

Rowton Parish Council

Chair's Report May 2021

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic Rowton Parish Council (RPC) continued to hold all meetings remotely. In line with national guidance there was no Annual Meeting in May 2020. Scheduled meetings took place in June, September, November, January and March. There were no changes to RPC membership during the year.

Matters discussed at the scheduled meetings included local planning applications, the state of pavements and road surfaces, the presence of Japanese Knotweed in the village, the approval of necessary routine expenditure, and the need to ensure that RPC has adequate financial reserves for future eventualities. RPC was delighted when the decision was confirmed to install a signalled pedestrian crossing on the A41 at the north end of Rowton Lane and acknowledged the excellent work of the Rowton/Christleton Crossing Campaign Group to achieve this outcome.

Because of Coronavirus restrictions RPC was unable to organise the usual carol singing on the Village Green, although some seasonal cheer was still provided by a Christmas tree. Other actions placed on hold were the proposed training of parish councillors in using speed monitoring equipment and the possible development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The rota for tidying the Village Green was initially suspended but later resumed. Thanks are due to the group of volunteers who help to make the Green an attractive focal point for the village.

An extraordinary meeting was held in December to respond to two urgent matters - an invitation to apply for a grant from the Cheshire Community Policing Fund for a local project and a request to consider supporting two plans produced by neighbouring Parish Councils to reduce speeding on the A41 and improve provision for cycling. It was decided to apply for litter picking equipment from the policing fund and to support the A41 and cycling plans.

As always, the RPC website includes all agendas, minutes, contact details and other important information for Rowton residents. Finally I should like to thank our Clerk Christine Davies for her diligent attention to detail and efficient administration, CWaC Councillor Stuart Parker for his advice and support, and all members of RPC for their commitment and wisdom in what has undoubtedly been a difficult year.

Paul Shannon