

# MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY 16 MAY 2022 at 7.00pm

Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane

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

In Attendance: Christine Davies (Parish Clerk)

## 1 To Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair were called for. Cllr Bob Knight proposed Cllr Howard Hopwood and this was seconded by Cllr Melanie Fildes. Cllr Hopwood accepted the position to serve for a further year. Cllr Howard Hopwood proposed Cllr Peter Thomas for the position of Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Shannon.

## 2 To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Hopwood duly signed his Acceptance of Office and the meeting began

## 3 Apologies

Cllr Peter Thomas (work)

## 4 To receive Chair's Annual Report for 2021/22

The Chair's report was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The Chair started his report by saying that at the beginning of 2021 Parish Council meetings were still being held over Zoom but by July it was agreed Councillors would attend in person but that suitable precautions would be taken to avoid any undue risk. The Chair thanked all Parish Councillors and the public who attended meetings for their forbearance in these difficult circumstances. Despite the Pandemic, which still rumbles on in the background it has been a busy year for the Parish Council with some of the key issues as follows:

Planning – Always an important issue. First contentious issue discussed in May 2021 to do with Land at Woodbank with access to the A41. This land is actually part of Christleton but local resident whose property is adjacent to the land was concerned about the effect the work was having on her residence. This has been followed up with CWaC who are dealing with the issue in conjunction with Christleton with support from Rowton Parish Council.

There was a good news story in May 2021 with the installation of the new Pedestrian Crossing at the end of long Rowton Lane and the A41 which is now being used regularly. Two planning applications which were of concern to local residents to which the Parish Council submitted objections were firstly:

Land adjacent to the Drift in Moor Lane – Application to erect two-storey block of four affordable one-bedroom apartments. Vehicular access and flooding issues were main issues of concern. Decision is awaited.

Rowton Moor Nurseries, Promised Land Lane. Objection was based on the land having

never been used for commercial purposes and therefore a change in status away from Green Belt. There is a long history around this property which was emphasised in the objection. Permission has been refused.

Flooding in and around Moor Lane – Serious issue which involved raw sewage in gardens as well as on the pavement. Representations from local residents, the Parish Council and Cllr Stuart Parker resulted in the sewer being cleared. Issue still active as kerbside too low resulting in water flooding the pavement and residents flushing wet wipes down drain.

Japanese Knotweed – Clay Pits Lane. This site is being checked and monitored by Street Scene.

Fibre Broadband – Continue to take advice to make sure Rowton does not get left behind.

Litter Picking Equipment – Successful bid to the Police Community Fund enabled purchase of litter picking equipment for volunteers to help keep the village tidy.

New Parish Councillor – Delighted to welcome Melanie Fildes who was co-opted to the Parish Council in January 2022.

Parish Precept – As reserves going forward for 2022/23 are in much healthier state it was decided to reduce the Band D charge to £25, a 15.8% reduction on the previous year.

Carols on the Green – Returned after 2 years and was well attended and very enjoyable. Thanks to Michael Smythe for leading the singing with such expertise.

Final thanks 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 on the Parish Council website at [www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**5 To receive Financial Report for year ending 31 March 2022**

The Financial Report was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The report gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year 2021/22 and it can be viewed on the parish website

[www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**6 Open Forum**

No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting finished at 7.15pm