

ORDINARY MEETING OF LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 9th December 2024 held at 7:30pm in Lapworth Village Hall

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

Others Present: Cllr Hales (WDC).

Public: Two (2)

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

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

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Henderson declared an interest in 10.1.1. W/23/1487 (Lapworth Grange, Spring Lane). Cllr Chatwin declared an interest in 10.1.2. W/24/1047 (135 Chessets Wood).

3. Dispensations: No requests received.

4. Minutes: It was resolved to **approve** the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 11th November 2024, the minutes were signed without amendment.

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

5.1. Bench at Harborough Cottages: The Clerk noted that Cllr Chatwin and Cllr Hall did a very good job in clearing the grass and path around and near the Memorial Bench. Various residents had passed on their appreciation too.

5.2. Book Exchange at Lapworth Station: The Clerk has been in touch with Kerry Newson and Ellie Gill who run the exchange and it was agreed that The Council would purchase some plastic storage boxes (**approved @ £50**) to protect the books from the weather and cold.

Action The Clerk to purchase the boxes in consultation with Kerry.

6. Public Participation: two members of the public introduced themselves as prospective councillors at District/County level.

7. Reports for Information:

7.1. Warwickshire County Council:

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

7.2. Warwick District Council:

Cllr Hales provided a report for December 2024, see Appendix B.

7.2.1. South Warwickshire Local Plan - Kenilworth Abbey & Arden Ward: The Council were updated on the Plan by Cllr Hales who will be able to report more after January 15th 2025.

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8. Finance:

8.1. **To approve the invoices for payment:** The clerk presented the latest Financial Report which showed a general reserves balance of £23,541.45 on 3rd December 2024 and an expected balance of £22,647.09 once invoices have been paid.

It was **resolved** to **approve** the following payments:

	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	AMOUNT
03/12/24	BACS	Lapworth Village Hall	Room	£22.50
03/12/24	BACS	R Lucas	HW	£26.00
01/12/24	BACS	R Lucas	Salary	£
01/12/24	BACS	R Lucas (Virtual Phone monthly fee)	Virtual	£4.50
01/12/24	BACS	R Lucas (Virtual Phone top up)	Virtual	£5.00
03/12/24	BACS	HMRC	NIC	£5.86
09/12/24	CHQ	Poppy Appeal	Misc	£30.00
			Total	£894.36

Action: The Clerk to pass a signed cheque for the Poppy Appeal to Nicola Everall.

8.2. **Bench at Harborough Cottages:** a quote from Adam Covell was **approved** to secure the memorial bench @£200.

8.3. **Draft Budget 2025-2026 for discussion:** it was **resolved** to carry over this item.

9. Items and correspondence for consideration and decision:

9.1. The Sexual Harassment Policy was **approved** with the following amendments: Under Item 4: title will change to '**Prohibited Conduct to or by Council representatives (including people working on behalf of the Council) in the course of Council duties**'.

9.2. **Ground Maintenance Contract 2025-2027:** it was **resolved** to carry over this item as only 2 x quotes had been received by The Clerk from providers.

9.3. **To further review speed in the village:** Cllr Manley reported that the Community Speed Watch Team has been a great success and the speed-reading device has proved a good purchase. More volunteers will be needed though. Cllr Chatwin mentioned that new legislation might be introduced giving Councils the ability to reduce National Speed Limits.

10. Planning Matters:

10.1. Planning applications for consideration:

10.1.1. W/23/1487 - feedback from WDC Planning for discussion: Lapworth Parish Council are **Neutral** with the following caveat: as requested in November 2023, future development rights are removed or restricted for the site.

10.1.2. W/24/1047 - 135 Chessetts Wood Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6EL. Demolition of existing garage and conservatory construction of two storey side and rear extension: Lapworth Parish Council **support** this application.

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10.1.3. W/24/1480 - Annexe at Yew Tree Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6BA - Proposed conversion of existing garage to form new separate dwelling Lapworth Parish Council are **Neutral**.

10.2. Decision notices:

10.2.1. W/24/1223 - Chadwick House, Rising Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6JA. LPC Decision: APPROVED. WDC Decision: GRANTED

10.2.2. TPO 581 - Land adjacent 166 Station Lane, Lapworth, Solihull

10.3. Planning Appeal notices:

11. Road closures and Rights of Way:

11.1. Lapworth Street, Lapworth closed to vehicular traffic. From 7 January 2025 for up to 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is sooner.

11.2. Lapworth Street, Lapworth will be closed between 07/01/2025 - 09/01/2025 - Severn Trent Water

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

12.1. Lapworth recreation sites: a report on the Annual Playground Inspection 2024 is carried over.

12.2. Lapworth Train Station Adoption Group

12.3. Lapworth Village Hall

12.4. Parish Online – administrator rights are needed to update the system.

Action: The Clerk to contact Parish Online and to request original admin information.

