

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman - Chairman
Councillor J Coles
Councillor L Firth
Councillor A Marsden – Vice Chairman
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
11 members of the public
District Councillors R Hales & D Armstrong

Lapworth Parish Council – Chairman C Henderson and Councillors L Beaver & J Hall
Lapworth Parish Clerk – R Lucas

215. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

216. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

217. Community Governance Review (CGR) Request from Lapworth Parish Council

Councillor J Hall of Lapworth Parish Council put forward a proposal on behalf of Lapworth Parish Council to move the existing boundary from Kingswood Brook [bridge B4439/006] to the Grand Union Canal [bridge 65], which would transfer the Kingswood Green development of 39 properties and those properties on the Old Warwick Road, into Lapworth Parish rather than Rowington Parish.

Councillor J Hall explained that when residents moved to Kingswood Green, they understood that they would be living in Lapworth and later learned that they did in fact live in Rowington Parish. Their postal addresses were however in Lapworth.

Furthermore, Councillor Hall explained that the current boundary defined by the Brook was brought forward into the Civil system from the ancient ecclesiastical parish boundary which were often streams. These could swell in winter and make tracks impassible. Hence separation from the next parish for church attendance which was compulsory at periods in the past.

Post 1800 the Canal became a major divide between the settlements of Lapworth and Rowington in the area in question and logically would make a clearer definition.

Lapworth Parish Council considered that the benefits of making a change would be 'Joined up thinking' to monitor issues on the brook itself if it were all in one parish in this area. It has a history of flooded land around it and sometimes in recent years, flooded onto the Old Warwick Road until Highways dredged under the bridge when it became completely blocked. Properties alongside its course report ongoing issues still.

The Post Office regards Lapworth and Rowington as totally separate, in that Rowington Post goes via Coventry and Lapworth's goes via Solihull – hence the different post codes. All affected properties have a Lapworth address and B94 post code.

Most people already think that the houses affected are in Lapworth and were surprised, to learn of the anomalous current boundary which we are seeking to move in the hope that logic will prevail, and change will be agreed.

The people who live in the affected area use most, if not all, the following Lapworth services and have little or no affiliation with Rowington. Lapworth Post Office/Wines, Lapworth Stores, Lapworth Station, Lapworth School, Lapworth Garage, Lapworth Surgery, Lapworth Village Hall and the boundary change would enable residents to walk to vote in elections rather than drive to Rowington, Lapworth Playground, Lapworth organisations – Lapworth Charity, Lapworth Players, Lapworth Old Peoples Association, Elderberries, Lapworth Guides, Lapworth Film Club, Lapworth History Group, Lapworth Table Tennis Club.

Lapworth Parish Council had agreed at their February meeting, that an approach be made to Warwick District Council to request a Community Governance Review.

Responses from Rowington Parish Councillors:

Councillor J Coles completely disagreed with the reasons for the proposal and that this would be detrimental to any community cohesion and would result in the erosion of boundaries and that many residents were upset at the proposal. Councillor Coles also read a strong letter of objection that she had received from a resident. Stating that, essentially the most desirable state is one where cordiality and respect for near neighbours prevails. There are descriptions for what seems to have been circulated or loosely proposed, such as land grab, colonisation, empire building, or simply an absence of information.

Councillor Coles also mentioned that the proposal had caused unnecessary confusion and upset.

The question with any kind of Boundary Review and the potential to move boundaries permanently, would be where might this end? What would be the scenario if yet more building takes place near to Kingswood Green?

The possible erosion of boundaries on a whim can never be allowed to creep and Rowington Parish Council cannot allow such a slide to begin.

Some residents of Rowington and Kingswood are very upset at the thought of a possibility of boundary changes as evidenced in a letter received. It must be appreciated that some generations have chosen to live in Rowington and don't wish to be persuaded by incomers.

The advantages of remaining in Rowington are lower Council Tax as the parish precept is much lower in Rowington than Lapworth.

The Jane Ryland Charity thoroughly supports all within Rowington.

Councillor D Weir also read letters of objection from Rowington residents and stated that a previous 2001 boundary change request was refused.

Councillor A Coleman read a further two letters in opposition of the proposal.

Councillor A Marsden disregarded all the points that had been made by Lapworth Parish Council and explained that all services, clubs and organisations, and the school were in fact open to all Lapworth and Rowington residents alike.

218. Questions from Members of the Public

Residents of Rowington were also against the proposal and asked if all residents of Lapworth had been consulted. It was also explained that the boundaries may well change in the near future due to the proposed building of properties which could occur.

In conclusion, the Chairman, Councillor A Coleman explained that the residents had lived for many years in Rowington with a Lapworth address and many residents felt this issue was somewhat divisive and not in accord with community spirit.

It was unanimously agreed that Rowington Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal put forward by Lapworth Parish Council to move the boundary.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm

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