

**MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
MONDAY 10 JULY 2023 at 7.00pm
held at Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane, Rowton**

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

In attendance Clerk Christine Davies
 CWaC Cllr Stuart Parker (left 7.40pm)
 1 resident
 James Pownall, Manager of Rowton Hall Hotel

1 Apologies

None

2 Declaration of Interest

None

The Chair asked for item 13 to be brought forward:

13 Community Bench

Member of the public raised objection to the proposed siting of a community bench on the grass verge on the canal towpath. The proposed installation is in front of an elder tree to the rear of 17 Croft Close. The resident, who lives at no 15, does not think that there is a need for such a bench and that it will encourage litter, dog 'poo' bags and anti-social behaviour, including drug taking and loud music. The Parish Council has already contacted neighbouring parish councils to see if they have encountered such behaviour with their community benches and they reported that no such activities had taken place. The local PCSO and Beat Manager have also been contacted and they also reported that they were not aware of any such problems. Cllr Fildes reported that just in the last few days she had received comments from the passing public on the towpath that a bench in the vicinity would be very welcome. The Parish Council has received no other complaints about the proposed installation of the community bench which will be made of recyclable plastic and to the specification of the Canal and River Trust (CRT), who own the grass verge. The resident also commented on the overgrown state of the grass verge on the canal towpath.

The Chair, Cllr Hopwood, assured the resident that the Parish Council will look again at the proposed siting of the bench and if anti-social behaviour was identified then it would consider removing the bench.

Action: Clerk to contact CRT regarding installation of litter bin and cutting policy of grass verges.

- 3 To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 09 May 2023**
Resolved: The minutes were signed as a true and correct record by the Chair,
Cllr Howard Hopwood

To approve the minutes of the annual meeting held on 09 May 2023
Resolved; The minutes were signed as a true and correct record by the Chair,
Cllr Howard Hopwood.

- 4 Acceptance of Office**
Cllr Bob Knight signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Notification of
Member's Interest Form.

- 5 Matters Arising**
Annual Internal Audit - An honorarium of 2 boxes of beers to thank Fil Prevc has been
purchased.

- 6 Public Participation**
James Pownall introduced himself as the new General Manager of Rowton Hall Hotel.
He is aware of the overhanging branches/shrubbery narrowing long Rowton Lane by the
Hotel, however, the situation is exacerbated by the fact that the trees' branches are in the
proximity of power lines. He is contacting the power company first for them to cut back
those branches before tackling the ones at ground level. He will however arrange for the
shrubbery around the 30mph sign to be cut back. James said he would like the Hotel to
become more part of the community and it has recently been a sponsor of Christleton
Fete and has introduced a loyalty discount card, Rowton Royalty. The Hotel is
planning on hosting a garden event to celebrate the Battle of Rowton Moor on Sunday 24
September. Cllr Parker advised that a new Chief Executive, Delyth Curtis, has been
appointed as well as a new Head of Public Health. Highways have appointed COLAS as
their new sub-contractor.

- 7 Councillor Vacancy**
The vacancy has been publicised on the Christleton, Waverton and Rowton Community
Facebook page as well as the Rowton Support WhatsApp Group.
Resolved: Message to be uploaded to Website inviting local residents to attend next
meeting.

- 8 Highways**
i) Overhanging branches/shrubbery Rowton Hall Hotel – see above.
ii) The request from a local resident to change the verge cutting frequency is
unfortunately not within the remit of the Parish Council but the responsibility of
Highways department.
Resolved: Clerk to relay information to resident and to contact Highways to
ascertain their grass cutting policy.

Cllr Hopwood requested item 15 be brought forward.

15 ChALC Climate Change Conference – 4 July 2023

The Chair had previously circulated slides and presentations from the on-line event. He said it was very enjoyable and informative and suggested, the Parish Council in conjunction with the neighbouring parish councils of Christleton and Waverton, set up a working group to look into increasing the biodiversity within the area. This is because all public authorities in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Action: Request to be sent to Christleton and Waverton Parish Councils.

9 Finance

i) The following payments were approved since the last meeting:-

Payee	Amount	Statute Power
CM Davies - reimbursement re Coronation Picnic prizes	£74.21	LGA 1972 Sec 111
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	LGA 1972 Sec 111
Zurich Municipal - Annual Insurance	£364.01	LGA 1972 Sec 112
CM Davies - May Salary	£265.05	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	LGA 1972 Sec 111
CM Davies - May Expenses	£38.08	LGA 1972 Sec 111
PR Patton - cutting of Village Green - June	£60.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
CM Davies – June Salary	£240.64	LGA 1972 Sec 112
CM Davies – June Expenses	£35.32	LGA 1972 Sec 111
CM Davies – Honorarium re Fil Prevc internal Audit	£21.00	LGA 1972 Sec 111
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	LGA 1972 Sec 111

ii) Bank Balance as at 30/06/2023 is £12,507.64.

iii) Cllr G Harrison signed and dated electronic cash book reconciliation sheet.

10 Cheshire Community Action

Resolved: Annual membership of £20 to be renewed.

11 Planning

Planning Applications received since last meeting:

23/013950/FUL: 38 St Georges Crescent, Waverton CH3 7QR: Demolition of existing garage, construction of single storey rear and side extension: No Comment submitted.

23/01786/FUL: Meadowcroft, Rowton Lane CH3 6AT: Erection of side extension linking to new rear extension, following demolition of existing detached garage: No Comment submitted.

23/01674/FUL: White How, Rowton Lane CH3 6AT: Single storey front extension to enclose floor space under front entrance canopy: No Comment submitted.

Planning Enforcement has now required the unidentified building in Promised Land Lane to submit a Planning Application.

Cllr Hopwood referred to the Planning section at the recent Climate Change Conference which gave guidance when responding to Planning Applications and asked for it to be circulated to members as an "aide-memoire".

12 Risk Assessment

The Financial and Management Risk Assessment of March 2020 requires a Continuity Plan to be put in place in the event of loss of clerk. The proposed action would be to firstly contact ChALC to ask if they could source temporary cover and secondly for ChALC to advertise the position as well as other local advertisers such as A41 magazine.

Resolved: Assessment to be updated accordingly.

14 Village Green

The application form from Scottish Power just to obtain a 'ball park' figure for the work to provide an unmetered connection, requires a comprehensive site plan, together with very detailed technical information. The only way this could be done would be to pay for a qualified professional to complete it on our behalf. This was deemed an unnecessary expense and it was resolved not to progress this matter further.

Resolved: No further action to be taken.

16 Items for Discussion

Cutting of the Green for 2024 and letter to residents in Moor Lane re overhanging hedges to be discussed at next meeting.

17 General Correspondence

The Clerk Magazine Clerks & Councils Direct – July edition NBB Recycled Furniture catalogue

18 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 11 September 2023

Meeting finished at 8.50pm