13. Communications, Openness and Accountability:

13.1. Nextdoor.com

13.2. Parish noticeboards – The Clerk reported that the meeting date notices have been removed by unknown persons from the 2 x noticeboards on Station Lane.

13.3. Parish Council website – Cllr Beaver reported that there had been a hold up by the current provider which is somewhat delaying the implementation of the new website.

14. Correspondence and Publications received for information/consultation:

including: Warwickshire County Council

CPRE

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)

15. NALC:

15.1. Warwickshire Matters:

15.2. Warwick District Council:

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- 15.3. Warwickshire Police:
- 15.4. Rural Bulletin:
- 15.5. Rural Services Network:
- 15.6. CPRE:
- 15.7. West Midlands 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 13th January 2025 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed:

Cllr Henderson (Chairman)

Date:

APPENDIX A:

Lapworth & West Kenilworth Division County Council News 2nd December 2024

Warwickshire County Council celebrates their Foster Carer of the Year 2024

Fostering is a journey of immense love, patience, and dedication, and few embody this spirit more than Nigel, Warwickshire's Foster Carer of the Year 2024. With over 27 years of fostering experience, nearly two decades of which have been with Warwickshire County Council, Nigel's story is a testament to the transformative power of providing a stable, nurturing home for children in need.

Nigel began fostering alongside his wife, and after her passing 16 years ago, he chose to continue this shared vocation. Retiring from the Fire Service allowed him to dedicate himself fully to fostering, a decision he describes as driven by passion and purpose.

"Fostering can be a challenge at times," Nigel reflected, "but the training and support provided by Warwickshire Fostering is second to none."

Festive safety tips to make sure you stay safe in December

Throughout the run up to the festive season, check out the Safe in Warwickshire social media accounts for community safety advice and links to support services to help keep you, your family, vehicles and property safe.

There are unique risks and challenges associated with this time of year, because of more community events, increased activities and gatherings with family and friends, Christmas shopping, more traffic on the roads, alcohol consumption, and people decorating their homes, to name just a few.

The town and village Christmas lights are on, but when it comes to your own festive lights, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are reminding people to be fire safe, whether you're at home or miles away this winter. Always turn them off if you're going out or up to bed.

To prevent you being the victim of a Christmas burglary, if you're spending time away from home over the festive break, take time to lock all windows and doors, leave lights and a radio on timer switches so your home looks occupied, and consider security products such as interactive alarms and doorbells.

The advice is to not to leave Christmas presents on open display, especially in front windows. They become easy to see if lights are on and curtains open, and opportunist thieves may take advantage.

It's also the time of the year for vehicle thieves! One in five car break ins occur around Christmas time.

Don't let thieves have an easy ride this festive season – secure your vehicle.

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If the worst happens and you are a victim of crime, everyone knows 999 but do you know how else you can report crimes to Warwickshire Police? If it's not an emergency, you should use telephone number 101, or you can go online to report a non-emergency crime at

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Energy grant supports local business to be more energy efficient

A grant from Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service has helped Just Nice Clean Cars, in Warwick, significantly reduce its energy consumption and bills.

Business owner Carl Jay is delighted by the impact of the grant - and encourages other SMEs to take advantage of an application process which is pleasingly quick and simple.

Just Nice Clean Cars, in Millers Road, is now powered in a much more energy-efficient way after undergoing a free WBEAS energy audit followed by grant support towards necessary improvements.

The business upgraded its heating system, replacing an outdated gas boiler with electric radiators and infrared panels and installing a new water heater.

To find out more about WBEAS and how to apply, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/WBEAS

Support for Warwickshire residents facing financial pressures

Winter's colder temperatures can place extra strain on household budgets, often leading to anxiety that affects both physical and mental wellbeing. Over the winter months the council will be signposting to a range of useful advice and information through its social media channels and website:

<https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme can help the county's most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other options. Support is prioritised to items necessary for day to day living such as food, energy, and water and for those who may not be eligible for the other support the government has recently made available.

It is estimated around 5,800 pensioners living in the county may be entitled to Pension Credit but are not currently claiming it and the council is urging residents to check if they are eligible and to apply. People are encouraged to speak to friends and family who may be entitled to Pension Credit and to support them to do this if they will find it hard to access the information themselves. Check eligibility at

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit> or by calling the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234. Find out more on this Pension Credit factsheet.

The recent meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee marked the end of an era when its independent chairman, John Bridgeman CBE, stepped down after over 20 years in the post.

Mr Bridgeman became Chairman of the Committee in late 2000, following a long and illustrious career in the international aluminium industry, becoming chief executive of British Aluminium plc. In 1995, he took a different path and began to take up a variety of roles in public organisations, starting with the post of Director General of the Office of Fair Trading in 1995.

In this role he oversaw the effectiveness of the legislation of over 30 bodies in the field of competition policy and consumer protection and it was here that Warwickshire first came on his radar, as the county won numerous awards for its excellence in supporting the OFT.

Whilst still at the OFT central government passed the Local Government Act in 2000, requiring all local authorities to establish a Standards Committee to deal with councillors' standards of behaviour.

