Church Lawford Parish Council
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Minutes of Meeting held on **Wed 12 Nov 2025** at 19:30

Present: Cllr Jeremy James (Chair) Cllr Helen Smith, Cllr Sara Reilly, Cllr Chris Eldred, Boro Cllr Simon Ward, Boro Cllr Tim Willis, Moira Pendlebury (Clerk & RFO),

1. **Apologies and acceptance of reasons for absence** – Apologies from Cllr Sarah Evans, Boro Cllr Derek Poole, Cty Cllr Anne-Marie Sonko were noted.

2. **Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) on items on the agenda:** none

3. **Public Participation**: Martin Townsend attended to raise significant concerns about the very poor condition of Coronation Rd. As well as many potholes, the surface is breaking up and cracked / raised along the middle to such an extent that it will become impassible to cars. The verges are very soft with frequent use by very heavy vehicles (40 tons+) causing this. In response to a complaint made to WCC, the condition was likened to Cord Land, Easenhall, without any site visit, but it is significantly worse. JJ has already raised the issue as this is the only route out when Bretford and Skew Bridge are flooded.
JJ to write again to Dan Perkins; key issues: gas main sited under where the road is subsiding; risks to cyclists, pedestrians and vars; water channelling.

4. **Borough and County Councillors' Reports:**
   - Unitary status – 2 business cases have been submitted: 1 Unitary covering the whole of Warwickshire; 2 Unitary Authorities covering N and S. Rugby BC likely to be placed with N Boroughs, but the meeting expressed preference for alignment with S Districts (Warwick and Stratford) PC's not yet consulted.
   - Rugby Local Plan: to Full Council on 21 Jan
   - Missed bin collections: due to staff shortages and Boro Cllrs have raised this issue. Communication felt to be good.
   - Bretford Bridge closure: has been very damaging to verges in CL and signs haven't helped as satnavs override official diversions.

5. **Minutes of the Parish Council** held on 8 Oct 25 approved and signed

6. **Brief matters arising**, not on agenda
   - Footpaths – Smithy Lane corner. No update, JJ has emailed CCllr AMS SR to gain details of concerned local walker who on a voluntary basis has used a private prosecution route on such matters.
   - New rubbish bin for A428 layby – now installed

7. **Policy Document Review** – in abeyance.

8. **Planning** – no new applications.

9. **Finance review** – the following payments were noted and approved

Date	Description	Amount	Notes
20/10/25	Clerk's salary (Oct)	Confidential	
21/10/25	CPRE annual sub	60.00	
23/10/25	HMRC	97.00	
16/11/25	Playground check - Nov	35.00	MC
5/11/25	Dog poo bags & signs	40.37	HS
	Xmas tree	97.50	
	Poppy wreath	29.49	
	Xmas lights for Village Green	197.99	JJ

To note receipts - none

Date	Description	Amount	Notes
13/10/25	Allotment rent balance	8.00	BW
25/10/25	Allotment rent balance	4.00	OW

Bank balances at Wed 5 Nov 25: **Current: £4,668.01 Deposit: 9,206.36 Total: £13,874.37**

Review of half year accounts
Accounts presented, most items in line with planned budget. Projected overspend on budget of £1,000 - £1,500, mainly due to unbudgeted fee for solicitor (Sheila Nicholls bequest)

10. **Bretford Bridge closure**
Has had a very adverse impact on Church Lawford, Kings Newnham and the top road. – see item 4. Communication with WCC did result in a delay to the one day closure of Kings Newnham Lane, which was helpful. This period underlines the need for improvements to Coronation Rd as had there been flooding at the KN bridge this would have been the only route available.

11. **Play Area**
Tree work still not undertaken, **JJ to chase up.** If work still not forthcoming, JJ to instruct an alternative tree surgeon.
The monthly inspections, now including bin emptying are going very well, with helpful recording.

12. **Gift of Land for village** (Sheila Nicholls bequest)
HS has identified 3 possibilities for land clearance, waiting for RBC Parks Committee suggestions. Need site meetings in order for the firms to provide quotes.
JJ to notify Trustees and access key

13. Flood Action / Skew Bridge

- Gullies fixed, but JJ has cleared much rubbish again.
- Limestone Hall Lane – Severn Trent and WCC do not seem interested in solving this flooding, neither sees it as their issue.
  JJ to contact Severn Trent again via Councillor email

14. Health & Safety / safeguarding incidents

Speeding through village.
JJ to contact Dan Perkins (WCC) for advice

15. Community and Village maintenance items

a) Defibrillator – needs a special recall check, SE to do ASAP

b) Grass cutting – completed for the year, **JJ to see Ralph to review**

c) Dog poo bag dispensers / bins – reminder signs to clean up have been installed

d) Allotments – all payments finally received. Hedge needs checking and a cut arranged before it grows too high af. **JJ to ask farmer** who did it previously

e) Wildflower verge – some weeds in evidence, NFA until spring.

f) Planter on Green - ongoing

16. Xmas Preparations

- More strings of lights have been purchased, Bright Bros will help put up high, with no fee as it's for the community. **JJ to liaise**
- Tree has been delivered. Agreed to be put up and decorated on **Sun 30th Nov 11.00 a.m.**
- Switch on as usual on day of Christingle Service

17. Other Items not on Agenda

- Recycling leaflet from RBC MP suggested printing a quantity to enclose with Parish magazine, along with information on the Village Hall recycling point. **MP to bring printed copies** to next meeting for further discussion.

18. Future Agenda Items:

19. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm **Wednesday 10 Dec 2025** for the next regular meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall at 7:30 pm
If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be sent to Councillors and may be put on the website and on the Parish Council noticeboard three clear days before the meeting is held.

The meeting closed at 21:20

Signed:

Date: