

# ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 held at 7:30pm in Lapworth Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Henderson (Chairman), Cllr Hall, Cllr Cole, Cllr Beaver and the Clerk (R Lucas).

**Others Present:** Cllr Hales (WDC).

**Public:** One (1)

**1. To receive and approve apologies for absence submitted to the Clerk.**

Cllr Cooke (WCC), Cllr Aizelwood (WDC), Cllr Armstrong (WDC), Cllr Rees and Cllr Chatwin sent apologies which were **approved**.

**2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Henderson and Cllr Cole** live near to Mountfield Farm (11.2.1).

**3. Dispensations:** No requests received.

**4. Minutes:** It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the minutes were signed without amendment.

**5. Matters arising** from previous meeting that are not included on this agenda:

5.1. Painting Donation by Chris Webbley and family: **The Clerk** reported that 'Falling Shadows', painted by Anthony Gibbs, and featuring a field near Church Lane, Lapworth, was kindly donated by Chris Webbley on behalf of his sister (Mrs Julia C. Griffin) and will be hung in the Village Hall.

**Action: Cllr Henderson** to write a letter of thanks to Mrs Griffin. **The Clerk** to add the painting onto the list of LPC Assets.

**6. Public Participation:** a member of the public talked about Swallowfield EC and that a local residents group of 14 people had been set up.

**7. Reports for Information:**

**7.1. Warwickshire County Council**

Cllr Cooke provided a report for October 2024, see Appendix A.

**7.2. Warwick District Council**

Cllr Armstrong provided a report for October 2024, see Appendix B.

**8. Finance:**

**8.1. To approve the invoices for payment:** The clerk presented the latest Financial Report which showed a general reserves balance of £28,754.25 on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and an expected balance of £24,996.54 once invoices have been paid. It was noted that Precept had been received from WDC on 27/09/24 of £14,047.50.

It was **resolved** to approve the following payments with an amendment to the interest received from £336.28 to £342.96:

## ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

	DATE	TYPE	TO	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1	01/10/24	BACS	Lapworth Village Hall	Room Hire (Sept x 2 & Oct 2024)	£67.50
2	01/10/24	BACS	R Lucas	HW allowance/expenses (Sept	£26.00
3	01/10/24	BACS	R Lucas	Salary (October 2024)	£800.50
4	01/10/24	BACS	R Lucas	Virtual Landline	£4.50
5	01/10/24	BACS	HMRC	NIC (October 2024)	£5.86
6	01/10/24	BACS	Fairways	Grounds Maintenance	£584.57
7	03/10/24	BACS	Fairways	Bench Removal & Grit Bin Removal	£630.00
8	19/09/24	BACS	Fairways	Fence Removal	£195.00
8	20/09/24	BACS	Play Inspection Co	Outdoor Annual Inspection	£162.00
9	19/09/24	BACS	MooreUK	External Audit Review	£252.00
10	02/10/24	BACS	Phil Harris	Notice Boards x 2	£600.00
11	02/10/24	BACS	Parish Online	Mapping Software (annual)	£115.20
12	24/09/24	BACS	Parish Council Websites	Website Deposit (@35%)	£314.58
				<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,757.71</b>

### 9. To note the Conclusion of Audit from Moore UK:

The Council has received the External Auditor Report and Certificate for year ending 31st March 2024. The report states that the information provided to Moore is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The External Auditor Report and Certificate 2023-24 is displayed on the website and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed on both the website and Old Warwick Road noticeboard.

### 10. Items and correspondence for consideration and decision:

10.1. To further review speed in the village.

10.2. **Vicarage Road Allotments:** It was **resolved** to agree the final three points of the Lease between LPC and Vicarage Road Allotments. Namely, 3.1: timing of the rent payment will be fixed annually on 1<sup>st</sup> October. 3.13: The barbed wire in the existing boundary does not need to be removed at this stage but LPC request it is periodically removed when other work makes it possible. 3.17: A reasonable lighting of bonfires is acceptable.

**Action: The Clerk** to liaise with Vicarage Road Allotments to get the lease amended and move towards being signed off.

10.3. **Playground Inspection:** It was resolved to carry the report over until the November 2024 meeting

### 11. Planning Matters:

11.1. Planning applications for consideration:

11.1.1. W/24/1210 - Lapworth Grange, Church Lane, Lapworth, B94 5NT. Proposed new opening to allow access to agricultural field, and associated installation of new gate.

LPC comment: **NEUTRAL** with the following comments: Lapworth Parish Council would request that useage and access is limited to the times stated in the application.

## ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

11.1.2. W/24/0442 - Lapworth Park, Bushwood Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 5PJ. Erection of a rear extension to an outbuilding and the associated alteration of the outbuilding to form ancillary domestic accommodation. LPC Comment: **NEUTRAL**.

11.1.3. W/24/1322/AG - Canal Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6BA. Prior approval notification for proposed erection of agricultural building for storage of arable crops, machinery and fertiliser. LPC Comment: **NEUTRAL** with the following comments: Lapworth Parish Council request that usage remains as stated in the application and that road access is considered.

