

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LOWSONFORD VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2008**

Present: P.Cllr. G Bull
P.Cllr. M Wade
P.Cllr. Mrs D Swain
P.Cllr. Mrs S Lowe
P.Cllr. Mrs R Barker
P.Cllr. Ms J Oldfield
P.Cllr. R Browett
C.Cllr. Mrs J Compton
The Clerk

128 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from P.Cllr. Cooper away on business, Cllr. Mrs Clarke on holiday and D.Cllr Caborn on civic duty elsewhere.

129 Changes to Published Agenda

Addition made due to time limits to Minute 134 Planning and Minute 142. Circulation File.

130 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs Lowe and Cllr. Mrs Swain both declared an interest in Rowington Village Hall being members of the Village Hall Management Committee – Minute 137. Cllr. Wade had agreed to arrive at the meeting after discussion of Minute 133 Rowington Allotments due to a conflict of interest arising out of his position as a Trustee of Rowington Almshouse Charity, bearing in mind the nature of the current discussions between RAC and the PC.

131 Minutes of Meeting held on 13 December 2007 and 11 January 2008

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 December 2007 previously circulated to Councillors be accepted as a true record. Further resolved that the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 January 2008 be accepted as a true record. (JO/DS)

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

None

133 Rowington Allotments

Discussion took place regarding the correspondence received from RAC and the informal meeting which had taken place with representatives of RAC and representatives of the PC regarding the allotments site in Rowington. Information and advice received from Warwick District Council Legal Services and the District Valuer's Office was also discussed. Resolved that further detailed information confirming the position of the PC should be obtained before any response could be made to RAC.

Councillors agreed that the discussion on the matter of a Nominative Trustee for Rowington Almshouse Charity should be held until the arrival of Cllr. Wade.

134 Planning Matters

134.a Considered by WDC:

Fleur de Lys, Lapworth Street, Lowsonford – Reinstatement of minstrels gallery and installation of self supporting timber access staircase – **GRANTED**

Ribbons, Rowington Green – Erection of an extension to side to provide replacement garage and stores together with new studio above garage and new garden room - **GRANTED**

Elephant Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Rowington – Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extensions – **GRANTED**

South Rookery, Rookery Lane, Lawsonford – Installation of entrance gates with brick walls -

GRANTED

134.b Considered by RPC Working Party

None

134.c To be considered by RPC:

Cornerways, Mill Lane, Rowington – Proposed Pond in Paddock Area – **Object.** The PC strongly object to this development which has in fact been completed for some time and has been the subject of communication between the PC and WDC on numerous occasions since February 2007. The development is viewed as over development of the site and Councillors feel that the countryside should be protected from such inappropriate development which is not of a scale or nature appropriate to its rural location. The supporting evidence provided by the applicants regarding the poor state of the paddock area and its unsuitability for grazing is contested by local knowledge – the paddock was used successfully for many years for grazing. It is of serious concern to the PC that despite reporting the initial breach of planning to WDC Enforcement some twelve months ago, this development has been allowed to progress to completion and become well established over a long period, prior to submission of a planning application.

Gaydon House, Mill Lane, Rowington – Proposed demolition of dwelling and replacement dwelling house with freestanding garage block. **No Objections**

134.d Other Planning and/or enforcement matters:

Cornerways, Mill Lane, Rowington – See Minute 134.c above.

Windmill House, Mill Lane, Rowington – response from WDC Enforcement awaited.

135 Police Report

135.a SNT Meeting 24 January 2008 – Notes provided by Cllr. Mrs Barker in Circulation File. Formal Minutes also in Circulation File. New Mobile Police Station Timetable in Circulation File.

136 Parish Plan

136.a Parish Plan – Meeting 05 February 2008. Cllr. Browett and Cllr.Ms Oldfield provided a report on progress and Councillors were pleased to hear that the Steering Group seemed to be making great strides and that organisation of the initial survey was well underway. Copy of Minutes in Circulation File. Next Meeting 04 March 2008.

137 Rowington Village Hall

137.a Meeting January 2008 – Copy of Notes and Agenda provided by Cllr Cooper and placed in Circulation File.

Resolved that Clerk should request VHMC to alter list of Trustees as shown on the Charity Commission website.

