

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman (Chairman)
Councillor Lucy Firth
Councillor A Marsden (Vice-Chairman)
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
8 members of the public for all or part of the meeting

175. Apologies

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

176. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

177. Resignation of a Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported that Ian Henderson had resigned from the Parish Council due to personal reasons and a vote of thanks was raised for Ian's support of the Parish Council.

178. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2025

It was proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor A Coleman, that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2025, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

179. Questions from Members of the Public

Councillors C Henderson, L Beaver and J Hall of Lapworth Parish Council reported that Lapworth Parish Council would be seeking a Community Governance Review (CGR) to determine the current boundary between Lapworth Parish and Rowington Parish, which reflects the community identity of the two parishes.

The Chairman explained that as this was not an agenda item, this could not be considered further at this point. It was agreed that a Public Meeting be held between Rowington and Lapworth Parish Council's to discuss the proposal and the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Clerk of Lapworth Parish Council to organise a meeting at Rowington Village Hall.

180. Report from County Councillor

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

181. Report from District Councillors

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

182. Planning Matters

a) The following planning matters were reported.

Application Number	Application Details	Comments required by	PC Decision	WDC Decision
W24/1725	The Homestead, Case Lane, Shrewley Erection of a two-storey rear extension	19/02/25	No objection subject to verification that this is within the 30% increase limits	

b) Planning Applications

W25/0095 – Woodlands Cottage, Mill Lane, Rowington - New brick skin to the existing gable wall to create a cavity wall, upgrading the existing half brick skin, providing insulation and protection from weather.

Members raised no objection to this application.

W25/0230 - Land to the side of Kingswood Cottages, Old Warwick Road - Permission in principle application for the erection of 1no. dwelling.

Members objected to the application and support the views of the two nearby residents who have also raised concerns. A property on this narrow strip of land, is totally impractical and not in keeping with the area, being located close to the Listed Building properties and concerns were raised regarding future access issues. Furthermore, the area is already susceptible to flash flooding.

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

The response to the SWLP were submitted on 7 March by the Planning Consultant on behalf of the Parish Council. This was available on the Parish Council's website.

d) Land on Back Lane

No matters to report.

183. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports - None

b) Future Inspection Dates – 16 March – Clerk, 23 March – Councillor A Coleman & 30 March – Clerk.

c) The Clerk had met with the new contractor on 5 March and discussed works that were required in line with the RoSPA Inspection that took place in September 2024.

These included goal posts repainting, goal mouth surface area and repointing the slabs near to the basketball net.

Agreed unanimously that works should be carried out to meet with the relevant health and safety requirements.

d) Encroachment of bamboo growth – the contractor agreed to remove the small amount of bamboo from the playing field which had grown through from a neighbouring garden.

184. Reports from Lowsonford & Rowington Village Halls

No matters to report.

185. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

Broken Grit Bin at Preston Lane, Lowsonford

The Clerk had ordered a replacement grit bin which would be fitted and filled with grit salt by WCC.

186. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

The Clerk encouraged members to attend the valuable training sessions that were provided by WALC and the Code of Conduct training, which would take place on 17 March and hosted by WDC.

187. Correspondence

WALC Newsletters

Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 & Covering Letter from the PCC Office

Code of Conduct Training on 17 March - Invitation from WDC

Letter from the proposed Liberal Democrats

188. Finance

a) Paid during the month

None

b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£1014.67
HMRC	£109.31
DM Payroll Services (set-up fee)	£60.00
Rowington Almshouse Charity Allotment Rent	£273.00

c) Received:

Bank Interest on CIL Account	£28.71
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189. Community Infrastructure Levy Funds (CIL)

a) Income & Expenditure

The Clerk updated members on the current income and expenditure of CIL funds and invited ideas for the spending of the residue.

b) Drainage on Playing Field

In the absence of Councillor D Weir, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

190. Tennis Club Licence

The Clerk had submitted the Parish Council's reply to the letter received from the Tennis Club.

The Chairman had not received a response to her enquiry sent to WRCC and confirmed that she would chase this up.

191. Email Addresses

The Clerk encouraged members to set up their new .gov email address for those that had not yet done so.

192. Parish Councillors

Under Sec 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, if a member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend any meeting of the council, they shall, unless failure was due to some reason approved by the council, cease to be a member of the council. '*Any meeting*' within the definition above is not limited to full council, it includes any committee, sub-committee, external meeting/event where the individual acted as a representative of the council.

The Clerk confirmed that Tim Remment had failed to respond to emails and had not attended a meeting of the Parish Council for six months and was therefore, no longer a member of this Council.

The vacancy would be advertised and WDC would be notified.

The Clerk would also place an article in the Ferncumbe News to invite parishioners for co-option.

193. Internal Auditor

It was resolved unanimously to employ Mr Ian Wilson for a further year to carry out the year end internal audit.

194. Items for the Next Agenda

Lapworth Community Governance Review (CGR)

195. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday 10 April 2025

Thursday 24 April 2025 – Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 8 May 2025 – Annual Meeting

Lowsonford Village Hall

Rowington Village Hall

Lowsonford Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.24pm

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

Report from County Councillor J Cooke

Residents urged to register ahead of local elections

With local elections approaching on 1st May 2025, Warwickshire County Council is urging all eligible residents to register to vote and have their say on important local issues. Registering is quick and easy, taking just five minutes to complete. The deadline to register is midnight on Friday, 11th April. Visit [Register to vote - GOV.UK](#) to get started.

This year's elections will determine the councillors who will represent local communities on key issues such as transport, social care, libraries, fire and rescue services, education, and public health. Every vote counts—make sure yours does too.

