

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2010**

Present: P.Cllr. G Cooper
P.Cllr. R Browett
P.Cllr. Mrs N Clarke
P.Cllr. Bevins
C.Cllr. Mrs Compton
D.Cllr. Caborn
The Clerk
Eleven Members of the Public

140 Apologies

Apologies received from P.Cllr. Mrs D Swain.

141 Changes to Published Agenda

Additions made due to time constraints under Minute 154.h Circulation File; Minute 155.c Finance Received and Minute 156 Items for future Agendas / Information.

142 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Cooper declared a personal interest in Planning Application for The Field House, Holywell Minute 146.b the applicants being known to him.

143 Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2010

Resolved unanimously that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2010 previously circulated to Councillors be accepted as a true record. (RB/CB)

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

Eleven residents were present. From Rowington Old Folks Fund Mrs C Knight (Chair), Mrs V Morton (Secretary) Mrs A Pitt (Treasurer). Residents present in relation to Dicks Lane TRO – Mr and Mrs P Brown, Mr D Jones, Mr and Mrs R Morton, Ms F Ogden, Mrs C Mach-Smith and Mr and Mrs D Drew. Councillors agreed that it would be sensible to bring forward the agenda item relating to the Dicks Lane TRO. Residents made the following points:

- Letters had been sent to WCC and the opposition to the TRO Variation was very strong. Copies of nearly 40 letters of objection had been submitted.
- This was an extremely popular route with ramblers, dog walkers, horse riders and a safe environment for all the above, particularly young children insofar as it was a traffic free zone.
- Noted that the plan accompanying the WQCC Agenda papers clearly showed the word “path” rather than “track” along certain sections.
- Noise from motor cycles would be intrusive and indeed residents had been suffering such noise for the past two years.
- Many residents found it hard to believe that the conservation issues appeared to have been forgotten with the potential for flora and fauna being completely destroyed.
- Consideration should surely be given to the recreational use of local residents rather than the requirements of a minority group from outside the parish.
- Dangers associated with motor cycles using the bridge and towpaths near to the canal locks were obvious. This is a very busy section of the canal during high season.
- The potential hazardous situation of horses being met with fast moving, noisy motorcycles with very little passing space were again obvious.

The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending the Warwick Area Committee Meeting and read out the following statement that he would deliver to the Committee.

Rowington Parish Council are totally opposed to the proposed variation re Dicks Lane and have received over 150 points of contention made by local residents opposed to the proposal.

The following summarises many of the points made:

The route shown on the ordnance survey map is designated as a path for part of its length.

The route is generally a quiet scenic walk with a variety of wildlife and fauna adjacent to fields containing livestock and the proposed variation will destroy the peace and amenity of the area.

We would question whether the proposal has been adequately and correctly reviewed by WARNACT re affect on fauna which include swathes of natural bluebells.

Children, horse riders, walkers, cyclists and dogs will become exposed to very considerable danger and excessive noise from high powered bikes emitting up to 90 to 100 decibels which will be considerably further amplified in the dark motorway underpass where any fall by horse riders would be on to concrete.

Lowsonford has no streets which are not access roads and most are affected by narrow banks and this therefore is one of the few public places for children to play away from main roads.

These factors alone should have resulted in a common sense immediate rejection.

It is believed that consideration has not been given to the real likelihood that the bridge is highly likely to be used as a "bike jump" at the very place where canal boat users alight from boats not expecting motor cycles to pass. It is emphasised that they are unlikely to hear bikes due to the noise of their own boat's engine.

British Waterways are opposed to this variation due to the instability and age of the bridge and the impact upon established towpath use.

Motorcyclists would tend to use Dicks Lane as part of a circuit with 'circuit times'. Speeds of 60 mph (and possibly more) would be a very major safety factor.

Part of the track is less than 2 foot wide making it impossible for a bike and horse to pass and there is the risk of considerable danger due to noise and inadequate visibility in the motorway underpass which will require the installation of good quality lighting for safety if this variation proceeds.

In conclusion Rowington Parish Council wish to express their distinct and strong opposition to the proposal and to express their dismay that the Council have even given serious due consideration to this proposal.

The fundamental issues of safety to other users, particularly in the motorway underpass and alongside the canal bridge, should have meant that this proposal was rejected at the outset.