137.b Computer Class Broadband Connection/Wimax Proposal.

Chairman reported that the Wimax proposal appeared to have gone quiet with discussions regarding potential sites etc having slowed the whole process down. Councillors agreed that they had originally hoped to have some firm proposals from the Wimax operators before Christmas 2007 and, as this had not occurred, it was agreed that the provision of a broadband connection should not be held in abeyance any longer. Resolved that installation of broadband should go ahead with the proviso that Clerk should write to VHMC to confirm that the PC would review the position relating to their financial support at the end of the eighteen month initial contract. (RB/RB)

138 Highways, Footpaths and Transport

138.a Matters reported and arising

Footpaths W 30 and 31 Lowsonford – communication with WCC Footpaths Officer continued regarding obstructions, padlocked gate, electric fencing etc. Clerk to continue to chase following complaints from residents about the length of time this matter had been outstanding.

SD 169 Manor Lane – WCC Rangers had still not attended to clear the footpath.

W27 – Fallen trees obstructing footpath.

W44 – Network Rail – damage to new railings.

Speed Aware – Confirmation received from Mr Tim Hamson WCC that new sockets for fixed

SpeedAware sites throughout the county have now been ordered – C25 site is included in this order.

These are due to be installed during the last week of February, and once WCC have checked the installations they will update the schedule with the new sites. A copy of the new schedule will be sent to the PC once it has been prepared

Case Lane, Mousley End – complaint received regarding flooding from a blocked ditch and missing top surface from a section of the land following installation of new storm drains approximately 8 years ago.

Mr Peter Hallam WCC currently investigating the situation with Network Management. Mr Hallam had confirmed that a drainage scheme for Case Lane/Quarry Lane junction was in hand.

Resurfacing works due to take place at Manor Lane commencing 03 March to 07 March and Nunhold Road commencing 12 March and lasting for a similar period.

Blocked gully and disintegrating road edge outside Tom O' The Wood reported to WCC.

Concern over amount of litter lying around the highways – Cllr. Mrs Compton suggested Councillors contact Mr Martin Chilvers at WDC to report any such problems.

139 Rowington Almshouse Charity – Nominative Trustee

Cllr. Mrs Swain had tendered her resignation as a Trustee of RAC. Cllr Wade explained to Councillors that the Trustees were seeking a candidate able to carry out specific functions for the Charity and asked if the PC might therefore defer the nomination of a new Trustee for a little while. Councillors agreed this seemed sensible and in the meantime thanked Cllr. Mrs Swain for her many years service as a Trustee.

140 Playing Field

140.a ROSPA Safety Report – repair items to be attended to. Agreed that quotations should be obtained from a suitable contractor. Clerk to speak to existing maintenance contractor to establish whether he would be willing to provide a quotation.

140.b. Playing Field Inspection Report (**Cllr. Bull/Cllr. Cooper**) Reports received plus report from Cllr. Mrs Lowe. Some rubbish in the form of old food tins on the field and the dog fouling notices appeared to have been pulled down.

Following an information pack supplied by SMG Services and placed in the circulation file last month it was resolved that it would be sensible to obtain a quotation from this company for maintenance of the playing field. Clerk to request quotation from SMG Services and obtain quote for remedial works. (SL/DS)

Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry regarding the formation of a Rowington Football Club and a request to use the playing field for practice sessions. Unfortunately upon transfer of the land to the PC a covenant was imposed restricting the use of the land to children only. Clerk to respond to enquiry confirming that they could not allow use of the land by adults but would be happy to consider any future use by junior teams.

141 Meetings/Training Days attended/forthcoming

141.a 15-17 Feb 07 WDC Chairman of the Council. Art Exhibition by Local Artists.

141.b 08 Mar 07 WALC One Day Briefing Seminar. Working for Communities. 9.15 am to 3.30 pm.

141.c 04 Apr 07 WDC Chairman of the Council. Civic Barn Dance. Rowington Village

Hall.