Warwickshire smokers encouraged to access free, local stop smoking support to go smoke free for good this No Smoking Day 2025

No Smoking Day can be a great time to find motivation to quit smoking, with the added incentive that free support is available for anyone aged 12+ living or working in Warwickshire or registered with a GP in the region. People are three times more likely to quit for good with support rather than trying to quit on their own. With the average smoker saving around £2,000 per year by quitting smoking, there's never been a better time to stop.

For free stop smoking support, visit www.smokefreecw.co.uk or phone 0800 122 3780 for Coventry services or 0333 005 0092 for Warwickshire services.

Breathe easier and improve your wellbeing by spending more time outdoors

Spring is just around the corner, with milder weather and signs of the new season to be discovered across Warwickshire.

This makes it a fantastic time of year to enjoy the numerous health benefits of spending time outdoors, from reducing stress to increasing physical activity levels.

Throughout March, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) will be sharing useful information about ways to improve your overall wellbeing and breathe easier. Evidence suggests that there are 5 ways to wellbeing that people can adopt to improve their wellbeing, feel more positive and get the most out of life: Connect with other people, be physically active, learn new skills, give to others and take notice. More information about Warwickshire's 5 ways to wellbeing and 5 ways to wellbeing through life.

Funding secured for 700 EV charge points in Warwickshire

Around 700 new electric vehicle (EV) public charge points are to be installed following Warwickshire County Council's approval to invest nearly £3.3m in public charging infrastructure.

At its 28 January meeting Cabinet approved the addition of £3.295m to the Capital Programme for the installation and ongoing management of EV charge points. This funding comes from the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund.

The procurement process is now underway, with the aim of awarding contracts by September 2025. It is anticipated that the new twin-socket charge points will be installed across the county over the next three to four years.

The new charge points will be delivered with a firm focus on public need, being strategically located to prioritise areas where residents lack off-street parking. The location of all currently available charge points in Warwickshire and beyond is available on: [Zap Map](#)

Energy bill support available through Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme

A scheme providing financial assistance to help those who are struggling with their energy bills is now available for a time limited period.

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund providing 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.

Funding for this campaign is limited, and the scheme will close on 28 March 2025 or sooner if all the funding is allocated before this date.

Residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially can apply for this support online

on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme or by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet – 6th March 2025

Cabinet approved the refreshed Council Delivery Plan (CDP) covering the period April 2025 to March 2027. The CDP is a two-year rolling plan, that supports the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in its Council Plan, setting out trackable actions for delivery over the next two years, it aims to provide transparency and accountability to the public, Councillors, stakeholders, and colleagues.

Cabinet also gave the green light to start a procurement process for the provision of an accounting system. The contract for the Council's current system is due to expire in December 2027. The Council's financial system ensures accurate and timely payment to suppliers, monitoring and forecasting of revenue costs and capital projects and the production of the Council's statement of accounts.

Report From District Councillors

Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme

Warwick District Council is pleased to launch a thermal imaging camera loan scheme for residents.

The Council has recently provided twelve thermal imaging cameras to nine local community groups including parish and town councils, in a bid to support residents with understanding the thermal efficiency of their homes. Seven of the nine community groups are now ready to loan the cameras out.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, up to a third of heat can be lost through poorly insulated walls and up to a quarter through your roof. Doors, windows and floors are also responsible for heat loss and can be responsible for cold draughts within a home.

Interested community groups have come forward to adopt a thermal imaging camera for loan, with the Council supporting them by developing information on how to use the cameras and interpreting the thermal images, as well as signposting to support organisations including Act on Energy to make the process as simple as possible for residents.

The scheme is free to private residents living within the area of a local community group operating the scheme. To loan a camera, contact your local community group, listed on the Council's website.

District Council to mark the National Day of Reflection

Warwick District Council will be marking the National Day of Reflection for the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Rob Margrave will lead a quiet and simple ceremony on the steps of Leamington Town Hall at 11am on Sunday 9 March. Members of the local community are invited to join him to reflect on shared experiences and to commemorate those who lost their lives during the pandemic.

New marketing toolkit empowers arts and cultural organisations across the district.

Arts and cultural organisations across Warwick District are being encouraged to take advantage of a new Marketing Toolkit designed to support the local creative industries.

The project led by the Warwick District Council's Arts Section provides a comprehensive set of resources to enhance the visibility of creative organisations, heritage and cultural assets, festivals, and events.

Recognising the need for a coordinated approach to marketing within the district's creative sector, UK Shared Prosperity Funding was used by the Council to commission a user-friendly Marketing Toolkit to host on their website, designed to be easily and freely accessible to organisations of all sizes.

The free resource includes a wealth of information and guidance on:

Digital marketing resources, including social media strategies, podcast promotion, and blog outreach.

Print marketing best practices, covering leaflet and poster distribution.

Training resources, with links to online courses on email marketing, Canva, social media, and more

A directory of local marketing professionals, PR agencies, and design and print services.

Listings of advertising channels, such as TV, radio, event listings, and outdoor advertising opportunities

With its intuitive structure, the toolkit provides clear, practical advice tailored to the needs of the local arts and cultural community.

Recycle more and raise money for local charities

Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils are encouraging residents to get more recycling aware in return for a donation to charity.

The innovative scheme is being made available through Biffa, the Councils' waste and recycling collection contractor, with a donation of 10p being made to the respective Chairperson's Charities each time a search is made via the Recycling Info feature on the Councils' mobile app.

Each District Council will commit up to a £1,000 donation to the current Chair's chosen charities, Citizen's Advice, Air Ambulance Service and Parkinson's UK (Stratford-on-Avon District Council) and The Myton Hospices and Multiple System Atrophy Trust (Warwick District Council).

To participate, residents can download the app, available on both IOS and Android.

Use the Recycling Info feature to search how to recycle a household item or material.