In addition to the prospect of failure of duty to protect the public's safety in the event of accidents the council must also consider the prospect of considerable press and public disapproval of a council actively prepared to consider spending substantially more than £5000 of rate payers money in an economic climate where basic fundamental and essential services are threatened and curtailed.

The council should be thoroughly ashamed that they would do so in defiance of considerable opposition from residents and the failure to adopt a common sense approach to this problem of safety and noise / disturbance.

This variation request results from application by a very small number of persons wishing to pursue a specialist hobby or pastime for which other facilities exist, at the potential expense of child safety in particular. This proposal should be rejected forthwith.

145 Reports from District and County Councillors

C. Cllr. Mrs Compton provided the following report:

- News had broken regarding the proposed High Speed 2 Rail Link and Cllr. Mrs Compton and Cllr. Caborn had viewed the initial plans earlier in the day. This proposal will inevitably cause a lot of problems in relation to the route through the countryside from London to Birmingham.
- Locally proposals for a new railway station at Stratford using the park and ride system were up in the air at the moment, but the new station at Kenilworth was now moving forward with Compulsory Purchase Orders now in place.
- £100k of funding allocated for local schemes through Warwick Area Committee this year. Two drainage schemes in Mill lane, Rowington and Narrow Lane, Lowsonford both successfully completed under last year's funding.
- Details of Warwickshire Age Concern HandyFix.It Scheme provided. A local Handyperson service available for people over 50 or those who have a learning, physical or sensibility of any age. Those in receipt of benefits may qualify for a reduced hourly rate.

Cllr. Caborn gave the following report:

- Following a visit by Play England during 2009 to the PC during which the PC had been told that funding was available through WDC, Cllr Caborn had investigated the situation and discovered that this appeared not to be the situation. Efforts were currently underway to get £50k of Play England lottery funding put into a fund for rural parishes.
- Despite press speculation there would not be a merger between Warwick and Stratford District Council. The two Councils have met and discussed the advantages of the two authorities working closer together and have agreed that they could share the top tier of management and save a considerable amount of money. However, there will always be two Councils. Service sharing was already underway with WDC Legal Department now operating from WCC which had freed up space in Riverside House which could be rented out.
- The number of children taken into care had increased since the Baby P Case and this put additional strain on WCC and foster homes.
- WCC would continue to make every effort to raise educational achievement, maintain highways and care for older people despite the current financial constraints.
- Cuts to the County Music Service had caused great consternation and it was hoped that progress could be made with a partnership with Solihull and Coventry which would provide a better service and at a lower cost.

146 Planning Matters

146.a Considered by WDC:

South Lawn, Old Warwick Road, Rowington. Erection of one and two storey extensions. **REFUSED**

Mousley House Farm, Case Lane, Rowington. Erection of replacement agricultural building with replacement stabling and a horse walker (retrospective). **GRANTED**

146.b To be considered by RPC:

Meadow Cottage, Lapworth Street, Lawsonford – Erection of first floor extensions to provide enlarged bedrooms and study above garage. **No objections**

Sanbrook Farm, Narrow Lane, Lawsonford – Variation of Condition. The occupancy of the dwelling shall be limited to a person solely or mainly or last working in agriculture and/or equestrian activities in the locality or a widow or widower of such a person and any resident dependents. **No objections**

The Field House, Holywell – Erection of single storey extensions to dwelling and replacement garage block with loft space over. **Objections on the following grounds:**

1. Contrary to RAP2 Extensions to dwellings, particular within the Green Belt (30% guidelines)
2. Garage building appears excessively large and imposing - scale and design out of character with the area.
3. Generally viewed as over development of the site.

Cumsey Lodge, Pinley Green – Erection of Tractor Store and Stables Building. **Objections on the following grounds:**

1. This is a Listed Building on a site which has already been well developed with the addition of a swimming pool, extension, glazed link and garage building. This is a Green Belt site and the current proposal is considered as over development.
2. The design, size and scale of the proposed stable building and tractor store are considered excessive for the stabling of horses and tractors. No need for first floor and consequent ridge height. Bulk and mass of the proposed building is considered out of character with the adjacent historic buildings
3. Rowington PC has raised queries with WDC regarding the apparent extension of the garden curtilage to the rear of this dwelling which now appears to have moved into agricultural land without the benefit of planning permission.
4. A current LDC application 2009/1218 relates to the stables and tractor store originally attached to Cumsey Lodge and recently split off from Cumsey Lodge by the original owner. This alone has resulted in the need for new stables and a tractor store under 10/0137. Rowington PC is currently awaiting a response from WDC regarding the contentious issues of curtilage on this and the adjacent site, and residential occupation of the original stable block attached to Cumsey Lodge.
5. Finally, taking into account the dangerous position of the access drive to this site and the record of accidents on this bend, Councillors would ask that WCC Highways are consulted as a matter of some importance.

