

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

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor J Coles
Councillor L Firth
Councillor I Henderson
Councillor A Marsden (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor T Parker
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
6 members of the public

100. Apologies

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

101. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Weir declared an interest in item 109d below and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

102. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 October 2024 & Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 22 October 2024

Following an amendment to the item relating to Article 4 Direction, it was proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor D Weir that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October and the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 22 October 2024, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

103. Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Stillion Petrov introduced himself and relayed that he would be standing as a County Councillor in May 2025.

104. Report from County Councillor

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

105. Report from District Councillors

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

106. 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	
W24/0927	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	
W24/1094	Oaktrees, The Cumsey, Pinley Remodelling of second floor	04/11/24	Object	
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	10/10/24	No objection	Granted
W24/1231LB	Kingswood Farm Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Replacement of existing windows	25/10/24	No objection	
W24/1291LB & 1290	Garden Rose Cottage, Case Lane Proposed installation of sewage treatment tank to rear of property and drainage pipework to run parallel with the driveway from the treatment tank to the highway	29/10/24	No objection	

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

W24/1359 – 2 Quarry Cottages, Rowington Green – proposed erection of first floor & rear extension

Following consideration, members supported this application. The family has provided sufficient information to support the application and improve this family home based upon planning grounds.

W24/1394 – Holywell House, Holywell – Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of single storey side and rear extension

Following consideration, members raised no objection to the application.

W24/0927 – Amended plans – Land to North East of High Cross Lane, Shrewley

Following consideration of the amended plans, members agreed to retain their objection to this application.

c) Appeals:

Appeal Ref: APP/T3725/W/24/3342613 Gracedieu, Rowington Green, Rowington - Appeal Dismissed

Chenac, Nunhold Road, Pinley Green - Conversion of former workshop into a 1-bed residential dwelling Application Reference: W/24/0922. Appeal reference: APP/T3725/W/24/3352462 - Appeal start date: 31/10/2024

d) Land on Back Lane

No further updates were available and no planning application had been submitted.

e) Article 4 Direction

Councillors D Weir, J Coles and the Chairman would provide an update at the next meeting.

107. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports – Councillor T Remment – 13 October 2024

b) Future Inspections Dates - Councillor D Weir – 24 November

c) Tree Survey & Works Required on Playing Field

As previously reported, these works are due to take place on 15 November 2024.

d) Drainage of Land

This matter was deferred to a Finance Meeting which the Clerk would arrange for early December.

e) Annual Play Area Inspection

This matter was deferred to the forthcoming Finance Meeting to discuss costs.

f) Play Area Inspections

The Clerk agreed to investigate the costs of either employing an Inspector for regular play area checks or consider the possibility of herself and a Councillor to attend a training course.

g) Revised Entrance Play Area Signage

The Clerk had received a quote for the three new revised entrance signs for £216.

Councillor I Henderson proposed to adopt the quote, seconded by A Marsden and resolved unanimously.

108. Reports from Village Halls

Rowington Village Hall

Councillor D Weir reported that Rowington Village Hall Committee Trustees manage the Village Hall on behalf of the Parish Council and meet regularly to discuss the upkeep and maintenance of the Hall.

The Social Committee also organise fund raising events to generate income for the Hall. A Simple Supper with a talk on North Korea was held recently and forthcoming events include the Mistletoe Ball with the 'Goodfellows' on 7th December. Village Hall events are advertised in the Ferncumbe News.

Lowsonford Village Hall

No matters to report.

109. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Councillor J Coles asked the Clerk to email the County Council to thank the team for clearing all the blocked drains at Lowsonford on 26th October 2024, a thorough job was completed and this was fully explained at the time.

However, the exit gully from the road which drains the water is blocked. The Engineer mentioned that this would be notified to the Parish Council because without clearing the gully water will persist on the road which at times can be 20m in length with a depth of 15cm, but occasionally impassable. A yellow arrow has been painted in the road to indicate the position of the gully.

Councillor L Firth reported that whilst the County Council had carried out repair works to the footway near the Elephant & Castle and Arden Cottage on Old Warwick Road, not all repairs had been completed and the Clerk agreed to contact the County Council to report this matter.

110. Meetings & Training Days

None to report.

111. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

WDC – Government Consultation enabling remote attendance and proxy votes at local authority meetings

WDC – Pension Credit Information – Information available on the Parish Council’s website

Keep Hatton Station Rural email

112. Finance

a) Paid during the month

Water Plus Allotments water	£81.14
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b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£984.45
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HMRC	£92.23
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AMW Lawn Care	£136.15
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Poppy Appeal Wreath	£20.00
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c) Received:

None

RESOLVED unanimously.

d) Requests for Finance

Request for a financial contribution towards the Golden Oldies Christmas Lunch for £400

Following consideration, it was proposed by Councillor L Firth, seconded by Councillor T Parker and resolved unanimously that the Parish Council grants £400 to the Golden Oldies Lunch from S137 funds.

