

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor J Coles
Councillor A Marsden (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
5 members of the public for all or part of the meeting
District Councillor R Hales
County Council Councillor J Cooke

Councillor A Marsden in the Chair

78. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillors L Firth, T Parker & T Remment and District Councillors D Armstrong and K Aizlewood.

79. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

80. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2024

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor J Coles that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Vice-Chairman.

81. Co-option of Parish Councillors

Co-option forms had been received and circulated to members of behalf of Allyson Coleman and Ian Henderson.

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir, seconded by Councillor J Coles and resolved unanimously, that Allyson Coleman be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir, seconded by Councillor J Coles and resolved unanimously, that Ian Henderson be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Councillors A Coleman and I Henderson completed their Acceptance of Office forms and were welcomed to the meeting.

82. Election of a Chairman

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor A Marsden, invited nominations for the Office of Chairman and Councillor A Coleman expressed her interest in being voted in as Chairman.

Councillor D Weir proposed that Councillor A Coleman be elected as Chairman, seconded by Councillor J Coles and resolved unanimously that Councillor A Coleman be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor A Coleman in the chair

83. Questions from Members of the Public

Three members of the public expressed concern regarding the land on Back Lane, Lawsonford and Councillor R Hales provided an update. No planning application had been received to date regarding changes to the land or its use.

Councillor D Weir requested that members consider pursuing a request to the District Council to put in place, an Article 4 Direction in Lawsonford, to protect the Conservation Area with regard to future planning applications. Councillor J Coles was to assist Councillor Weir in providing local historical information.

84. Report from County Councillor

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

85. Report from District Councillors

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

86. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W23/1747 & 1748LB	Manor Farm, Holywell, Rowington Conversion of barn to create 2no. new dwellings and associated vehicular access	17/04/24	No objection	
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	Granted
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	

b) Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered:

W24/ 1188 - Bens Cottage, Manor Lane, Pinley Green - Erection of a single storey rear extension, replacement windows and timber cladding to north west and east elevations

(Councillor A Coleman declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussion or voting)

Following consideration, members raised no objection to the application.

c) Planning Committee Meeting

The Clerk reported that following publication of the agenda, three further applications had been received and it was agreed to hold a Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 22 October 2024 at 7.30pm at Rowington Village Hall to consider those applications.

87. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – none

b) Future Inspections Dates - Councillor T Remment – 13 October & Councillor J Coles – 27 October

c) Tree Survey & Works Required on Playing Field

The Clerk reported that she had submitted a request to the LPA to carry out the required works:

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.

The LPA had replied, confirming that having reviewed the application, the LPA had been able to promptly determine the application as “Permission Not Required” as the work to trees within the CA is exempt from the need for prior approval.

d) Drainage of Land

Councillor D Weir had met with the local resident with regard to original drainage installed at the playing field in the 1970s to establish one or two queries raised by the drainage company. The information provided would be passed to the drainage company to enable them to provide a quotation.

e) Annual Play Area Inspection

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual RoSPA play area inspection had taken place in September, and she was obtaining quotes and further information regarding the issues which had been raised.

It was agreed to consider employing a qualified inspector to carry out weekly/monthly inspections and this would be considered at the next meeting.

f) Revised Entrance Play Area Signage

The Clerk had circulated a draft paper setting out revised signage required at the three entrances. Following additional text, it was agreed that the Clerk obtain a quotation for the replacement signs.

88. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

No matters to report.

Lowsonford Village Hall

No matters to report.

89. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

The Chairman reported that a new foot bridge had been installed on the public footpath at the rear of Narrow Lane, Lowsonford.

The Chairman raised concern regarding a raised manhole cover that had been displaced following the recent mowing of verges on Finwood Road towards Lowsonford and the Clerk agreed to report this to the County Council Highways.

The Clerk reported that Graham Stanley had confirmed the ‘Unsuitable for HGV’s’ signage required on Back Lane, Lowsonford, was with the Delivery Team, and have passed these over to the Contractor for supply and installation.

90. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

91. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

92. Finance

a) Paid during the month

Lowsonford Village Hall Grant £210.00

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary £984.45

HMRC £92.23

MI Business Services £75.00

AMW Lawn Care £224.44

Play Safety RoSPA Inspection £132.00

c) Received:

Precept Second Payment £11,000

RESOLVED unanimously.

93. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL)

Mr G Stanley had not yet provided the draft design of the proposed Village Gateway Signage, which was to be installed on Lapworth Street, Lowsonford and Mill Lane.

94. Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 10 November 2024 at 10.30am.

Members invited Councillor I Henderson to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

95. Items for the Next Agenda

None to note.

96. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 14 November 2024 Lowsonford Village Hall

Thursday 12 December 2024 Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Report from District Councillors

Soft plastic recycling

Warwick District residents have been chosen as the first in the County to recycle plastic bags and wrapping along with other recycling at kerbside. Plastics such as plastic bags, confectionary wrappers, foil lined packaging, bubble wrap, plastic film and more can now be placed in the blue-lidded recycling bin for fortnightly collection. These and other recycled materials are sorted at the Sherbourne materials recycling facility, Coventry, where separated material is sent off for UK-based re-use. We're pleased to formally announce this change and encourage residents to make use of it.

Planning enforcement on Back Lane, Shrewley

During September, development activity at land off Back Lane took place without planning permission, with the apparent aim of setting up residential caravans on the site. This activity began early on a Saturday morning, and thanks to early warnings from residents and preparation from officers, a Temporary Stop Notice was served in a matter of hours. That notice legally prohibits further development, and is valid for 28 days, during which further contact, monitoring, and investigation is continuing. Officers and Councillors are now monitoring the site and assessing what legal action is possible and necessary to restore the site to its prior condition.

