

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM**

**Present**

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)  
Councillor J Coles  
Councillor I Henderson  
Councillor A Marsden (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor D Weir  
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall  
1 member of the public  
Warwick District Councillor R Hales  
County Councillor J Cooke

**140. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillor L Firth, District Councillors D Armstrong & K Aizlewood. No apology had been received from Councillor T Remment.

**141. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**142. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor A Coleman, that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024 having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**143. Questions from Members of the Public**

No matters were raised.

**144. Report from County Councillor**

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

**145. Report from District Councillors**

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

**146. Planning Matters**

a) The following planning matters were reported.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Application Details</b>	<b>Comments required by</b>	<b>PC Decision</b>	<b>WDC Decision</b>
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	Granted
W24/1094	Oaktrees, The Cumsey, Pinley Remodelling of second floor	04/11/24	Object	
W24/1231LB	Kingswood Farm Old Warwick Road, Lapworth Replacement of existing windows	25/10/24	No objection	Refused
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	Granted
W24/1359	2 Quarry Farm Cottages, Rowington Green Proposed erection of first-floor rear extension	28/11/24	No objection	Refused
W24/1394	Holywell House, Holywell Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of single storey side and rear extension	15/11/24	No objection	Granted

b) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

c) South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Preferred Options Consultation – Call for Sites

The SWLP Consultation went live on 10 January and is open until 7 March 2025.

Members discussed the consultation at length and raised serious concerns, particularly with regard to the area marked C1, which would have a detrimental impact on the area in relation to traffic, lack of infrastructure and harm to the Green Belt.

There was to be a Public Meeting on Saturday 18 January at Lapworth Village Hall, which had been organised by the Green Party and some members of the Parish Council would attend this meeting and circulate their views.

It was agreed that the Chairman of Rowington Parish Council would liaise with the Chairman of Lapworth Parish Council with a view to holding a joint meeting and consider employing the services of a Planning Consultant.

d) Appeals:

ENFORCEMENT APPEAL NOTIFICATION TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED) - SECTION 174 APPEAL BY: Mr Thomas Doran SITE: Land south-west of, Back Lane.

Councillor I Henderson was to attend a meeting with Will Holloway and residents on Friday 17 January and would update members after that meeting. Members were encouraged to circulate their views which would form a response to the Planning Inspector. Response due by 13 February 2025.

Councillor R Hales expressed his sincere thanks to Councillor Henderson for his continued support regarding the issues raised with the current occupation of the land.

**147. Finance**

**a) Paid during the month**

Gloves & bin bags for playing field £17.34

**b) To be paid:**

Clerks Salary	£1014.67
HMRC	£109.31
Lowsonford Village Hall Hire	£33.00

**c) Received:**

Bank Interest on CIL Account	£25.08
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RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**148. Items for the Next Agenda**

Parish Notice Board near Kingswood.

**149. Future Meeting Dates**

Thursday 13 February 2025	Lowsonford Village Hall
Thursday 13 March 2025	Rowington Village Hall
Thursday 10 April 2025	Lowsonford Village Hall

**150. Confidential Items**

Under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press were excluded from the meeting due to the potential disclosure of sensitive information about an individual and financial or business affairs.

a) Replacement Notice Boards & Installation

The Clerk had circulated three quotations for the purchase of four new green metal parish notice boards to be installed at Old Warwick Road near the church, Rowington, Pinley Green on the grass triangle, Lapworth Street in Lowsonford, and Lowsonford Village Hall. These would be accessible to the public and sign written with 'Rowington Parish Council'. The design was the same as the new notice board installed in 2023 at Rowington Village Hall. The notice board at Lowsonford Village Hall was removed free of charge by DCP Building Services as it was broken and posed a safety hazard. One of the doors on the notice board at Pinley had fallen off. All of the notice boards were beyond repair.

Following consideration of the quotations it was agreed that the Parish Council purchase four notice boards from The Parish Notice Board Company at a cost of £3260 plus VAT from CIL funds. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**b) Installation Costs of New Notice Boards**

The Clerk had circulated three quotations for the installation of the four new notice boards and following consideration, the Parish Council agreed to employ the services of Richard Watson whose quotation was for £1200 to install all four notice boards. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY (subject to confirmation and sight of necessary Public Liability Insurance cover).

**c) To consider quotations for Playing Field Maintenance for 2025**

The Clerk had obtained four quotations for the maintenance of the playing field for the 2025 season and following discussions it was agreed to employ the services of Fairways, a reputable company who work with other Parish Councils.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The quote was based on weekly mowing and collection of grass clippings of the main field (approx. 26 visits £3120) weekly mowing and strimming of the small play area (approx. 26 visits £780.) emptying of the two bins 52 weeks (£1315) and leaf collection and other works as required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

## **Report from District Councillors**

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation**

The latest stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan, the 'Preferred Options' will be open for public consultation between 10<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The consultation will be available, including maps of possible sites. We encourage as many residents as possible to respond. It's important to state that although the mandated housing targets from national government are very high, not every site in the preferred options is required to meet these targets, so responses relating to specific sites are important. For further information and any questions please contact us at the addresses below. We will update all Parishes with details of events around the consultation as they are released.

### **Devolution Bill**

There is much speculation around the 'English Devolution' white paper released by national government and what this means for Warwickshire and the District Council. At present Warwickshire County Council may request, by 10<sup>th</sup> January, that Warwickshire is considered for priority movement into one unitary authority, merging the five District Councils and the County. If the County Council requests this, the national government will decide whether we are prioritised or not. Many questions over practicalities, details and how to best maintain and improve local representation remain to be determined.