Request for a financial contribution towards the upkeep of the grounds at St Laurence and St Luke’s for £900

Following consideration, it was proposed by Councillor A Marsden, seconded by Councillor T Parker and resolved unanimously that the Parish Council grants £900 to Rowington PCC from S137 Funds.

113. 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.

114. Meeting Dates 2025

The Clerk had circulated proposed meeting dates for 2025 and the schedule was adopted by members of the Parish Council.

115. Tennis Club Licence

Discussions took place as to the procedure for setting the Licence Fee for the Tennis Club, which had always previously been referred to the PC prior to formal agreement of the Licence Fee. The Parish Council would then issue the Licence letter to the Chairman of the Tennis Club who would sign the agreement letter and return it to the PC along with the fee. It seemed that the Licence Fee had already been agreed for 2025. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

116. Email Addresses

The Clerk asked members to consider the adoption of a designated .gov PC email address and this was resolved unanimously. The Clerk would investigate costs for the Finance Meeting.

117. Rowington Almshouse Charity – Nomination of Two Trustees

The Clerk reported that the term of office of Mrs Jean Hames would end on 25th November 2024, and Mr Richard Watson on 12th January 2025. These two Trustees of the Charity were appointed by the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Councillor I Henderson and seconded by Councillor D Weir that Mrs J Hames and Mr R Watson are re-appointed for a further four years.

118. Items for the Next Agenda

St Lukes Church, Lowsonford

119. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 12 December 2024

Rowington Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

Report from District Councillors

Pension Credits

Following a motion at Council regarding the District's response to changes in the winter fuel allowance, we can confirm that the Council is making great effort to assist pensioners who may be missing out on winter fuel payments and to minimise the impact on our most vulnerable residents.

Parish Councils are asked to further engage with their communities to encourage the take up of Pension Credits and encourage pensioners to check their eligibility independently. WDC has committed to make further practical advice available.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

Work continues with Stratford District Council to develop a new Local Plan. The target for building new homes across South Warwickshire has shifted with a new "standard method" being introduced by the Labour government. This method requires that Warwick and Stratford District Councils identify additional land, with an expectation that many new homes will be for people moving into the area. There are major implications for new infrastructure and the SWLP will set out the Preferred Options for managing this growth in housing, balancing this against other commitments e.g. to develop healthy communities and reduce carbon pollution.

A public consultation is to commence in early January 2025, for eight weeks. However, some documents will be available to view online before then, from 22 November.

Building new affordable homes

The completion of seventeen new homes on a brownfield site in Cubbington is a landmark achievement for WDC and part of a long-term strategy to boost the provision of affordable and sustainable homes in the District. Seven of these homes are deemed "affordable". The new houses have been built on WDC owned land, following purchase of the plot in 2020. The land purchase has allowed us to create homes which are also energy efficient benefitting from air source heat pumps, solar panels and electric vehicle charging points. The remaining ten homes have been sold on the open market with the proceeds reinvested for future developments.

Winter events

With the festive season looming, there is plenty going on across the District. Dates and details for numerous seasonal events can be access through the following link to the What's On guide.

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Residents urged to attend organised events only this bonfire night.

As Bonfire Night approaches, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is urging residents to avoid personal firework displays and attend organised events instead.

While the dazzling firework displays make this a great tradition, it's also a time when emergency services often respond to an increase in fire and firework-related incidents.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable celebration, WFRS offers the following safety tips:

Purchase fireworks responsibly: Only buy fireworks that carry the CE mark and store them in a closed metal box.

Maintain a safe distance: Keep fireworks away from trees, fences, and your property to prevent accidental fires.

Follow instructions carefully: Read and adhere to the instructions on each firework, using a flashlight if necessary.

Never return to a lit firework: A firework may explode unexpectedly even after it has gone out.

Avoid dangerous practices: Never set off fireworks on a balcony or while under the influence of alcohol.

Children should be supervised at all times: Keeping children safe during bonfire night must be a priority, be careful if using sparklers and always have a bucket of water ready to extinguish.

Remember to keep pets safe and indoors during Bonfire Night. Loud noises and bright flashes can frighten animals, and stray fireworks pose a serious threat.

Warwickshire Libraries' Chatterbooks programme achieves national recognition

Warwickshire County Council's libraries service is delighted to share that its Chatterbooks programme, aimed at engaging with school children who may otherwise never attend their local library, has gained national recognition.