### 11.2. Decision notices:

11.2.1. W/24/1137 - Old Barn, Mountford Farm, Church Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 5NU. Permission in principle application for the erection of 2no. infill dwelling. LPC Comment: **NEUTRAL**. Planning Permission in Principle: **REFUSED**

### 11.3. Planning Appeal notices:

11.3.1. W/23/1175 - Swallowfield Stud, Rising Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6JD. Change of use of field and 3 buildings to dog care and walking use (Sui Generis) including erection of dog run and replacement roof to the buildings. LPC comments: **OBJECT**

11.3.2. W/23/1193 - Fir Tree Cottage, 147 Chessetts Wood Road, Lapworth. LPC comment: **NEUTRAL** with the following comments: Lapworth Parish Council considers that the overall size of the extension is disproportionate for the Green Belt and asks that it is kept to below the 30% limit. The appeal is dismissed.

11.3.3. W/23/1100/AG - Land to the North of, Bakers Lane, Knowle. The appeal is dismissed.

11.3.4. W/23/1472 - Land to the North of Bakers Lane, Knowle, Solihull. Change of use from existing agricultural land to equestrian use and erection of associated stables and tack room (re-submission of planning application ref: W/23/0459). LPC comments: **OBJECT**

## 12. Road closures and Rights of Way issues

12.1. Notice of Intention to Process the Order for Severn Trent Water - Lapworth Street, Lapworth will be closed between 02/12/2024/ -03/12/2024.

13. Progress Reports: To receive reports and status updates for the following:

13.1. Lapworth recreation sites

13.2. Lapworth Train Station Adoption Group

13.3. **Lapworth Village Hall:** Cllr Cole passed on thanks from The Village Hall for the grant.

13.4. Parish Online

14. Communications, Openness and Accountability:

14.1. Nextdoor.com

14.2. Parish noticeboards

## ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

14.3. **Parish Council website:** It was **resolved** to proceed with Parish Council Websites as the new supplier. LPC have secured the £100 + VAT from the Government Department. The deposit for PCW was approved in the Finance section. **Action: The Clerk** to give PCW the Admin Password to begin the research migration and set up.

15. Correspondence and Publications received for information/consultation:

- 15.1. Warwickshire Matters
- 15.2. Warwick District Council
- 15.3. Warwickshire Police
- 15.4. NALC
- 15.5. CPRE
- 15.6. Rural Bulletin
- 15.7. WM Trains

16. Reports and Questions: To receive reports and questions from members in brief, including items for the next agenda. Councillors are reminded this is not an opportunity for decision making.

17. Date of next meeting: **Monday 11th November 2024 7:30pm**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr Henderson (Chairman)

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

### APPENDIX A:

Warwickshire County Council's finances and performance were the subject of review at the meeting of Cabinet on September 14th.

Demand for services, inflation, market capacity and an increasing growth in the gap between spending on key services and funding all combine to create the most difficult financial position the Council has faced in over a decade

Following the quarter one budget forecast, Cabinet considered the forecast position and approved the development of a financial action plan to mitigate against overspending and address how we will balance the books.

Performance was also reviewed with two agenda items examining council performance.

Complaints received and upheld by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman were considered in a report which demonstrated that Warwickshire is below the national average in terms of complaints upheld.

A second report considered performance against key aspects of the Council Plan, with checks against targets. This was also set against a backdrop of increasing demand for services such as social care and home to school transport, with the report charting delivery.

## ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

In other items, the Warwickshire Bus Service Improvement Plan was discussed with Cabinet approving how over £2m of Government funding over the next year would be spent, with the recommendation that a plan for a second £2m tranche of spending be presented at a subsequent meeting.

Cabinet also endorsed the annual plan for Youth Justice, a statutory requirement which will look at the changing focus of youth justice as it, too, faces new challenges. Again, Warwickshire is ahead of its West Midlands neighbouring authorities in keeping its young people out of protective custody.

### **Warwickshire's aspiring young politicians are encouraged to be heard**

Warwickshire's Youth Council is calling for 11-18-year-olds living or studying in Warwickshire to step forward and nominate themselves for the forthcoming Youth Council elections.

The Youth Council elections give a platform for young people to listen to each other and talk about what matters to them and elected members go on to represent the concerns and ideas of Warwickshire's youth. It provides them with a unique chance to advocate for change on issues that affect children and young people, and actively engage with decision-makers, including MPs and local councillors. This engagement takes various forms, including organising events, leading campaigns, delivering impactful speeches, participating in debates, and more.

Participating in the Youth Council empowers members to develop important life skills, including public speaking, marketing and communications (including social media outreach), project management, teamwork, budgeting and resource allocation, and social skills.

For further information on the Warwickshire Youth Council elections and the nomination process, please visit <https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/heard/2>

### **Dementia support in the community**

Through World Alzheimer's Month during September WCC has been raising awareness about dementia and how people can support others in their community affected by the disease.

