

**ROWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD AT LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor A Coleman
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor D Weir
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall
No members of the public

1. Election of a Chairman

The Clerk had received one nomination for the role of Chairman for the ensuing year, which was for Councillor Allyson Coleman. It was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor A Marsden that Councillor Allyson Coleman be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Councillor A Coleman accepted the nomination and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor A Coleman in the Chair

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Parish Councillors J Coles & L Firth (personal reasons), District Councillors R Hales, K Aizlewood & D Armstrong and County Councillor M Stevens.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman asked for nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year, and Councillor A Marsden expressed his interest to be nominated for the Office of Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor A Coleman that Councillor A Marsden be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 10 & 15 April 2025

It was proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor A Coleman, that the minutes of the meetings held on 10 & 15 April 2025, having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

None.

7. Report from District Councillors

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

8. 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	
W24/0095	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	21/03/25	No objection	Granted
W25/0233 & W25/0433LB	Barn, Manor Farm, Holywell Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission ref: W/23/1747 (Conversion of barn to create 2no. dwellings and associated vehicular access) to include	16/04/25	No objection	

	amendments to the internal layout and fenestration, along with approval of details for Conditions 3, 4 and 11			
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b) Planning Applications

W25/0429 - Ednam Meadow, The Cumsey, Pinley Green - Erection of outbuilding to facilitate for a carport/garage store and associated porous hard standing driveway extension at front of house

Members objected to the application, being in front of the property line and have concerns regarding the suitability of the proposed car ports and garage in terms of size and its over intensity in that area.

W25/0467LB - Peacock Farm, Peacock Lane, Holywell - Closure of existing door from approved utility and reopening of historic opening

Members raised no objection to the application.

W25/0524 – Queen’s Cottage, Queen’s Drive, Rowington - Erection of car port

Members raised no objection to the proposed car port, but do have concerns regarding the extensive works which are being carried out under Permitted Development Rights at Queen’s Cottage and will seek clarification from the LPA.

W25/0302 – Land off High Cross Lane, Pinley Green - Erection of a rural workers dwelling together with all associated works.

Members raised no objection to the proposed application, but will seek clarification regarding any conditions being applied in terms of an Agricultural Tie on the property.

9. Playing Field

a) Outstanding Reports - None

b) Future Inspection Dates – Clerk – 4 & 18 May, Councillor A Coleman – 11 May and Councillor L Firth – 25 May

c) Maintenance – there were matters to report

10. Reports from Lowsonford & Rowington Village Halls

There were no matters to report.

11. Highways, Footpaths & Transport

The Clerk had raised concerns with Highways regarding the blocked gullies on Old Warwick Road, Rowington and Mike Newham – Highways Officer, had said these may be scheduled for cleaning before Christmas.

12. Meetings & Training Days Attended & Forthcoming

None to note.

13. Correspondence

a) WALC Newsletters

b) Letter from the Allotments Association regarding rent increase by Rowington Almshouse Charity – this was deferred to the next meeting

14. Finance

a) Paid during the month

Mr R Watson – installation of Traffic Mirror	£50.00
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b) To be paid:

Clerks Salary	£1057.76
HMRC	£95.94
Clear Councils Insurance	£597.38
Rowington Village Hall hire from June 24 to April 25	£109.00

c) Received:

Precept	£11,500
Bank Interest on CIL Account	£23.73
CIL Funds	£7,627.66

15. Community Infrastructure Levy Funds (CIL)

Drainage works on playing field – this was deferred to the next meeting so that all members may contribute to the discussion and further information can be obtained.

16. Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been carried out and the report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. No matters were raised.

17. Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025

Following a review of each of the items within the Annual Governance Statement, it was agreed unanimously that the Annual Governance Statement, be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor.

Proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor D Weir.

18. Accounting Statements 2024/2025

Following the Clerks report and circulation of the Accounting Statements, it was agreed that the Statements be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to the External Auditor. No objections were recorded.

Proposed by Councillor A Marsden and seconded by Councillor D Weir.

19. Items for the Next Agenda

New website

Litter Pick

20. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday 12 June 2025

Rowington Village Hall

Thursday 10 July 2025

Lowsonford Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

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

Report From District Councillors

Introduction

With elections taking place on 1 May, there is little routine business that can be reported due to “purdah” restrictions, so I have taken the opportunity to share with you progress with the Council’s measures to improve biodiversity and build climate resilience in Warwick District.

Recent national warnings have highlighted the UK’s increasing vulnerability to extreme weather, with inadequate preparation placing communities at risk. Baroness Julia King of the Climate Change Committee described current national climate adaptation efforts as “frighteningly” insufficient, urging a step-change in action. Against this backdrop, Warwick District Council (WDC) is delivering tangible, local action to improve biodiversity and build environmental resilience through its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

Significant progress has been made in the first full year of the BAP, with work focused on restoring habitats, supporting species, and engaging communities. The accompanying infographic illustrates these milestones. Notable local successes include public engagement through the Biodiversity Photography Competition, as an inspiration for local action.

Habitat Work Supporting Climate Resilience

WDC’s biodiversity efforts are also a key part of local climate adaptation, directly addressing many of the risks now recognised as urgent at a national level:

- Flood mitigation: New scrapes have been created in parks to store water and slow run-off during heavy rainfall.
- Urban cooling and air quality: Tree planting has increased in residential areas.
- Soil and water management: Sustainable planting, meadow expansion, and adjusted mowing support healthier ecosystems and water conservation.
- Food security: Community orchards are now growing on WDC land.

Monitoring and Measuring Progress

Habitat improvements remain the most cost-effective and practical way to measure biodiversity progress. Key results from 2024/25 include:

- 4.25 hectares of new grassland
- 130 metres of new hedgerow
- 3 ponds enhanced
- 10 scrapes created or extended

Although species data takes time to show change, these habitat actions lay the groundwork for long-term recovery.

Priorities for 2025/26

- Expand grasslands, hedgerows and wetlands
- Support pollinators through planting and reduced mowing
- Update management of local wildlife sites and reserves
- Deepen community engagement for nature

With limited national action, WDC recognises the urgent need to act locally. Through its Biodiversity Action Plan, the council is not only restoring nature but strengthening Warwick District’s resilience to climate breakdown.

Parish Councils are vital partners in this ongoing work and are invited to comment and provide feedback.