The Croft, Holywell – Erection of detached garage and store. **No objections**

Highfield Farm, Back Lane, Lawsonford – Extension to existing livestock building, slurry store and access track. **No objections – fully support.**

146.c Other Planning and/or enforcement matters:

Proposed Marina at Lawsonford – Public Meeting 12 January 2010. Photographs & Notes of Great Haywood Marina in Circulation File.

Cumsey Lodge Stables. LDC Application. Concerns regarding progress and time constraints. Letter sent to WDC expressing concerns 17 February 2010. Acknowledgement received but no response to date. Resolved that Clerk should write again to WDC requesting a response.

Brookfurlong Farm, Lawsonford. Concerns regarding split of site and p.p. for new dwelling – Letter sent to WDC as above.

Sandall House Farm, Narrow Lane, Lawsonford – 2 x planning applications submitted (exercise track conditions and construction of round pen) both currently invalid. For information.

147 Parish Plan

147.a Update to include consideration of:

- Playing Field access. Cllr. Browett had met with Steve's Industries on site and obtained a verbal quotation for installing a gate and kissing gate, leave the Sycamore tree in situ, pipe the ditch and provide hardcore surface etc. Verbal quotation in the sum of £1300 plus VAT. Cllr. Browett had agreed to contact Mr D White a local contractor to obtain a second quote. Village Maintenance had been approached but not their type of work. Once quotes were to hand an application could then be submitted to WDC Rural Initiatives for funding assistance.
- Bus shelter at West of St Laurence. Letter received from WCC Highways confirming that they had no objections to the bus shelter in principle but would require a detailed location plan and also suggested that the PC speak to WDC Planning on this issue. Cllr. Cooper waiting for a quote from Mr K Stiles.

148 Localities Forum

148. a Next Meeting of 29 April 2010 at Norton Lindsey Village Hall 7.00pm (Cllr. Lickorish / Cllr. Bevins).

148.b Funding received £1500 for Old Folks Fund. Consideration of whether this sum should be allocated over a period of one year or more years. Mrs Carol Knight (Chairman), Mrs Val Morton (Secretary) and Mrs Ann Pitt (Treasurer) were all present and thanked all concerned for obtaining the funding. It was confirmed that

under the terms of the Grant the funds would have to be held in the PC bank account and allocated as required by the Old Folks Fund. Cllr. Mrs Compton did stress that the fund should be used for the long term sustainability of the organisation and not just for a couple of outings or parties. OPA Older people in Action would be working closely with the group to obtain feedback information for WDC. Whilst it was understood that the Old Folks Group did not hold monthly meetings, it was suggested that the group decide how they would like to use the grant and then come back to the PC once this had been decided.

149 Rowington and Lowsonford Village Halls

149.a Request from Rowington Parish Records/VHMC requesting financial support from PC in connection with WDC Rural Initiatives Grant application - £500. Resolved that PC would provide £500 support (PL/RB). Cllr. Caborn suggested that VHMC make one application to cover the cost of the storage building and the construction of storage cupboards within the village hall – this would make the application far simpler.

149.b Report if any (**Cllr. Cooper**)

150 Highways, Footpaths and Transport

150.a Matters reported and arising

- Road signs and nameplates in need of replacement/repair (**Cllr. Bevins**). Case Lane (2 signs) Rowington Green (2 signs). Cllr, Browett requested replacement of Manor Lane sign which had been missing for some time.
- Cllr. Mrs Clarke had spoken to Mr Richard Barnard WCC Footpaths regarding the footpath running alongside The Stables, The Cumsey. Footpath in a terrible state and no fence erected as previously agreed with the landowner. Mr Barnard stated that he was currently researching the correct lien of the footpath but had a number of such problems to deal with and was “working as fast as he could”. Cllr. Mrs Clarke confirmed that she would continue to chase this matter on behalf of the PC.
- Abandoned vehicle St Laurence Close – reported to SNT via email but no response received to date. Clerk to chase.

