

MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

MONDAY 11 January 2021 at 19.00hrs

Held via Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillors Paul Shannon (Chair)
Howard Hopwood (Vice-Chair)
Glenys Harrison
Peter Thomas
Michael Smythe
Bob Knight

In attendance Clerk Christine Davies
Cllr Stuart Parker (7.30pm – 8.10pm)

1 Apologies

None

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 To consider approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 02 November 2020

Minutes were signed as a true and correct record by Cllr Paul Shannon (Chair)

4 To consider approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14 December 2020

Minutes were signed as a true and correct record by Cllr Paul Shannon (Chair)

5 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Japanese Knotweed: Cllr B Knight enquired about the current situation of the weed. Cllr P Shannon replied that the weed dies back over the Winter but he will be keeping a watch on it until Spring.

6 Public Participation

No local residents asked to join the virtual meeting.

Cllr Stuart Parker stated that there was nothing new to report. During this third lockdown the Council's priorities are directed at supporting the community and business. However, with the introduction of the vaccine programme, some form of normality is hoped for by the Summer. The new bus/cycle lanes around the City are still causing some controversy with residents.

7 Schedule of Meetings for next 12 months

The following dates were agreed:-

Monday 8 March 2021
Monday 10 May 2021
Monday 12 July 2021
Monday 13 September 2021
Monday 8 November 2021
Monday 10 January 2022
Monday 14 March 2022

8 Highways

i) A41 Road Safety Correspondence: Cllr Shannon confirmed that a letter supporting Christleton Parish Council's 7-point plan to reduce speeding along the A41 was sent to Sean Traynor, Head of Highways on 23/12/20, In discussion with Cllr Richard Moulds of Waverton Parish Council the general view is that investment in safer travel will be dependent on Section 106 funding.

ii) A41 Pedestrian Crossing: Cllr Stuart Parker stated that as far as he aware the scheme has been fully approved, including funding. Funding is to be drawn from the S106 Saughton Camp fund pot. He said that the scheme was just waiting to be scheduled into the works programme. Cllr Parker said he would confirm the above via email.

Cllr Hopwood thanked Cllr Parker for forwarding the detailed road traffic accident data for the A41 for the 3 years up to October 2020. He is still in the process of interpreting the data. Cllr Parker confirmed that there is no planned Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) initiative for the A41.

9 Finance The following retrospective expenditure for November and December was approved:-

Payments	Amount	Cheque No Online Payment	Statute Power
CM Davies – Oct Sal £158.40 + £22.24 Exp	£180.64	OP	LGA 1972 s112
CM Davies – Nov Sal £153.60 + £11.84 Exp	£165.44	OP	LGA 1972 s112
HMRC Cumbernauld	£116.40	OP	LGA 1972 s112
Walkers Nurseries – Xmas Tree	£168.00	OP	LGA 1972 s111
Bank Balance as at 05/01/21	£5265.60		

To consider Parish Precept for 2021/22

Clerk had circulated draft budget for the forthcoming financial year. The budget figures erred on the side of caution in view of the current pandemic and also took into consideration the unknown state of the Local Authority's financial position. The Parish Council's current reserves, in the event of an emergency, would not cover a full year's expenditure based on existing costs. Reserves have been depleted over the years as a result of the precept not being increased for 10

years in the 2000's, whereas running costs have increased. In order to reduce annual subscription expenditure, Cllr M Smythe said by enrolling the Parish Council onto Microsoft Company Store this would reduce the annual cost of Microsoft 365. He also stated that because of the in-built virus protection of Microsoft 365 there was no need to renew McAfee Antivirus software. Cllr P Thomas suggested that a future saving could be the planting of a permanent Fir tree on the Village Green which could be decorated annually for the Carols on the Green event. Further discussion on level of reserves going forward to be considered at the next meeting.

Following budget discussion it was proposed to apply for a Precept of £6700 Resolved; The Parish Council unanimously approved to apply for a Precept of £6700 for the financial year 2021/22.

10 Ladywell Accountancy Services – End of Service

Payroll provider service to end on 31 March 2021. Clerk contacted various agencies, such as ChaLC, SLCC, CWaC and adjoining Parish Council for recommendations. Two quotations received to provide monthly payslips and submissions: JDH Business Services of Mold - £120/year and Penny Lane Accountants of Littleton - £5/month plus one off £15 set up fee.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to appoint Penny Lane Accountants as payroll provider from 1 April 2021.

11 Police Community Funding Application

Cllr Hopwood has submitted the Parish Council's proposal of litter picking to PCSO Linda Bailey. The proposal is for the Parish Council to provide the resources to do the litter picking i.e. volunteers, who would be managed and risk assessed by the PC. The volunteer's time to be used as payment in kind to match any Police funding. The Parish Council would need funding to provide the litter picker with suitable personal protection equipment ie face masks, hi-viz jackets, picker, insurance, etc. The initial response from PCSO Linda Bailey is promising and appears to suggest that there will be a group investment and shared facilities for this project within Chester Villages Ward.

12 ChALC Speeding Questionnaire

Cllr Paul Shannon's drafted response was noted and there were no amendments.

Action: Clerk to forward to Jackie Weaver at ChALC.

13 Planning

To receive the following decisions:

20/02408/FUL: The Cottage, Rowton Lane, CH3 6AT – Single rear extension
Approved

20/02450/FUL: Holly Bank, Rowton Lane, CH3 6AT – Conversion of former barn into one dwelling with associated landscaping
Approved

20/03456/FUL: Thurby, Greenfield Lane, CH3 6AU: Single storey and two storey extension to rear, alterations to front elevation and rendering of the whole property

Approved

Parish Council submitted No Comment on 22/12/20 re 20/04264/FUL: Claypits Lane, CH3 6AX: Conversion of disused barn to one dwelling with associated extensions and alterations.

To receive Planning Application 20/04664/FUL: Oakdene, Greenfield Lane, CH3 6AU: Single storey extension and new solid roof to existing conservatory.

Parish Council has No Comment to make about this application.

To note Planning Application withdrawn on 21/12/20 : 20/02570/FUL:

Meadowbank, Whitchurch Road, CH3 6AF – removal of existing single extension and conservatory and erection of two storey side extension.

National Planning Forum: Cllr Hopwood attended a CWaC seminar about the Government's proposed changes to the Planning system. Overall, there was very little detail but it appears that central government will develop local plans with Local Authorities having an advisory role. Neighbourhood Development Plans could be downgraded from being a legal document to only advisory.

14 Neighbourhood Planning

It was agreed to postpone any future meeting until further information about the new planning reforms is received in July. It was also agreed not to pursue a Village Design Statement as it is for guidance only and not a legal document.

15 Xmas Tree 2020

Messrs Fitton and Salmon to be thanked for their work in lighting the Christmas tree by purchasing them each 2 bottles of red/white wine.

Resolved: To spend up to £50 for purchase of wine.

Action: Clerk to action.

16 Issues for Discussion/Consideration

Carols on the Green: Cllr Bob Knight said that regrettably he will be unable to lead the singing for future events.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8 March 2021 at 19.00 hrs

Meeting finished at 20.50hrs