In late 2000, John became the first independent chairman of the Standards Committee of Warwickshire County Council. Concerns around members' conduct were very few so the committee evolved into the Audit and Standards Committee, covering both the finances of both the council and the Warwickshire Pension Fund. John has chaired that committee ever since, giving a staggering 24 years of committed service. During this time, John has provided strong and steady leadership of the committee, providing valuable challenge and insight to ensure that the Council continues to be a well-run and governed organisation.

John will continue to be busy in a variety of roles, notably as Vice President of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute. The links to Canada, made in his 30 years with British Aluminium, will be maintained with a position within the Anglo-Canadian thinktank Canada-UK Colloquium.

02/12/24

John Cooke

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APPENDIX B:

Warwick District Council Report to Parish Councils, Kenilworth Abbey and Arden Ward

Prepared by: Cllr Richard Hales, December 2024

1. Waste Collections Over Christmas

Your refuse, recycling, and food waste collections will change over Christmas and New Year.

There will be no refuse, recycling or food waste collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

Visit the [Christmas recycling page](#) to see when your collection will change.

There will be no garden waste collections from Friday 27 December 2024 to Wednesday 8 January 2025. Garden waste collections will resume on Thursday 9 January 2025.

2. South Warwickshire Local Plan

Councillors from Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils will meet on 12 December to consider the recommendation for a Preferred Options consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan. If agreed, residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be invited to have their say on this next stage of the new Local Plan, which will cover the combined geographic area of both Councils for the next 25 years.

Once adopted the Plan will set out how both Councils ensure delivery of the infrastructure, open spaces, employment sites and homes meet our needs up to 2050. The plan will be the basis upon which all planning applications will be determined in a way that supports those needs and how we address the pressing issues around climate change, biodiversity, connectivity, and resident wellbeing.

The 'Preferred Options' Consultation will provide a third opportunity for residents to have their say on the emerging Local Plan, following feedback from the previous Scoping (2021) and Issues and Options (2023) consultations. It is informed by a wide range of evidence that is now available to view on the [South Warwickshire Local Plan website](#). It will include the identification of 36 emerging housing and employment growth location options across South Warwickshire that, based on current evidence, are considered to be suitable growth locations. Not all of these locations will ultimately be required to meet the area's growth needs and the Councils will be undertaking further analysis to conclude which locations should form part of South Warwickshire's growth strategy.

As part of the consultation, a targeted call for sites exercise will be held specifically for the following:

- Gypsy and Traveller sites
- Renewable Energy generation sites
- Housing and Employment sites within the 12 potential new settlement locations

Additionally, the consultation will set out policy directions and draft policies covering a wide range of planning matters which, once adopted, will be used to determine planning applications within South Warwickshire.

You can find out more information about the South Warwickshire Local Plan including links to the relevant committee papers at: www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp.

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Further contact information for the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The agenda for the Joint Cabinet Committee is available online on the [Stratford on Avon District Council website](#).

Subject to approval by Councillors on 12 December, details of the consultation and how to make your comments will be added to the website in due course.

3. Make a Difference – New Campaign Launched to attract people to Council Careers

People are being encouraged to 'Make a Difference' in their communities by embarking on a rewarding career with their local council.

A new campaign, '*Make a Difference, Work for your Local Council*,' aims to inspire individuals to explore career opportunities that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of residents.

Councils provide essential services that residents rely on every day, including planning, environmental health, and finance. Following a successful pilot in the Northeast of England, the campaign highlights the wide range of roles available in council services, welcoming people from all backgrounds and skill levels who are looking to begin a new role in local government.

Produced in collaboration between the Local Government Association (LGA), Solace, Regional Employers Organisations, and councils across the country as part of the LGA's Sector Support Offer, and funded by the UK Government, the campaign showcases the variety of meaningful and fulfilling opportunities in local government.

With over 9 in 10 councils experiencing recruitment and retention challenges amid growing demand for services, this initiative comes at a crucial time. It aims to address workforce shortages by attracting new talent into councils, ensuring they can continue to provide the vital services on which communities depend.

4. Thermal Imaging Camera Scheme

Warwick District Council is inviting local constituted community groups from across Warwick District to take part in a thermal imaging camera loan scheme.

The Council is working with its partners, including Royal Leamington Spa Town Council and energy charity Act On Energy, to develop the scheme which will see local community groups managing the loan of thermal imaging cameras to residents.

Advice and guidance on what to do with the images and how to interpret them will be provided by the local community groups, with Act On Energy available to advise on grants available for home energy improvements.

Any constituted community group in Warwick District, whether in the four towns of Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth and Whitnash, or any of the District's villages, that are interested in taking part in the scheme should [complete an expression of interest form](#).

Your councillors for Abbey and Arden are:

Kyn Aizlewood – Kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk

David Armstrong – David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk

Richard Hales – Richard.hales@warwickdc.gov.uk