

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2008**

Present: P.Cllr. G Bull
P.Cllr. Mrs S Lowe
P.Cllr. Mrs D Swain
P.Cllr. Mrs R Barker
P.Cllr. Ms J Oldfield
P.Cllr. M Wade
P.Cllr. G Cooper
P.Cllr. R Browett
The Clerk
Three Members of the Public

164 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr. Mrs Clarke, C.Cllr. Mrs Compton and D.Cllr Caborn on civic duty elsewhere.

165 Changes to Published Agenda

Additions made due to time limits to Minute 170; Planning; Minute 172 Parish Plan; Minute 177 Correspondence and Circulation File and Minute 179 Finance.

166 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Mrs Lowe and Mrs Swain declared an interest in Rowington Village Hall being members of the Village Hall Management Committee – Minute 173; Cllr. Wade in Minute 169 Rowington Allotments being a Trustee of Rowington Almshouse Charity, and Cllr. Ms Oldfield in Minute 170 Planning – Chapel Haven, Lowsonford.

167 Minutes of Meeting held on 13 March 2008

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2008 previously circulated to Councillors be accepted as a true record subject to the amendment of typographical errors under Minute 153 and Minute 156 (JO/RJB).

168 Questions / Observations from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes)

Three residents from Lapworth were in attendance to put forward their objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Variation at Dicks Lane. The Chairman proposed to Councillors that this item was brought forward on the agenda for discussion and it was resolved accordingly.

The proposal by WCC was that the existing prohibition of motor cycles should be lifted. The members of the public in attendance put forward strong arguments based on safety issues for other users – many residents from Rowington and Lapworth use this route on horseback, walking children and dogs on a very frequent basis for the very reason that it is a “no through road” and therefore extremely safe from the usual dangers of traffic. To lift the current prohibition would allow motor cycles to travel in a circular route from Lapworth through Rowington and into Lowsonford. One particular concern was the junction of the canal towpath and the road – with a speed limit of 60mph applicable to the unclassified road this could result in motor cycles coming upon the towpath at some speed with the resultant danger to pedestrians and horse riders. Following a meeting between one of the residents and a representative from WCC there were also concerns about the removal of ancient hedgerow to facilitate road surfacing improvements to cater for motor cycles. Resolved that Clerk should write to WCC expressing the objections of the PC (JO/RJB).

169 Rowington Allotments

169.a Letter sent to RAC on 26 March 2008.

Letter sent to RAC confirming that the PC could not accept the proposed rent increase put forward by RAC and further confirming that should the PC have to vacate the land under the Notice issued by RAC, then it was understood that compensation would be payable to the PC as tenant. An acknowledgement had been received from RAC confirming that the letter would be considered by the RAC Trustees at their next meeting in May. Following a request by Cllr. Wade to be allowed to take part in discussions in an effort to encourage discussion between the parties, lengthy discussion followed but no resolution was reached.

169.b Meeting with Allotment Holders 08 April 2008.

Due to the Notice issued by RAC the PC had only issued short licences to the allotment holders i.e. expiring at the end of October 2008 to allow time for clearance of the land if necessary. The allotment holders had queried the short licence terms and a meeting was held to explain and discuss the current situation with regard to the land. The allotment holders present had voted unanimously against any rent increase and letters of complaint had since been received from them. Councillors agreed that until a response had been received from RAC no further action could be taken on this matter.

Cllr. Mrs Lowe proposed that further discussion take place when a response had been received from RAC and it was resolved accordingly.

170 Planning Matters

170.a Considered by WDC:

Cornerways, Mill Lane, Rowington – Construction of a pond (retrospective) **GRANTED**

170.b Considered by RPC Working Party

None

170.c To be considered by RPC:

Cllr. Ms Oldfield left the room during discussion of the application for Chapel Haven, Lowsonford being a personal friend of the applicants.

Chapel Haven, Narrow Lane, Lowsonford – Alterations to previously approved porch extension and linked dormer – **Objections.** The Parish Council object to this proposal on the basis that this site has already been substantially developed under previous planning approvals and the current proposal is well in excess of extension guideline figures contained in the Local Plan. Indeed mention was made in the Key Issues presented to the Planning Committee in 2005 relating to the original application W05/1958 of the “substantial extensions” already made, and a further comment “even though the extensions exceed the 50% guideline figure”. Current guidelines have reduced the guideline figure from 50% to 30% and the total increase in gross floor area must be therefore be viewed as excessive. This original proposal was for a completely glazed entrance porch and the design and size of the extension porch was seemingly considered to have less impact due to its glazed design.

However the building which has been erected is no longer a completely glazed entrance porch but a brick built cloakroom extension which is considerably larger than the previously approved proposal, and fills the entire area between the existing dwelling and the boundary line. The addition which has been built would appear contrary to planning policies specifically designed to retain and protect the openness of the Green Belt / SLA and Rural Areas and is viewed as an inappropriate extension.

Land adjacent to Bridge Cottage, Finwood Road – Change of Use of land used as car park to residential curtilage including erection of close boarded fence to highway boundary – **No Objections.**

Meadow Hill Farm, Lapworth Street, Lowsonford – Use of farm buildings as part of house and erection of two storey rear extension – Application currently held by WDC pending receipt of further application fees.

The Old Vicarage, Old Warwick Road, Rowington – To construct an orangery to replace a modern verandah on the north face of the house. No alterations to the house, use of existing exterior double doors for access from the house – **No Objections.**

170.d Other Planning and/or enforcement matters:

Windmill House, Finwood Road, Rowington - WDC had confirmed that they had written to the householder regarding lack of compliance with planning conditions attached to the recent planning approval. WDC yet to receive a response and were due to chase the householder again.

Sintra, Lapworth Street, Lowsonford – Following complaint received from a resident contact had been made with WDC Enforcement regarding the erection of a very large block work wall to the front of the property and alterations to velux window design to rear elevation of the roof. Mr David Fry WDC had telephoned Clerk and confirmed that the wall did not exceed 2m and was therefore permitted development and that the alteration to the Velux roof windows would result in a request for a fresh planning application from the householder.

Cllr. Cooper arrived at the meeting at this point.

171 Police Report

Police Newsletters placed in Circulation File. Cllr. Browett reported that he had experienced great difficulty in making contact with the Rural West Team via the newly publicised telephone number and in fact the number appeared not to be working correctly. Clerk to report to RWSNT.

172 Parish Plan

172.a Report on Parish Plan – Meeting 01 April 08 (**Cllrs. Browett, Cooper and Ms Oldfield**) Progress continuing and the Steering Group were now waiting for funding to allow them to proceed.

172.b Clerk confirmed that she had received an Awards for All funding application form for completion by PC on behalf of the Steering Group. Resolved that Clerk should complete the form which would result in funding being passed to the PC to hold on behalf of the Steering Group. (MW/SL)

173 Rowington Village Hall

173.a Village Hall Computer Class Broadband Connection

Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from Mrs Pam Barnes that the BT line and broadband connection had been completed and the two computers from WCC were due to be moved up to the village hall in readiness for the Computer Class to use.

174 Highways, Footpaths and Transport

174.a Matters reported and arising

- Street light outside Giffard Terrace, Lowsonford not working – Reported.
- Information received from resident regarding a Comet delivery van throwing a white plastic bag full of rubbish out of the window. Written complaint sent to Comet by resident.
- Information from WCC on temporary speed limits on certain roads during convoy working – Copy in Circulation File for information.
- Top of stile adjacent to canal in Mill Lane, Lowsonford missing.
- 3 road signs on B4439 still down on the ground.
- Footpath W27 – fallen trees obstructing footpath.
- Pothole at Rowington Green on left hand side near Lyons Farm.
- Bus shelter near Finwood crossroads overgrown and agreed that Steve's Mowing Industries should be asked if they could attend to this matter.