151 Playing Field

151.a. Playing Field Inspection Reports (**Mr R Morton / Cllr. Cooper / Cllr. Browett**)

151.b Issue of neighbouring fence falling on to access path to be considered. Cllr. Cooper had spoken to the owners of the fence and they had stated that they would deal with the matter in due course.

152 Meetings/Training Days attended/forthcoming

152.a 16 Mar 2010 WCC Warwick Area Committee Meeting, Shire Hall, Warwick
6.00pm – see Minute 144 above. Cllr. Cooper to attend.

153 Correspondence

153.a. 24 Feb. 2010 Email from Sgt Gary Holtby regarding Annual Parish Meeting. Basically declining/ police do not attend PC meetings/ will be setting up Facebook and Twitter/ Smart Water to be tried out at Hatton Park before taking out to other parishes. Disappointing that nobody could attend the APM which is not a PC meeting but a gathering of residents and as such a useful opportunity for the Police to communicate with residents. Suggested that a letter be sent to Neil Harrison District Commander (Warwick District) expressing disappointment

153.b 24 Feb. 2010 WDC Development Services. Warwick District Core Strategy Consultation – “Alternative Sites”. Very interesting document. In Circulation File for comment.

153.c 24 Feb 2010 Lowsonford Conservation Society. Copy of letter to WDC Planning regarding Brookfurlong Farm, Lowsonford. Copy in Circulation File. LCS set up by a group of residents who were becoming increasingly concerned at the endless development pressure upon the village of Lowsonford.

153.d 25 Feb 2010 Correspondence received from applicants regarding WDC Housing allocation / Homechoice Scheme. Concerns were raised again regarding the difficulties experienced by applicants who had connections/family in rural locations such as Rowington and Lowsonford but seemed unable to secure WDC housing. It had been apparent for some time that tenants were being moved out to the rural areas from Warwick and Leamington but would in fact prefer to be in the town environment. Resolved that Clerk should write to WDC Housing Services and ask why the Home Choice Scheme did not appear to support the rural areas.

153.e Feb 2010 WCC New Road Safety Packs. In circulation File for information.

153.f 03 Mar 10 WDC Development Services – Warwick Town Centre Issues Paper. In Circulation File for comment by Councillors.

153.g Mar 2010 WCC Proposed Variation Orders to allow motor bikes to use Dicks Lane. See Minute 144 above.

153.h Mar 2010 Warwickshire CAVA – Warwick District Council Flood Relief Fund. Grants available

153.h Circulation Envelope:

CAVA Connect Newsletter Winter 2010; Warwickshire Northamptonshire Air Ambulance – Heroes Run Sun 23 May at Stoneleigh Park; WDC Sports Zone Easter 2010; Rowington Estate Charity Financial Statements Year End June 2009; WCC New Home Woodchipping Service; Photographs of Great Haywood Marina: Copy of letter from

Lowsonford Conservation Society to WDC Planning; WDC Development Services Warwick Town Centre Plan – Issues; WDC Development Services – Core Strategy Consultation – Alternative Sites.

154 Finance

154.a. Paid during the month:

None

154.b To be paid:

Clerk – salary and allowance	616.22
Photocopying and Postage	15.82
Rowington Village Hall - Hall Hire	70.00

154. c Received:

Bank of Ireland Interest (Jan 2010)	0.00
Rowington Allotments Rent	185.00
WDC Community Forum Grant £1500 (Rowington Old Folks Fund)	1500.00

Resolved that the above items of finance be approved (CB/NC)

154. d Items for Consideration / Information.

None at issue of agenda

155 Items for Future Agendas/Information

- Copy for Parish Magazine submitted plus two flyers as previously circulated
- Vacancies for Parish Councillors advertised – no applications received to date
- Letter of resignation from Mr E Petrie as Trustee of Rowington Almshouse Charity. Councillors to give consideration to suitable candidate to replace Mr Petrie.
- APM date confirmed 22 April 2010. Cllr. Cooper agreed to organise wine and glasses and Cllr. Mrs Clarke agreed to provide snacks/nibbles. Cllr. Caborn confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Paul Pinkney the new Head of Development Services and he had agreed to attend the APM and give a short talk on his role at WDC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

Next Meeting:

Thursday 08 April 2010 at Lowsonford Village Hall

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2010 AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM