

MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY 09 MAY 2023 at 7.30pm

Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane

Present: Cllr Howard Hopwood
Cllr Paul Shannon
Cllr Glenys Harrison
Cllr Melanie Fildes

In Attendance: Christine Davies (Parish Clerk)

1 To Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations for the position of Chair were called for. Cllr Melanie Fildes proposed Cllr Howard Hopwood and this was seconded by Cllr Paul Shannon. Cllr Howard Hopwood accepted the position and agreed to serve for a further year. Nominations for the position of Vice-Chair were called for. Cllr Howard Hopwood proposed Cllr Paul Shannon and this was seconded by Cllr Glenys Harrison. Cllr Paul Shannon accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

2 Declaration of Acceptance

Cllr Hopwood signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair. Cllr Paul Shannon signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chair. All other Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 Register of Interests

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Authority's Code of Conduct all councillors signed their Notification of Members' Interests.

4 Apologies

Cllr Bob Knight (unwell). His Declaration of Acceptance of office to be signed at next meeting.

5 Chair's Report

The Chair's report for 2022/23 was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The Chair started his report by saying that although the shadow of the Covid pandemic is still in the background he is glad that meetings are now back to their normal format. It has been a busy year for the Parish Council and he listed the key issues.

Planning

Land at Woodbank which has access to the A41 is still a cause for concern but as the land is in Christleton the Parish Council is keeping a

watching brief as any development will affect residents in Rowton. Land adjacent to the Drift in Moor Lane. This application is for the erection of a two-storey block of four affordable one-bedroom apartments. Objection has been submitted on the basis of concerns about vehicular access being too close to the A41 and flooding/drainage issues (see next section). A decision is still awaited.

Flooding in and Around Moor Lane

This was by far the most serious issue dealt with by the Parish Council in 2022/3, involving raw sewage in gardens and the pavement in Moor Lane. The problem was exacerbated by the kerb being too low which resulted in water flooding over the pavement and also residents flushing wet wipes down the drains causing blockages. The level of the kerb has now been raised and the pavement tarmaced and no flooding has taken place even after substantial rain. This improvement will effect the Planning Application for the erection of a two-storey block of 4x1 bedroom apartments and overload the drainage system. To-date the Parish Council is still awaiting a response from Wastewater Developer Services from United Utilities.

Highways

It has been confirmed that Average Speed Cameras are to be installed on the A41. We understand that these cameras will be installed between the Black Dog Pub and the Sainsbury's Roundabout, however the timetable for installation is not yet known.

Japanese Knotweed in Clay Pitts Lane – At the time of writing it appears to be under control but is still being monitored.

Litter Picking

A litter picking event took place on 29 April and several bags of litter were collected in time to clean up the village for the Coronation Picnic on the Green.

Community Events

Heritage Walk on Sunday 16 October 2022 led by Local Historian, David Cummings, started on the Village Green. It was a very enjoyable two-hour walk hearing about some of the history of Rowton and the surrounding villages. The walk finished at the Methodist Church in Moor Lane for a well-deserved cup of tea and slice of cake!

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee – To commemorate this momentous occasion the Parish Council installed an inscribed plaque on the Memorial stone on the Village Green.

The Parish Council is also organising a Coronation Picnic on Monday 8 May on the Village Green to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III.

Parish Precept 203/24

Last year’s Precept was reduced by 15.8% but due to the change in economic circumstances it has been necessary to increase the Precept for this year by 11% to maintain the necessary level of reserves.

Carols on the Green

The annual event was once again a great success with increased numbers of attendees. The Chair expressed his thanks to Michael Smythe for leading the singing with such expertise.

Final thanks were given to the Parish Clerk, Christine, without whose hard work and expertise the Parish Council would not be able to function. The full report can be viewed at www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk

6 Financial Report

The Financial Report for year ending 31 March 2023 was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The report gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year 2022/2023 and it can be viewed on the parish website www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk

7 Meetings

The following dates were approved:-

- Monday, 10 July 2023
- Monday, 11 September 2023
- Monday, 13 November 2023
- Monday, 15 January 2024
- Monday, 11 March 2024
- Monday, 13 May 2024

8 Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

Meeting finished at 7.55pm.

Confirmed as an accurate record:

Signed

(Chair/Vice Chair)

Date