175 Playing Field

175.a ROSPA Safety Report – repair items to be attended to. Clerk confirmed that she had requested a quotation from Village

Maintenance for the repairs required and confirmed that despite efforts made to obtain quotations from other contractors no

alternative contractor could be found who was prepared to quote for the work. Clerk reminded Councillors of the need for expediency in dealing with these items with regard to the terms of the current insurance policy.

175.b. Playing Field Inspection Report (**Cllr. Mrs Swain / Cllr. Mrs Clarke**)

Cllr. Mrs Swain provided a report and made mention of the rubbish left on the playing field which obviously presented a hazard to those Councillors who were willing to collect it.

176 Meetings/Training Days attended/forthcoming

- 176.a 12 Apr 08 WALC Next Step Training Programme for Councillors. Warwick Town Council Offices. **Cllrs. Browett and Cooper to attend.**
- 176.b 17 Apr 08 WDC Code of Conduct Seminar. **Scheduled for 17th April which clashes with APM Meeting. WDC will advise of further seminar dates.**
- 176.c 19 May 08 WDC Sports Club Development Evening – The Healthy Living Centre, Shrubland Street, Leamington Old Town 6.30 – 8.30 pm. **Details in Circulation File.**

177 Correspondence

- 177.a 17 Mar 08 Donation acknowledgement letters received– Rowington Village Hall, Lowsonford Village Hall and Rowington Parish Records.
- 177.b Mar 08 Allianz Insurance PLC – Renewal Notice. **Clerk confirmed that she had added the new rubber crumb play surface to the insurance policy at no additional cost for the current year.**
- 177.c Mar 08 WCC Chief Executive – Working for Warwickshire and Audit Commission Survey. **Councillors agreed that Clerk should complete the questionnaire on their behalf. Cllrs. Browett, Cooper and Bull requested a copy of the questionnaire for information.**

177.d. Circulation Envelope:

TWTWTS 11 – 16 March, 17-23 March, 24 – 30 March, 31 Mar – 06 April;

WDC Focus Magazine Spring 08; CPRE Fieldwork March 08; CPRE Countryside Voice Spring 08; Pinley Quarry information from WCC; Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy partnership – Environmental Art Challenge; WRCC Country Matters Spring 08; WALC Newsletter ADH176; Speaking Out March 08; Minutes 01 April 08 Parish Plan Steering Group; WALC WCC Officer details by Area; WDC Code of Conduct Advertisement; Western Area SNT Minutes 12 Mar 08; Best of Britain (ITV Local Competition); WCC Age Concern IT Design Information.

178 Reports from District and County Councillors

Not in attendance.

179 Finance

179.a. Paid during the month:

None

179.b To be paid:

Clerk – salary and allowance	568.32	
Photocopying and Postage		17.33
Heart of England Way Subscription		6.00
Allianz Insurance – Renewal Premium	599.69	
WALC Training Day	25.00	
WALC Annual Subscription		273.00

179.c Received:

Bank of Ireland Interest (Dec 2007)	49.55
Bank of Ireland Interest (Mar 2008)	32.32

Resolved that items of finance under Minute 179 be approved. (SL/MW)

179.d Items for Consideration / Information

VAT Return 2007/08 submitted to HMRC.

Accounts – End of Year 2007/2008

Councillors had been provided with a copy of the accounts with the agenda for the meeting. The following queries were raised:

- Lack of depreciation of assets - Clerk confirmed she would raise this issue with the internal auditor and suggested that Councillors discuss this item at budget setting later in the year.
- Large amount of donation made to St Laurence Church for maintenance purposes compared with other donations.

Resolved that accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007 be accepted and signed (MW/RB).

- Annual Parish Meeting – **Thursday 17 April 2008** – Arrangements / Refreshments. Cllr. Mrs Lowe confirmed that she would provide refreshments together with Cllr. Mrs Swain. Chairman would organise drinks and glasses and Chairman made a request that all Councillors attend the APM if possible.

180 Items for Future Agendas/Information

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25 pm

Next Meeting:

Annual Meeting of the Council Thursday 08 May 2008 at Rowington Village Hall

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....