

ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL (RPC)

Chairman's Report May 2019

Unusually for a Rowton Parish Council (RPC) chairman, I find myself writing a chairman's report for the second year running. Typically, occupancy of the chair lasts for one year, though this is not a mandatory requirement. However, this is a positive indicator of the health of the council, since the council has been rejuvenated by an influx of new councillors over the past couple of years. As a result, sufficient time has been given for the new members to settle in before taking on the job of chairman

Unfortunately, we have lost one member, Doug Jenkins, who has moved to another area and has not yet been replaced. I should like to thank Doug for his keenness in tackling a number of issues, particularly concerns regarding traffic, before moving.

As always, Highways issues have been prominent in council affairs. Problems concerning lighting, drainage, signage, subsidence and the speed and volume of traffic on the A41, Moor Lane and Rowton Lane have all been addressed. We are taking an increasing interest in the Village Ward Traffic group and have a standing invitation for the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to attend council meetings and hear concerns on this and other issues. One significant traffic issue is the danger to pedestrians crossing the A41 from Rowton Village to Christleton and we are engaging with the local Action Group to see what can be done to improve the situation.

Planning considerations have largely been routine and we have continued to support/advise parishioners where they have sought advice/help. Other pragmatic issues include the continued operation of the Village Green Working Party, which endeavours to ensure that The Green is cut regularly and surrounds kept neat and tidy.

Social activities have again been very popular. A walk along the canal with input on local history by David Cummings was attended by around thirty people and culminated in a very pleasant gathering for tea and cakes in the Methodist Chapel. Likewise, the annual Carol Service was attended by more than forty people, who enjoyed gluhwein and mince pies on the Village Green. The tree was successfully illuminated for the first time by low wattage LED lights which significantly reduced the electricity usage.

The activities of RPC are available for viewing on the website, which is being updated for use by mobile phones and tablets. My thanks go to our Parish Clerk, Christine, for attending to this and the whole business of the effective functioning of the Parish Council. I should also like to thank CWaC Councillor Stuart Parker for his continued help and guidance on a range of issues and for aid from his budget for community activities. My thanks also go to the council members of RPC for their help and commitment during the past year.

Bob Knight