Creating dementia friendly communities supports Warwickshire residents with dementia to live well with a little help from other people. By understanding more about dementia friends and families of people living with dementia can help them to be more involved with their community and continue to do the things they enjoy and maintain independence. Dementia Friends is a national campaign from the Alzheimer's Society which aims to change the way people think, act and talk about dementia. A Dementia Friend is somebody that learns about dementia so they can offer practical and emotional

support to those with the condition. Dementia Friends can also get involved with volunteering, campaigning and raising awareness. More information about Dementia Friend is at <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>.

For more information about dementia and the support available, visit Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia website.

### **Just over a month for Year 6 children to apply for their secondary school place**

Parents and carers of children currently in Year 6 are being reminded to apply for their child's secondary school place by the deadline of 31 October 2023.

Last year, there were 6,720 children who applied by the deadline for a Warwickshire secondary school place, with 80% being offered their first-choice school and a further 16% being offered a place at another of their school choices.

Application can be made here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-secondary-school-place>  
Each year there are families who are disappointed on National Offer Day (1 March), when they are offered a school that doesn't reflect their preferences at all. This is often because they only apply to one school, instead of using more of the six possible choices on their application form. Families that miss the 31 October deadline are also much less likely to get offered a place at a preferred school.

### **Can you help with the roll out of electric vehicle charging?**

## ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The Council was recently allocated £3.3m from Tranche 1 of the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capital Fund. Based on current estimates, this funding will allow for the delivery of up to 2,000 charging sockets at both on-street and in car park locations. In order to deliver on this, it is now looking for residents help to nominate possible locations.

Anyone can make a location suggestion by using the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BqqwiCdZu0uok4nMJxOsggWAQybZILFLvdy6xvOGDIUM0hHTUFPNVpBQkg3UII2VU1LR1JDWkNBUyQIQCN0PWcu>

The Council is particularly interested in hearing about those areas where there is a high demand for electric vehicle charging, such as:

- Residential streets with no off-street parking
- Public car parks
- Rural locations

### **Warwickshire businesses urged to make fire safety a priority ahead of changes to legislation**

Effective from October 1st, the introduction of Section 156 of the Building Safety Act mandates that all businesses, irrespective of their size, employee count, or business type, must comprehensively document their fire risk assessments and fire safety arrangements. Additionally, the revised legislation stipulates that in residential buildings housing two or more domestic premises, residents must receive information regarding fire risks and the fire safety measures implemented for their protection.

Many premises will be affected by the changes including small shops, take-aways, holiday lets and small blocks of flats. The main changes businesses need to be aware of are:

- All businesses will need to record a fire risk assessment and fire safety arrangements in full – regardless of the number of employees, and size or type of business.
- There are increased requirements for cooperation and coordination between Responsible Persons in multi occupied buildings or those where the occupier and owner are not the same person.
- In residential buildings with two or more domestic premises residents must be provided with information on the risks from fire and the fire safety measures provided to keep them safe.
- For information visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fire-safety-legislation/new-requirements-businesses-building-owners-building-safety-act-2022>

### **APPENDIX B:**

#### Soft plastic recycling

Warwick District residents have been chosen as the first in the County to recycle plastic bags and wrapping along with other recycling at kerbside. Plastics such as plastic bags, confectionary wrappers, foil lined packaging, bubble wrap, plastic film and more can now be placed in the blue-lidded recycling bin for fortnightly collection. These and other recycled materials are sorted at the Sherbourne materials recycling facility, Coventry, where separated material is sent off for UK-based re-use. We're pleased to formally announce this change and encourage residents to make use of it.

#### Planning enforcement on Back Lane, Shrewley

During September, development activity at land off Back Lane took place without planning permission, with the apparent aim of setting up residential caravans on the site. This activity began early on a Saturday morning, and thanks to early warnings from residents and preparation from

## ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

officers, a Temporary Stop Notice was served in a matter of hours. That notice legally prohibits further development, and is valid for 28 days, during which further contact, monitoring, and investigation is continuing. Officers and Councillors are now monitoring the site and assessing what legal action is possible and necessary to restore the site to its prior condition.

### Pension credit support

With the recent government plans to remove winter fuel allowance from all pensioners not on pension credit, it is absolutely critical to ensure all eligible pensioners have signed up for the credit. We are committed to supporting residents in applying for credit, and can help with the (quite complex!) form required. Please contact your Councillors if you, or someone you know, would like assistance. Pensioners who the Council believes might be eligible are being contacted directly, but we want to avoid anyone slipping through the cracks.

Finally, some quick updates. Our Autumn Biodiversity newsletter is available here. Please take a look and see how you can help support our actions to improve biodiversity across the district. Hedgehog photos included. Since starting operations in June our new dedicated fly tipping team has collected over 70 tonnes of fly tipped waste. Hopefully residents have noticed the faster collection time when reporting tips.

Your councillors for Abbey and Arden are:

Kyn Aizlewood – [Kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:Kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk)

David Armstrong – [David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk)

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Please feel free to contact us with any issues.