142 Correspondence

- 142.a 03 Jan 08 Dept for Communities and Local Government. Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England (Circ. File).
- 142.b 04 Jan 08 WCC Review of the Definitive Map of public rights of way. Following correspondence received in February 2007 Councillors agreed that the proposals put forward by the PC in 1977 regarding footpaths W23 and W204 were no longer appropriate (request made for access for motor vehicles). Clerk to confirm to WCC Countryside Recreation.
- 142.c 11 Jan 08 WDC Adoption of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (Circ. File)
- 142.d. 19 Jan 08 Correspondence from Rowington Tennis Club. Letter received from Chairman of Tennis Club regarding rent increase. Clerk had replied and confirmed that the PC had no involvement with setting rental levels. Copy sent to VHMC for their attention.
- 142.e. Circulation Envelope:
TWTWTS 07 – 12 Jan, 20 – 27 Jan, 28 Jan – 03 Feb.
Playing Field Rota; WALC Newsletter Jan 2008; West Midlands Regional Assembly Issue 17; WDC Planning Forum Agenda Feb 07; Heart of England Way Footnotes 07/08; Warwickshire BAP Report; WDC Notice of Meetings; CPRE Fieldwork Dec 07; HM Government “Keeping Warm” Guide; CVS Newsletter Dec 07; Rowington Church Charity Accounts 2006/07; WCC PHILLIS Leaflets; WDC Red Box Lottery Competition; Rowington Estate Charity Accounts to year end June 2007; WDC Council Meeting 16 Jan 07 Agenda and Committee Reports; Letter from James Plaskitt MP; NALC Summary Notes – Local Leadership in Action 30 January 2008; CPRE Midland Green Belt Study 2007; Warwickshire Lieutenancy Office – Award Nominations; SNT meeting 24 Jan – Minutes and Notes; Parish Plan Minutes 05 Feb; Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England; WDC Waste Management – new recycling and refuse service; Rowington Almshouse Charity Financial Statements Year Ended 30 June 07.

143 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr. Mrs Compton reported on the following issues:-

County Council due to set a council tax increase of 3.9%

Speed Limit Review currently being undertaken and the results due to be taken to the Area Committee to allow a decision to be made on priorities, local examples being Aylesbury Road and the Lapworth section of the Old Warwick Road and Five Ways Island to Chadwick End (A4177). All information gathered will be collated and reported to WCC in March.

Road closures taking place in Kenilworth due to renewal of the sewage system in the town – road closures will continue until November but shops and restaurants will remain open throughout.

One Stop Shop at Shire Hall taking shape and will provide an excellent facility which will include relocation of the Post Office. However meetings in Shire Hall currently very noisy due to the building works taking place. One Stop Shop due to open at the end of April.

New Mobile Police Station timetable out today (see above Minute 135). Mobile to visit Rowington at a new time of 5.00 to 6.00 pm which will hopefully attract more visitors. Cllr. Mrs Compton had suggested that members of the SNT should attend local functions such as fetes, garden parties etc if possible.

144 Finance

144.a. Paid during the month:

WDC Election Expenses May 2007		200.00
Clerk Salary and Allowance		534.64
Cllr. Bull – Remembrance Sunday Wreath	16.50	

144.b To be paid:

Clerk – salary and allowance	534.64	
Mr an Wilson Internal Audit		100.00
Photocopying and Postage		15.33
Lowsonford Village Hall - Hall Hire		50.00

144.c Received:

Bank of Ireland Interest (Jan 08)		46.25
NALC Training Bursary		97.50

Resolved that the above items of finance be accepted. (SL/JO)

144.d Items for Consideration / Information

- Application submitted to HMLR for registration of 3 parcels of land. Clerk confirmed the application had been sent to HMLR.
- Internal Audit of PC Books Jan 2008 – Clerk confirmed this had been carried out during January.
- Date for APM – **Suggested Thursday 17 April 2008.** Agreed that Clerk should arrange booking with Rowington Village Hall.

145 Items for Future Agendas/Information

- Quarry Site, Manor Lane, Pinley – Cllr. Browett reported that there were concerns locally regarding the closure of this site and in particular the finished height of the ground levels which appeared much greater than the original levels. Councillors agreed that this issue should be monitored. Clerk to investigate planning status of the site.
- The Chairman advised Councillors that his four year term as Chairman was coming to an end and that although he would be prepared to continue for a further twelve month period if required, he would then have to retire. The Chairman also made mention of the lack of a Vice Chairman and asked Councillors to consider the need for a Vice Chairman in May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 13 March 2008 at Lowsonford Village Hall

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman