

**MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING**  
**MONDAY 09 JANUARY 2023 at 7.00pm**  
**held at Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane, Rowton**

Present: Councillors Howard Hopwood  
Paul Shannon  
Glenys Harrison  
Melanie Fildes

In attendance Clerk Christine Davies  
Cllr Stuart Parker (left at 7.15)

**1 Apologies**

Cllr Bob Knight (meeting) and PCSO Linda Bailey

**2 Declaration of Interest**

None

**3 To consider the approval of the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 09 November 2022**

Resolved: The Minutes were signed as a true and correct record by the Chair, Cllr Howard Hopwood

**4 Matters Arising**

Weatherproof Storage Box – Fitted and secured to concrete base by Cllr Fildes' husband and son. Cllr Fildes said she will source a suitable combination lock. Carols on the Green – Good turnout and positive feedback. Unfortunately, one of the wires attached to the lights has snapped. Cllr Harrison said she would arrange for her husband who has an electrical background to have a look at them.

Community Orchard – No available CWaC owned land in Rowton suitable for tree planting.

**5 Public Participation**

No members of the public were in attendance. Cllr Parker had nothing to report other than CWaC were engaged in finalising the budget for 2023/24 and that he would have more information at the next meeting in March.

**6 Councillor Vacancy**

The required Casual Vacancy notice is on display at the two notice boards and on the website. If there is no response to this, then the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

**7 Highways**

Dip in A41 BP Garage – Awaiting up-to-date information from Network Steward. Clerk to chase up.

Stretch of pavement from Pedestrian Traffic Lights to Rowton Grange – Pavement is in need of remedial work. Clerk to photograph and report to Highways.

A request has also been received from a local resident for the hedge bordering Rowton Hall Hotel to be cut back and for the leaves on the roadside to be removed. Cllr Fildes to contact Rowton Hall Hotel and Clerk to contact Streetscene.

A highway road sign has come down on the corner of long Rowton Lane junction with A41 – Clerk to report to Highways.

Issue of overhanging hedges impeding pedestrians and or blocking visibility for drivers and other road users was discussed and it was agreed that a suitable letter be generated. Cllr Hopwood to action.

## 8 Finance

a) The following expenditure for November and December was approved: -

Payee	Amount	Online Payment	Statute Power
CM Davies – Oct Sal £274.06 + £29.58 Exp	£274.06	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 111
Deva Print re Newsletter	£46.00	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 142
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Kevin Roberts – Laying of Concrete base	£200.00	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Handy Hubby – installation of Noticeboard (M Fildes)	£75.00	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Machine Mart – storage box (C Davies)	£349.47	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Penny Lane Accountants – Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
CM Davies Nov Sal (inc backpay) £362.75 + £42.52 exp	£405.27	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 111
CM Davies – thank you presents re Carols on the Green	£45.86	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Cllr G Harrison – refreshments re Carols on the Green	£36.04	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112
Walker's Nurseries – Christmas Tree	£216.00	OP	LGA 1972 Sec 112

b) Bank balance as at 05 January 2023 = £7296.32

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

d) To consider Precept for the financial year 2023-24

Draft budget circulated showing that estimated expenditure for year ending 31 March 2023 will be in the region of £7082. The current guidance from NALC is that an authority of our size should maintain reserves roughly equal to the previous 12 months net expenditure.

However, setting a precept for 23/24 at £7000 would be an increase of 25% on this year's (22/23) Band D charge. This was considered unacceptable, so after discussion and taking into consideration that other income streams may not turn out to be available, and accounting for election recharge fee, two community events and grass cutting a figure of £6220 was agreed. This would result in a Band D Charge of £27.74,

an 11% increase.

Resolved: Parish Council unanimously approved Parish Precept request of £6220 for the financial year 2023/2024.

**9 Planning**

No Applications or decisions received. With regard to unknown structure erected on Bridge Croft, Promised Lane – as yet no Enforcement Officer has been allocated to this case.

**10 Volunteer Litter Picking Group**

Item to be deferred to March meeting.

**11 Website**

Item to be deferred to next meeting. Cllr Glenys Harrison to identify local community Facebook groups.

**12 King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> Coronation**

In order to organise a celebratory event it was agreed that the input of residents would be beneficial.

Action: Clerk to organise meeting with interested persons.

**13 May 2023 Meeting**

New date of Tuesday 9 May 2023 approved.

**14 Items for Discussion/Consideration**

Carols on the Green – Feasibility of holding event in front garden of Methodist Church

**15 Correspondence**

Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2023

**16 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 13 March 2023

Meeting closed at 9.00pm