### **Christmas Recycling and Tree Collection**

Any extra recycling that won't fit in your blue bin can be put in a sturdy box or container and placed next to the bin for collection. You can also recycle batteries in a sandwich bag or bread bag, and small electrical items that fit inside a standard carrier bag. Just place them on top of your bin for collection. We can also collect real Christmas trees free of charge between 9<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January even if you don't have a garden waste subscription. Any tree over 5ft tall must be cut in half. Just leave your tree outside in a visible place that's not obstructing the highway and we'll collect it between those dates.

## **Report From County Councillor**

### **Proposals to have a combined Authority instead of separate District & County Councils**

Following statements made during the recent Budget, The Leader of Warwickshire County Council Cllr Izzi Seccombe is to write to the Government suggesting that Warwickshire County Council & all of its District & Borough Councils combine to merge into a County Wide local authority as soon as possible. It is suggested that to do this there would be no County Council Elections in elections May 2025 and that the current Councils should continue until fresh elections to be held in May 2026. Town & Parish Councils would not be affected.

### **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is helping hospital patients return home safely with their Hospital to Home service**

The Hospital to Home service, which launched in 2018, aims to support elderly and vulnerable patients who have been treated at hospital and are well enough to return home, where they feel safe and can be supported to live independently. The service works alongside hospitals to support the discharge of patients 365 days a year. During 2023/24, the service has conducted 1,508 Hospital to Home collections.

As part of the service, when the team support a patient to return home, they will also carry out a Safe and Well check. The check involves looking for potential hazards in the home that can cause slips, trips and falls, carrying out a check for possible fire hazards, inspecting electrical sockets to ensure they are safe to use, checking smoke alarms are working or installing new smoke alarms where there are none. The team will also refer patients to support services if they believe that the patient could use the support to help them remain independent in their home. The team will often re-visit patients to check they how they are since going from hospital to home.

### **Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of Warwickshire County Council, reflects on a year of progress, partnership, and dedication to the people of Warwickshire**

In her end-of-year message, Councillor Seccombe expressed her gratitude to residents, businesses, and community partners for their unwavering support in helping the council deliver on its priorities.

This year, our primary focus has been supporting Warwickshire residents amid the ongoing cost of living crisis. Over the past 12 months, Warwickshire's Local Welfare Scheme has allocated £6.9 million in funding to assist vulnerable residents and expanded its support to those facing crisis situations. Additionally, the scheme has provided grants totalling £183,790 to local food banks, charities, and community groups, enhancing projects related to food and energy assistance.

Embracing a collaborative approach, Warwickshire County Council has worked closely with local partners, businesses, and communities to turn its vision into reality, striving to make Warwickshire the best it can be. The council remains dedicated to fostering cooperation to deliver on the strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan.

Some of the key achievements in 2024 include:

- Launching an ambitious energy strategy to build a sustainable future for the county, focusing on energy reduction, generation, and measurement.
- Successfully contracting Oxford Innovation Advice to deliver a new Manufacturing Growth Programme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, on behalf of six local authorities.
- Earning ISO 14001 certification for the 16th consecutive year, in recognition of the council's strong environmental management system (EMS).

### **Energy bill support available this winter**

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to support people who may be struggling with energy bills this winter.

The Household Support Fund can provide short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment to meet an immediate need and help those who are finding it hard to manage the cost of their energy bills. This supplements ongoing emergency support from the [Local Welfare Scheme](#) for residents in financial crisis.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation. Call 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182 or visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund)

This support is time limited and available from 20 December. Those entitled to benefits eligible free school meals have already received this support as part of their recent cost of living payment.

For residents who previously received the winter fuel payment and are no longer eligible but are finding it difficult to meet the cost of their fuel bills, they can go their local library with a form of ID and proof of their name and address and a member of staff can help with an application for one-off support towards energy costs.

### **Help us improve pharmacies across Coventry and Warwickshire**

Residents of Coventry and Warwickshire are invited to complete a **short online survey** about their experience of pharmacy services to assess future and current needs in the area.

The results of the survey will help to create the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The PNA will inform decisions about future changes to pharmaceutical services across Coventry and Warwickshire. The survey results will also help to commission NHS-funded services that can be provided by local community pharmacies. The PNA will also be used by local authorities and Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) when commissioning services to meet local health needs and priorities. The survey is anonymous and confidential and anyone who uses a local pharmacy is invited to give their views by visiting [coventry.gov.uk/pharmacysurvey](http://coventry.gov.uk/pharmacysurvey)

### **Power down the fire risk: Recycle batteries safely**

Warwickshire County Council Waste and Recycling Service is reminding residents how to safely dispose of used batteries. For most of us, used batteries are as much part of Christmas as turkey and sprouts, with the UK going through millions of them over the festive season. Despite the huge number that will be used, many residents may not realise that batteries carry significant fire risks if they aren't disposed of safely.

**Your local Household Waste Recycling Centre** will have a special section for used batteries.

Unlike many other household items, batteries should not be placed in either your waste or recycling bin at home, but when this happens, it can have explosive consequences.

Batteries in refuse or recycling waste are easily damaged by the equipment used to sort the waste, and when this happens, these batteries can overheat and enter a state called thermal runaway, which may result in fires or explosions