Warwickshire Libraries' Chatterbooks programme was selected as one of three case studies from across the country to be presented to MPs at the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals' (CILIP's) latest event on Monday 21 October in UK Parliament.

The event, Libraries Change Lives by Creating Opportunities, was a special parliamentary reception celebrating the positive impact of libraries, and aiming to connect policymakers with library sector representatives and allies to showcase the power of libraries to create opportunities for everyone.

Each session included a variety of accessible and fun activities linked to popular books, crafting, sensory play, and trips to local attractions like The Royal Shakespeare Company. Participants of Chatterbooks did not necessarily have reading capability issues, but rather lacked a general interest in reading.

New mini exhibition series at Warwickshire Libraries

Making Connections will be hosted by ten different libraries from Autumn 2024 to Spring 2025.

From high-status tableware to everyday brooches, the objects found on Roman sites around Warwickshire tell us a lot about people's daily lives and the connections and journeys made across the Roman Empire.

For the next six months, a handful of star items from the collections of Warwickshire Museum will be on temporary display in libraries across Warwickshire. Every object has a story to tell about people and places nearly 2000 years ago.

The small selection of objects from our collection that will be on display include glossy Samian ware bowls, pieces of carved Italian marble, and bronze brooches, all found through archaeological investigations in Warwickshire. Which library you visit will determine which objects you see.

There will also be children's activity sheets linked to the displays available at each library venue.

New role to lead the development of supported internships in Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has appointed a Supported Internships Coordinator to oversee and enhance the delivery of supported internships for young people aged 16 to 24 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across the county.

This role, funded by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), will focus on improving access to these work-based study programmes. The newly appointed Coordinator started in September 2024 and will be in post until the end of March 2025.

With the launch of a new suite of Supported Internships guidance booklets for businesses, education providers, families and young people in 2023, WCC has been committed to expanding opportunities for young people with SEND to participate in supported internships. These programmes are designed for those with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) who are preparing to enter the workforce. By attending a full-time placement primarily based with an employer, participants gain essential workplace skills and pursue a tailored curriculum that helps them achieve relevant qualifications. Local colleges and dedicated job coaches provide additional support throughout the process.

For more information on Supported Internships in Warwickshire, including guidance for colleges, businesses, parents, and carers, as well as an Easy Read Guide for young people.

New contract for the recycling of cardboard and paper awarded

Warwickshire County Council has awarded a new contract for the provision of containers, haulage, and the recycling of cardboard and paper from the county's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The contract, valued between £750,000 and £1,000,000 over a five-year period, has been awarded to GAE Smith Holdings Limited trading as Casepak following a competitive tender process.

The new contract will ensure the continued recycling of approximately 2,000 tonnes per year of cardboard and paper generated annually at Warwickshire's HWRCs. Casepak, the current provider, demonstrated its ability to meet the Council's requirements with its modern fleet of GPS-equipped vehicles and certified management systems for environmental, quality, and health and safety standards.

Local company Nuneaton Signs presented with The King's Award for Enterprise by Warwickshire's Lord Lieutenant

Nuneaton Signs Ltd, a well-established national provider of signage based in Nuneaton in Warwickshire, was officially presented with the prestigious King's Award for Enterprise (KAE) by Tim Cox, the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

The company achieved the KAE in the category of Promoting Opportunity and was officially presented with the award at their premises in Nuneaton on Friday 20 September.

Nuneaton Signs were the only business in the West Midlands, and one of only eight businesses in the UK, to achieve a KAE in this category in 2024. Nuneaton Signs operates as a social enterprise and is dedicated to making a positive impact. The company prioritises having an inclusive and supportive work environment and is proud to provide employment opportunities for a skilled and diverse workforce where over 66% of the employees have disabilities.

National Adoption Week highlights adoption journeys of all kinds

Adoption Central England (ACE), the regional adoption agency for Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Coventry, and Solihull, is supporting this year's National Adoption Week (21-27 October) campaign sponsored by Adoption England.

The national campaign, YouCanAdopt, aims to raise awareness of adoption and dispel myths around who is eligible to adopt as more adoptive parents are needed for those children who are waiting to join new families.

Adopters can be any age, from any background, and can be single or in a couple. The most important thing is that they can provide a secure and loving home to a child, or children, and can be there to support them to thrive. [A heartwarming video from the campaign](#) demonstrates this through the stories of three adoptive families sharing their experiences in conversations onboard a train. This setting symbolises the adoption journey that conveys, despite the ups and downs and detours on the way, that it is overwhelmingly a positive and rewarding to do to provide a permanent family home to a child who is waiting for this opportunity.