

MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY 23 MAY 2024 at 7.00pm

Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane

Present: Cllr Howard Hopwood
Cllr Paul Shannon
Cllr Glenys Harrison
Cllr Michael Smythe

In Attendance: Christine Davies (Parish Clerk) 2 Members of the Public

1 To Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations for the position of Chair were called for. Cllr Paul Shannon proposed Cllr Howard Hopwood, and this was seconded by Cllr Michael Smythe. Cllr Howard Hopwood accepted the position and agreed to serve for a further year. Nominations for the position of Vice-Chair were called for. Cllr Hopwood proposed Cllr Smythe, and this was seconded by Cllr Glenys Harrison. Cllr Michael Smythe accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

2 Declaration of Acceptance

Cllr Hopwood signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair. Cllr Michael Smythe signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chair. All other Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 Register of Interests

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Authority's Code of Conduct all councillors signed their Notification of Members' Interests.

4 Apologies

Cllr Melanie Fildes (no reason given).

5 Chair's Report

The Chair's report for 2023/24 was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The Chair started his report by saying it has been a busy year with Planning and Highways taking centre stage. Here is a brief resume of his report.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The value of an NDP allows residents to develop a Plan that they best believe meets the needs of the Parish. Being a small Parish, Rowton does not have the resources to develop the necessary scope of material to allow an NDP to be valid. As a fall back the Parish approached Christleton and Waverton about being included in their NDP. Waverton do not intend

to develop an NDP. Christleton, who were already too far along in the preparations of their designated Planning area to include Rowton, did agree for a Rowton Parish Councillor to join as a member of one of their NDP sub-committees.

Manor Bridge Proposal

Towards the end of 2023 a rumoured planning proposal to develop Manor Farm as a housing site with the potential for up to 1,000 properties became a serious concern. As the potential development would have an extreme effect on Rowton and neighbouring parishes a joint communique was sent to Planning outlining opposition to any such proposal. A response has been received which focuses on the fact that at that time no formal Planning Application has been received but we will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.

Highways.

The good news towards the end of 2023 was the introduction of the Average Speed Cameras along the A41 which are proving effective in reducing the speed of traffic along the Whitchurch Road through Rowton and Christleton.

Community Events

Unfortunately, both the King's Coronation event and the Carols on the Green were affected by uncertainty about the weather on the day. With regard to Carols on the Green the Parish Council is looking at ways to co-operate with Rowton Hall Hotel to make sure that a more successful event is held. Thanks to Cllr Michael Smythe for leading the singing at the Carols on the Green.

Finally

At the end of 2023, Bob Knight, our longest serving Councillor, decided to step down. The Chair gave the Parish Council's thanks for all his support and insight and that he would be greatly missed.

Final thanks were given to the Parish Clerk, Christine, in keeping the Council operating efficiently.

The full report can be viewed at www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk

6 Financial Report

The Financial Report for year ending 31 March 2024 was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The report gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year 2023/24 and it can be viewed on the parish website www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk

7 Meetings

The following dates were approved: -

Monday, 15 July 2024

Monday, 09 September 2024

Monday, 11 November 2024

Monday, 13 January 2025

Monday, 10 March 2025

Thursday, 22 May 2025

8 Rowton Parish Council

This is an opportunity for the Parish Council to assess if it has been “value for money” over the past year. It was generally concluded that it had but there was room for improvement. The Parish Councillors asked if any of the elector’s present would like to comment but they declined.

9 Forum

No questions from electors.

Meeting finished at 7.22pm.