

MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2019 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Clerk Christine Davies
CWaC Cllr Stuart Parker – left at 8.10pm
1 local resident

1 Apologies

None

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 To consider the approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12 November 2018

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

4 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

A41 Pedestrian Crossing - Residents' group are to meet again in January to discuss strategy.

Speed Monitoring – Cllr Peter Thomas met with PCSO Jack Makin and updated him on local issues. The PCSO is borrowing from neighbouring Frodsham a SID (Speed Indicator Device), unfortunately not a Smart device, and the Parish Council can request its usage. Cllr Stuart Parker informed that a Public Meeting is to be held at Christleton High School on Wednesday 6 February to discuss local traffic issues and representatives of Highways will be in attendance.

5 Public Participation

One member of the public was in attendance. The local resident thanked and welcomed the Parish Council's actions in contacting CWaC Highways to repair the dip which is forming on the road surface at the junction of Moor Lane and the A41. The resident also expressed concern about the volume and noise of the HGV's travelling along the A41.

Cllr Stuart Parker confirmed that all the Council seats are up for re-election on 2 May 2019.

6 Highways

i) Build-up of mud on pavement near Vaynol, A41. Clerk reported that StreetCare have confirmed that the area will be swept by a mechanical sweeper during w/c 28/01/19. However, on further inspection, StreetCare now recognise that turf is encroaching on the footway and this requires digging back manually. They are seeking advice on the responsibility of the pathway as it is on a trunk road.

ii) Lights out on the A41. Clerk reported that all are now working.

iii) Blocked culvert – (junction with Short Rowton Lane/A41) Clerk reported that StreetCare had inspected the area and stated that it was not blocked and does not require attention.

Cllr Paul Shannon pointed out that half way down Short Rowton Lane on the left had side where the pond has been cleared that the culvert which goes underneath the road appears to be blocked. Action: Clerk to contact CWaC

iv) Surface of Moor Lane at junction with A41. Highways notified Clerk that manhole covers appear to be ok, however, there is a dip forming in the road surface and a job order has been created for the work to be included in their programme of work. It is not deemed urgent as is not categorised as a pot hole.

7 Carols on the Green

Successful event – over 40 people in attendance. Cllr Pete Thomas on behalf of the Parish Council purchased a leisure battery to power the xmas lights. An inverter was used to convert the voltage so that the existing xmas lights could be used and incorporated a circuit breaker to meet safety requirements. Possible change of venue to Rowton Methodist Church to be discussed at July meeting.

8 Village Green Volunteer Group

Working well but a few more volunteers are required as some have left. Unfortunately, the Rhododendron bush planted in memory of Rosemary Boothroyd has died.

9 Finance

The following expenditure was approved:-

Payments	Amount	Cheque No
CM Davies Nov Sal 177.99 + 20.91 Exp	£198.90	000716
Harold Walker Nurseries - Xmas Tree	£156.00	000717
CM Davies - reimbursement re Carols on Green	£30.98	000718

CM Davies - Dec Sal 175.25 + 20.16 Exp	£195.41	000719
G Harrison reimbursement re refreshments - Carols on Green	£34.63	000720
P Thomas reimbursement of battery to power Xmas Tree	£116.00	000721
Bank Balance as at 04/01/2019	£4650.71	

i) National Salary Award

Clerk advised on new pay scales and new pay spine to be implemented on 01 April 2019 which have been agreed by the National Association of Local Councils.

ii) To consider Parish Precept for 2019/20

Clerk circulated budget for the year 2019/20 based on the current precept of £3163 which shows expenditure exceeding income by approximately £1200. In order to maintain the same level of service to the community the Parish Council could meet this deficit by using its reserves but this could put the Parish Council into a potentially unstable financial position. Also, the Parish Council has for the past few years been successful in applying to the Member's Budget fund for funding towards community social activities, such as the Village Walk and Carols on the Green. However, there is uncertainty about the future of this discretionary payment. Taking all this into consideration the Parish Council calculated the additional income required and halved it so that adjustments could be made in the future. It was therefore agreed to increase the Band D precept charge to £17.49 an increase of £2.77 per property for the year 2019/20.

Resolved: The Parish Council formally approved Local Precept Request of £3800.

10 Planning

Planning Application Decisions received re 18/01143/FUL: Orchard End, Greenfield Lane and 18/01574/FUL: Moor Cottage, Moor Lane – both Approved. No Comment submitted re Planning Applications 18/04216/FUL Rowton Hall Hotel and 18/04475/FUL Rowton Grange West, Whitchurch Road. New Planning Application received on 10/01/19 18/04868/FUL: Waterside, Chapel Close – 1st Floor extension – Comments required by 31/01/19. It was noted that Planning Application 18/02321/LDC re The Drift, Moor Lane for erection of new garage block, storage shed, swimming pool and gym building was submitted and approved without notification to the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to know what the criteria are for the issuing of a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC).

Action: Clerk to action

11 Councillor Vacancy

Clerk has received one response via the flyer sent out before Christmas. Cllr Hopwood to follow up.

12 Parish Website

The creator of the website, Alex Piggott, has provided example of updated and refreshed website, particularly for use by mobiles and tablets. The changes would be implemented at no extra charge. The Parish Council welcomed and agreed the new changes.

13 Rights of Way

Cllr Paul Shannon had circulated an electronic copy of a map showing the 5 Rights of Way (foot paths) within the Parish. The map is available via the Cheshire West and Chester website. In order for this to be readily available to all residents it was suggested that it be incorporated in the Parish Website.

Action: Clerk to investigate feasibility and costs.

14 Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct – Jan 2019

The Clerk Magazine - Jan 2019

15 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 11 March 2019

Note: May meeting now rescheduled to Monday 20 May 2019

Meeting finished at 9.40pm