

MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025 at 7.00pm
held at Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane, Rowton

Present: Councillors Paul Shannon
Glenys Harrison
Howard Hopwood
Melanie Fildes
Peter Scullion
Michael Smythe

In attendance Clerk Christine Davies
1 member of the public

1 Apologies

None

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 To approve Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 11 November 2024

01/2025 Resolved: The minutes were signed as a true and correct record by Cllr Howard Hopwood.

4 Public Participation

A member of the public attended in response to letter he had received from his Internet Service Provider informing him that the old copper phone lines providing landline and broadband services are being retired at the end of 2025. He asked if the Parish Council were aware of this affecting any other residents? Cllr Hopwood said he was not and asked Cllr Harrison if she would put a message on the local Christleton, Rowton & Waverton Facebook page notifying local residents. Cllr Smythe suggested that as full fibre is not currently available to the house then the resident could change his plan from ADSL to fibre to the cabinet plan which could improve speed. He also suggested investigating a Sim only package which uses mobile broadband.

5 Matters Arising

None

6 Highways

Japanese Knotweed on Claypits Lane – Resident notified.
Horse & Rider sign Moor Lane – Resident has cut back hedge.
Bent over 30mph sign on Rowton Lane – Clerk to contact Highways

7 Planning

To receive Planning Application: 24/03770/FUL: The Drift, Moor Lane, Rowton CH3 7QW. Demolition of existing building (The Drift) and erection of new building. No Comment.

To receive following decisions: 24/02928/PAA: Newlands, Rowton Lane CH3 6AT – Additional storey to be added to the existing building. Decided 13/11/24 Prior approval required and approved. Clarification required – Clerk to contact Planning Department.

24/03103/FUL Daneswood, Rowton Lane CH3 6AT: Addition of external sill details to windows, alterations to rear door, front porch extension, amendment to permission 24/01725/FUL – Approved.

Discussion took place regarding Permitted Development within the Parish and Cllr Fildes requested that it be minuted that the Parish Council is not interested in investigating details of such development.

8 FINANCE

a) To approve payments made since last meeting.

Resolved: 02/2025 The Parish Council approved the following payments since the last meeting:

Payee	Amount	Statute Power
CM Davies – salary underpayment	£0.20	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
CM Davies – November Salary	£216.05	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
HMRC Cumbernauld – Nov PAYE	£54.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
CM Davies – Oct/Nov Expenses	£55.87	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
CM Davies – reimbursement re Carols on the Green	£35.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
HMRC Cumbernauld – Dec PAYE	£54.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
CM Davies – December Salary	£216.05	LGA 1972 – Sec 111

b) Bank Balance as at 13/01/2025 is £7217.97

c) Cllr Glenys Harrison signed the Bank Reconciliation sheet.

d) Business Reserve Account – It was agreed that as the Bank Interest rate is so low for this account to not proceed.

e) The quarterly actual/budget figures were received.

f) To approve Budget for 2025/26. The Clerk had circulated a budget matching the current year's Precept of £6540 This included £350 towards replacement of Parish Council laptop. Cllr Smythe's view was that the Parish Council had the reserves available to purchase a replacement and therefore it was in a position to reduce the Precept. Discussion took place and a budget of £6200 was agreed.

g) To approve Precept for 2025/26

Resolved: 03/2025 That the Parish Council request a Precept for the Financial Year 2025/26 of £6200, giving a Band D Charge of £27.28, a 6.8% reduction in Band D Precept Charge of 2024/25

9 **Community Bench**

The bench has been installed and will be officially 'opened' with a photo opportunity in the Springtime!

10 **Carols on the Green**

Generally reckoned to be very successful. There was a very good turnout, the lights on the tree were sparkling and the updated Christmas songs and Carols and Acapella singing were very well received. The following improvements for the next event were noted:

- * Welcome drink – mulled wine/hot chocolate
- * More lighting required: possible battery-operated site lamps and light in gazebo.
- * Larger table or two small tables in gazebo.

It was also noted that Richard Fitton has the lights, long table to be provided by Cllr Michael Smythe and Cllr Glenys Harrison the 3 x pump dispensers. It was agreed to set the next event on Wednesday 10 December 2025.

11 **Website**

Quote of £180 received from Antony Cartwright of ACC Business Solutions to update website to comply with WCAG2.2AA accessibility regulations.

Resolved: 04/2025 That the Parish Council accept the quote of £180.

Item .gov.uk domain to be brought to next meeting.

12 **Newsletter**

Newsletter to be delivered in the Spring. The following articles were agreed: Front sheet – first article with photo about new community bench. Second article about Springtime Plant Sale.

Back sheet – first article about Annual Community Clean-Up. Further articles re Carols on the Green, Local Policing plus Councillor Information.

13 **Plant Sale**

To increase community engagement it was agreed to organise a plant sale of house and garden plants on Saturday 10 May between 10am to 12noon at the Methodist Church, subject to availability. Refreshments to be provided.

14 **Items for Discussion/Consideration**

Cllr Peter Scullion, due to family commitments, is moving away from the area and the next meeting in March will be his last.

15 **General Correspondence**

The Clerk – January edition

Clerk and Council's Direct – January edition

16 **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10 March 2025**

Meeting finished at 9.02pm