Pension credit support

With the recent government plans to remove winter fuel allowance from all pensioners not on pension credit, it is absolutely critical to ensure all eligible pensioners have signed up for the credit. We are committed to supporting residents in applying for credit, and can help with the (quite complex!) form required. Please contact your Councillors if you, or someone you know, would like assistance. Pensioners who the Council believes might be eligible are being contacted directly, but we want to avoid anyone slipping through the cracks.

Finally, some quick updates. Our Autumn Biodiversity newsletter is available. Please take a look and see how you can help support our actions to improve biodiversity across the district. Hedgehog photos included. Since starting operations in June our new dedicated fly tipping team has collected over 70 tonnes of fly tipped waste. Hopefully residents have noticed the faster collection time when reporting tips.

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) focused on key priorities at today's Council meeting, including keeping Warwickshire communities safe, supporting vulnerable young people, expanding school capacity and advancing greener public transport options.

The Council approved minor modifications to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service's (WFRS) Community Risk Management Plan, which sets out the key challenges and risks facing Warwickshire communities and how WFRS will address and mitigate them. The updates reflect changes following WCC's Cabinet approval in July 2024 of a new operating model for WFRS. These updates include information on resilience teams, appliance availability, and clarification on WFRS's response model and resource deployment.

The Council also approved Warwickshire's Youth Justice Plan, a statutory requirement for all local authorities. This plan builds on recent successes, including achieving low numbers of children in custody, alongside consistent reductions in both offending and reoffending rates.

Two new education projects were also ratified by the Council: the expansion of Shipston High School and the construction of a new primary school at Callendar Farm. These projects, previously approved by Cabinet, required Full Council ratification as their combined value exceeds £2 million.

In addition, the Council signed off a £13.864m addition to the Capital Programme for the Warwickshire Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)2 Scheme. This investment will fund 27 zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure, furthering the county's commitment to sustainable transport.

WBEAS support takes brakes off Harry Burrows' growth plans

A growing manufacturing business in Warwickshire is "much more productive and using a fraction of the energy" following bespoke support from the Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service (WBEAS).

Harry Burrows Fabrications received a WBEAS grant which covered a third of the £300,000 costs of a new laser cutter at their factory on Bayton Way, Exhall.

The company, which employs 39 people, had encountered a problem familiar to many growing small businesses - increasing demand for their services could not be fulfilled by struggling, outdated machinery.

They contacted the WBEAS, delivered by Coventry City Council on behalf of Warwickshire County Council and the county's five District and Borough Councils, under which they received a free energy audit. That gave them invaluable advice on how to reduce emissions and become more cost-effective.

The grant then helped them invest in a new laser cutter which has transformed their business offer. It has also transformed their energy consumption with an estimated annual Co2 reduction of 22.77 tonnes, a saving of £23,272.

Smokers across Warwickshire five times more likely to quit for good for the 28 days of "Stoptober."

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Coventry City Council (CCC) are calling on smokers across the area this Stoptober to join the 2.5 million others in England who have made a quit attempt with the campaign previously.

Smoking causes 64,000 deaths a year, making it still the biggest cause of preventable illness and death. Despite this, an estimated 18.4% of people aged 18+ in Coventry and 13.9% in Warwickshire smoke. In Warwickshire, this varies across the district and boroughs. (Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2022).

Quitting smoking is one of the best things you can do for your health. That's why this year's Stoptober campaign is encouraging smokers to join the thousands of others who are committing to quitting for the month of October. People who quit smoking for 28 days are five times more likely to quit for good. When you stop smoking good things start to happen – quitting will allow you to start moving better, breathe more easily and give you more money to spend.

To get local support and quit smoking this Stoptober, visit www.smokefreecw.co.uk

Warwickshire Fostering Celebration - Awards, Art, & Support

Warwickshire Fostering is excited to announce a special celebration event on Thursday 7 November at the historic Old Shire Hall in Warwick.

This event will bring together foster carers, care experienced young people, and those interested in fostering to recognise the incredible work of foster carers in Warwickshire.

The celebration will feature a variety of events, including:

- Foster Carer Awards: Recognising the outstanding contributions of Warwickshire foster carers in the community.
- Care Experienced Art Exhibition: Showcasing the talents and experiences of care-experienced young people.
- "Sapling Scheme" Launch: Providing support and mentoring for new foster carers.
- "Hey we hear you" Foster carer's voices project: Sharing messages of love and hope with the children in their care.
- 'Everything' Film Showcase: A screening of a short film highlighting the power of fostering.
- Meet the Recruitment Team: Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about fostering and ask any questions they might have.

Warwickshire County Council expands specialist support for children with SEND

More children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Warwickshire are now receiving tailored support within mainstream schools, thanks to the launch of several new specialist resourced provisions (SRPs) across the county.

As part of its ongoing commitment to improving education for students with SEND, Warwickshire County Council has invested in the creation of six new Specialist Resource Provisions (SRP), as well as expanding existing provision, in both primary and secondary schools across the county to offer an additional 62 places. SRPs are specialised environments within mainstream schools that offer support for students who can access the curriculum but may face difficulties in fully participating in regular classroom activities.

Warwickshire County Council offers two types of Specialist Resource Provision: one which supports communication and interaction (C&I) needs, and the other which supports social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs.