreed to follow this request up with the County Council.

e) Bollards on Back Lane

The Clerk confirmed that the County Council will replace these later in the year.

72. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

73. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

74. Finance

a) Paid during the month

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Clerks Salary August | £831.05 |
| HMRC August | £246.33 |

b) To be paid:

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Clerks Salary | £831.05 |
| HMRC | £246.33 |
| AMW Lawncare | £176.57 |

c) Received:

None

RESOLVED unanimously.

d) Request for Financial Assistance

A request for financial assistance had been received on behalf of Lawsonford Village Hall for £210 to replace the light above the defibrillator to a more energy efficient fitting. Members agreed unanimously to grant th£210.

e) External Audit 2023/2024

The Clerk reported that the external audit was certified on 28 July 2024.

75. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL)

Mr G Stanley discussed the design of the proposed Village Gateway Signage, which was to be installed on Lapworth Street, Lawsonford and Mill Lane. Members agreed to the proposed design and a proof would be circulated for members to review.

76. Items for the Next Agenda

None to note.

77. Future Meeting Dates

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thursday 10 October 2024 | Rowington Village Hall |
| Thursday 14 November 2024 | Lowsonford Village Hall |
| Thursday 12 December 2024 | Rowington Village Hall |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

Report from District Councillors

Biodiversity Action Programme

This Biodiversity Action Programme sets out our strategic approach to 2050 to help create a district that is rich in nature by halting biodiversity loss and putting nature on a path to recovery. It also plays an important role in the delivery of our plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Please go to Biodiversity - Warwick District Council. (warwickdc.gov.uk) for more information.

Green Homes Grants

What is the Green Homes Grants scheme?

We have successfully received funding to help residents keep warmer and lower their fuel bills – for free.

Who is it for?

This scheme is open to private owner-occupied properties that don't currently heat their home using mains gas.

To be eligible for the funding, you need to.

Own and live in your home, or rent it privately to a tenant within Warwick District; and have a gross household income of less than £36,000 per year OR live in an eligible postcode area; and, currently heat your home with alternative fuels other than gas such as oil, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), coal, solid fuels or electricity; and, live in a home that has an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating of D, E, F or G. If you don't have an EPC, then E.ON will arrange this for you if we think that your property is energy inefficient.

What measures are available?

Solar PV panels, Air source heat pumps, Loft insulation, Cavity wall insulation, Smart heating controls, External wall insulation Installation.

The energy efficiency improvement(s) for your home will be carried out by an E.ON Trustmark registered contractor.

Eligible postcodes.

Landlords

The scheme is also available to privately rented properties, subject to the tenant and the property meeting the eligibility criteria.

District Opens Venues for Heritage Open Days

Dozens of buildings in our district, some of which are not normally accessible to the public will be opening their doors for free next month for Heritage Open Days. Running from 6 to 15 September, Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture and over the ten days there will be over forty local venues taking part. During the festival visitors will get a chance to visit the oldest tennis club in the world, the church where JRR Tolkien was married, the ancient location where Guy of Warwick lived and died as a hermit or a historical site dating back to the Knight's Templars. There is also the opportunity to join a variety of themed guided walks around Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth. Many of the district's churches will also be open with volunteers on hand to show visitors around their stunning interiors designed by the leading architects and artists of the day. Other local attractions including the Lord Leycester, Packwood House, Baddesley Clinton, Hill Close Gardens and Bagot's Castle will be offering free admission at limited times. Amongst the venues taking part is the Collegiate Church of St Mary in Warwick, who will be offering visitors the chance to tour the tower and see the Victorian ringing room and bells for the first time in two years following its closure for a £multi-million restoration.

South Warwickshire Local Plan Update

As you will be aware a proposal has been made for a new settlement in and around Hatton Station. Hatton parish Council and Shrewley Parish Council have been invited to attend a meeting on Friday 27th September at 2pm, and while it isn't a public meeting, it's an opportunity for the two parish councils to discuss the proposal with the council and officers will give an update of the Local Plan process moving forward.

On 30th July the new government announced a consultation on major changes to the planning system, which runs to the end of September. In this document there is a proposal regarding changing the number required for WDC to build in to the Local Plan proposals being developed. If the plan goes through would increase the requirement of houses to be built in the new Local Plan from 2027 from 653 to 1080 per year for the next 25 years. This is an increase of 427 houses per year. We will keep you updated once the consultation is over.

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Day opportunities for Older People and People with Dementia

Increased opportunities for socialising, improved quality of life and health, and living longer independent lives in their own communities are the intended outcomes from new contracts for day opportunities for older people and people with dementia. Warwickshire County Council Cabinet gave approval to tender for provision of day opportunities in the community, ensuring older people and people with dementia can access these opportunities close to where they live. Warwickshire County Council (WCC) services review highlighted that there is a significant number of older people, people living with dementia and their carers who would benefit greatly from day opportunities which focuses on enhancing what is already in place and looking to identify areas for improvement.

Day opportunities will allow individuals to engage and socialise in meaningful physical, social and mental activities, promoting improved quality of life and independence. They will also provide a vital function to families and carers by offering valuable daytime respite.

Can you help to shape the recovery of nature in the Warwickshire?

Warwickshire County Council in partnership with the Local Nature Partnership is seeking support from residents, businesses and community groups to shape the development of a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the county. The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership is a partnership of local organisations with the purpose of driving positive change for the natural environment and have offered to help prepare the LNRS by reaching out their members and contacts.

The LNRS is a key strategy that will outline a roadmap for restoring and improving Warwickshire's natural environment ensuring that it is sustainable now and for future generations.

A survey is now live in which all the county's stakeholders – from businesses to schools – will be asked to give their overall thoughts on natural environments and biodiversity, to think about their local area and which areas of the recovery of our natural world that they think should be prioritised.

Have your say today: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/nature-recovery/>

Warwickshire County Council welcomes refreshed Local Councils' Charter

The Charter reaffirms its commitment to strengthening partnerships with local communities.

The Charter outlines how the County Council will work with Borough and District Councils and Town and Parish Councils to improve services and decision-making at a local level.

Councillor Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate and Culture, expressed her enthusiasm for the refreshed Charter: "This is a significant step forward in our efforts to empower local communities and ensure that their voices are heard. "The Charter provides a clear framework for collaboration and partnership, and I am confident that it will lead to even better outcomes for residents across Warwickshire."

The Charter is key to tackling deprivation and inequality across the county and meeting our collective commitments around climate change and biodiversity.

World Alzheimer's Month 2024: Time to Act on Dementia, Time to Act on Alzheimer's

Over 8,500 people are estimated to be living with dementia in Warwickshire alone. Yet, the impact of dementia affects those not only with a diagnosis, but also families, friends, and carers.

Throughout the course of the month, the council will be highlighting key resources available to individuals living with dementia and their caregivers, ensuring that everyone has the support they need. World Alzheimer's Month is an annual international campaign led by Alzheimer's Disease International. This year's theme, 'Time to Act on Dementia, Time to Act on Alzheimer's,' notably focuses on raising awareness and addressing the stigma that still surrounds those with dementia. Stress, anxiety, depression, certain physical illnesses, infections, and vitamin or thyroid deficiencies can all contribute to cognitive impairment. If you notice your memory getting significantly worse or it begins to impact your daily life, it's important to book an appointment with your GP as soon as possible, as it could be a sign of dementia. Early diagnosis will allow for effective support and treatment to help slow down the progression of dementia. Unfortunately, nearly half of Warwickshire residents with dementia remain undiagnosed, meaning they miss out on vital information and support.

27 all-electric buses on their way as zero-emission scheme is approved

Warwickshire County Council is moving closer to its ambitions to be net zero by 2050 following the announcement that the county has allocated significant funding to commission 27 all electric buses.

At the cabinet meeting on Thursday, 5 September, 2024, the decision was taken to add £13.864 million to the Capital Programme for the Warwickshire Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)2 Scheme.

The funding, which includes contributions from the Department for Transport (DfT), Stagecoach Midlands, and Section 106 developer contributions, will enable the introduction of 27 all-electric buses and associated charging infrastructure on key routes across Warwickshire.

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/s38182/Warwickshire%20ZEBRA2%20Scheme.pdf>

Warwickshire County Council has announced significant additions – totalling £20.766 million – to its Education Capital Programme for 2024/25.

This confirmed investment will help to ensure the county can meet its growing demand for school places and early years provision.

The proposed additions to the capital programme include:

Shipston High School: £2.188 million additional investment to deliver a 1FE expansion, increasing the school’s capacity by 150 pupils.

Callendar Farm (a new primary school): £16.500 million investment to deliver a new 2FE primary school with early years and resourced provision places, providing 420 new primary school places.

Early Years schemes: £418. 000 investment to deliver early years schemes at Kenilworth Nursery, Little Learners Day Nursery (Nuneaton), Happy Days Nursery (Southam), and Shipston Pre-School. These schemes will support with the new childcare entitlements being rolled out this year by central government.

Cllr Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education at Warwickshire County said “We are committed to providing high-quality education for all children in Warwickshire. This significant investment in our Education Capital Programme will help to ensure that we have the capacity to meet the growing demand for school places and early years provision.”