

**MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Bob Knight (Chair)
 Glenys Harrison (Vice-Chair)
 Paul Shannon
 Peter Thomas
 Doug Jenkins

In attendance: Cllr Stuart Parker (left at 8.25 pm)
 Clerk Christine Davies

1 Apologies

Cllr Howard Hopwood (prior engagement)

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 To consider approval of the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13 November 2017

Resolved: Minutes approved and signed as a true record by Cllr Bob Knight (Chair)

4 Matters arising from Minutes not covered elsewhere on Agenda

Carols on the Green Feedback was positive, despite inclement weather, there was a good turnout and a general feeling of community spirit.

5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance. Cllr Stuart Parker had nothing to report other than preparation for the CWaC budget in February.

6 Village Green

Removal of Compost Bin

The construction of the compost bin comprises of posts concreted into the ground and wood fencing panels together with 2 rhododendron bushes planted in front. All the materials and the 2 bushes are the property of Mr Maudslay, these will be returned to him if he requests it.

Resolved: Compost Bin to be removed during the weekend of 27/28 January. Mr Maudslay to be advised of this and asked to respond by 26 January if he requires the materials and bushes to be returned to him, otherwise the Parish Council will dispose of them appropriately.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Maudslay via email and advise of above.

Village Green Volunteer Group

Risk Assessment re Garden Maintenance – Minor amendment agreed.

Updated version to be circulated by Clerk.

Rota – Paul Shannon confirmed that only 4 out of the 10 volunteers have confirmed receipt of Risk Assessment and Manual Handling Guidance. He agreed to contact the remainder of the Group to obtain their confirmation.

Storage of Xmas Lights: Cllr Harrison kindly agreed to their storage.

The wooden stool used for playing the keyboard at Carols on the Green has been kindly donated to the Parish Council and Cllr Bob Knight has agreed to store it.

7 Finance

The following expenditure was approved:-

Payments	Amount	Cheque No
CM Davies – Nov Sal £253.18 + £25.22 Expenses	£278.40	000684
CM Davies – reimbursement re xmas lights + storage reel	£45.58	000685
Oakfield Nurseries – xmas tree	£156.00	000686
Mrs P Fitton – reimbursement re refreshments re Carols	£64.25	000687
CWaC – reimbursement of duplicate payment – Member's Budget	£250.00	000688
CM Davies – Dec Sal 167.48 + 17.59 Expenses	£185.07	000689
Ladywell Accountancy Services – Annual Charge	£44.00	000690
Bank Balance as at 05/01/2018	£5115.20	

Cllr Peter Thomas signed and dated electronic cash book reconciliation. Cllrs Knight and Harrison signed NatWest forms to remove 3 signatories (Morfudd Salmon, Pat Fitton and MA Wright) from the bank account.

Parish Precept for 2018/19

Clerk circulated budget for the year 2018/19 which showed expenditure exceeding income by approx. £800. The shortfall would have to be met from the Parish Council's reserves. For the current financial year 2017/18 the Parish Council's Precept was £2977 and additional income included £651.02 grant from the Transparency Fund to comply with legal obligations and £350 from CWaC Member's Budget to help towards funding of Carols on the Green and the Village Treasure Hunt. This is the final application to the Transparency Fund and because of savings to be made by CWaC there is uncertainty whether the Member's Budget will continue. It was therefore agreed to increase the Band D precept charge to £14.72 an increase of £1.00 per property.

Resolved: The Parish Council formally approved Local Precept Request of £3163.00

8 Highways

i) Parish Council approved Cllr Doug Jenkins as Parish Liaison with the Village Ward Traffic Group, replacing Cllr Paul Shannon. Cllr Jenkins advised that there was nothing new to report.

ii) Parish Council approved Cllrs Jenkins and Harrison to carry out speed gun training. As yet no training dates confirmed.

iii) Local resident requested Rowton Lane and surrounding areas be subject to 20mph limit. Clerk had ascertained CWaC's criteria for 20mph speed limit: There is a 4-year rolling programme to consider all roads in Chester and District for 20mph and Rowton Lane and surrounding area will be considered in Year 4. Prior to this Rowton Lane and surround will be subject to a speed monitoring exercise and if average speed exceeds 24mph then the criteria for 20mph will be met. If the criteria is met then in Year 4 Rowton Lane will be considered for a "signage" only 20mph speed limit. Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps will not be considered as Rowton Lane does not meet other criteria such as a local school, record of serious accidents etc.

Action: Clerk to advise resident of criteria

Resident also requested leaves/debris to be cleared from roadside in Rowton Lane.

Resolved: Request Streetscene to remove leaves etc.

Action: Clerk to action

iv) Request by local resident for CCTV to be installed in Rowton Lane

Resolved: Installation is impractical both because of the cost and the requirement for staff to monitor it.

Action: Clerk to advise resident of decision

v) Update re A41 lighting. Clerk advised by Highways that the 5 street lights out of action on A41 are the responsibility of Scottish Power/Manweb. This issue had been reported to Scottish Power in the summer of 2017 but there has been no response.

Resolved: Highways to be contacted re progression of this issue

Action: Clerk to action

vi) Signage on Moor Lane to warn of horses and riders

A riding stables and manège accesses onto Moor Lane. Reported incidents of near misses of traffic with riders and horses.

Resolved: Contact Highways to ascertain if appropriate signage can be displayed in Moor Lane.

Action: Clerk to action

vii) Drainage on Moor Lane (opposite Pumping Station). Deep and extensive pools of water during heavy rain making it dangerous for motorists, particularly, those coming off A41.

Resolved: Highways to be notified to rectify situation.

Action: Clerk to action.

9 Planning

No Comment agreed for Planning Application 17/05357/FUL: 23 St George's Crescent, Waverton – Single Side & Rear Extension. This application sent to Rowton Parish Council as the Applicant's garden lies partly within the Parish Boundary. Planning Decisions received re 17/04670/FUL – Honey Pot, Moor Lane: single storey side extension and 17/05120/FUL Rowton Poplars Hotel, Whitchurch Road: single storey rear extension – both Approved.

10 Notice Board – Croft Close

Information received from CWaC confirms that the grass verge on which the Notice Board is located is in their ownership. If the landlord wishes for the Notice Board to be moved he would need to obtain CWaC's consent.

Action: Clerk to advise landlord

11 Councillor Induction Training

Parish Council approved Cllrs Jenkins and Hopwood to attend training at a cost of £35 each. The next Training is on 2 May 2018 in Tarvin.

Action: Clerk to book training places.

12 Draft Community Assets Framework Consultation

Consultation period is until 25 February 2018. It was agreed that Councillor's to respond on an individual basis.

13 Best Kept Village Competition

Invitation from Cheshire Community Action to participate in 2018

Resolved: Parish Council agreed not to participate.

Action: Clerk to advise CCA

14 Information Only

Confirmation from Cheshire Association of Local Councils that co-opting of Parish Councillors is not to be phased out.

15 Issues for Discussion/Consideration

Future arrangements for Carols on the Green

Speed signage on Rowton Lane

16 Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct - Jan 2018

100 years of Wickstead Play Furniture

The Clerk Magazine – Jan 2018

17 Date of Next Meeting Monday 12 March 2018

Meeting finished at 9.45pm