

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 2nd Sept 2025 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Wendy Easter (Committee Member), Cllr Marc Worrall, Cllr Steve Hornsby, Cllr Ruth Clarke, Pete Cain, Nigel Jealous, Richard Woodward, Dorothy Snaddon, Will Savage, Mark Baker, James McManus, Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Tim Edwards, Anne Galletly, Kim Copeland, Brian Jones, Mary Garrett, Peter Garrett, Martin Miller (Secretary).

John Cypher asked for a moment to reflect on the late Parish Cllr Barry Thornton's long-time interest in matters in RG; he was a good friend to RG and will be sorely missed.

1. **Mr John-Rhys Davies presentation about Bordesley Hall on behalf of Wain Homes.** See separate Minutes.
2. **Apologies received from:** Cllr Alan Bailes, Helen Hawkeswood, Margaret Rollason. Steff Affleck.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the July 1st meeting were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from the Meeting on July 1st 2025.** Wendy Easter outlined that Worcs Wildlife Trust, having previously been tardy in proceeding with the Newbourne Wood Information Board, had suddenly said they would now go ahead with it and so the RGA had agreed to the previously allocated £250 contribution towards its cost.

5. Highway Matters.

5.1 Speed limits: John Cypher outlined that having pressed Worcs CC over the last 2 years to reduce the RG Lane speed limit to 20mph, they were not sympathetic to the safety issues. County and District Cllr Bailes understands the issues and has helped with funding for more "20 is plenty" stickers. In July our local MP Bradley Thomas had visited and walked the road. He appreciated the problems and had written a helpful letter to Cllr Perks, the new Worcs CC lead on highways. Nothing has come of this so far. John Cypher will contact Cllr Bailes and our MP to see where we are with this (**Action**). John Cypher indicated that the Police Commissioner jointly with Worcs CC had set up a new road safety initiative which may help us.

5.2 Road Signage in RG: Cllr Worrall indicated that informally a new Reform Cllr had admitted to him that they were working in new territory and would take time to settle in. John Cypher said he would contact Cllr Bailes about the urgent need of new signage on the Holloway in light of the Bordesley Development (**Action**). Michael Corfield had removed 11 Neighbourhood Watch signs acting on an RGA meeting decision and as our Police Community Support Officer had said they were ineffective. Several of the official highways signs relating to horses and pedestrians need repositioning which Cllr Bailes is pursuing.

6. Planning Issues

6.1 Bordesley Hall/Manor Development: Traffic and other issues with this development had been covered in the separate minute on the Wain Homes presentation to the RGA.

6.2 Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Plan Review: John Cypher indicated that while some may think the proposed addition of 500 houses close to the Alvechurch village green belt boundary was not an issue for RG, in fact it was an issue in that it increased demand on facilities and roads we use and other infrastructure like schools and medical services. To date there were over 600 responses to the Parish Council survey about the BDC proposed housing numbers and sites with many asking for only 250 rather than 500 houses. Additionally 90% of residents favoured some development of Alvechurch centre's retail and services facilities to accommodate the needs from any increased housing. There had been criticism expressed at the Alvechurch PC (APC) planning committee meeting on Monday Sept 1st that the APC was not being transparent about its view of the BDC proposals and the release of green belt land. **John Cypher said it was important for everyone to make their thoughts known via the BDC response questionnaire** (<https://forms.office.com/e/UHmTyb7qUy>).

There is a further meeting from 3pm to 7.30pm on 4 Sept at Alvechurch Village Hall with BDC planning officers for further public questions. Concern was raised that there was insufficient parking in Alvechurch now, let alone with 500 extra houses, for access to GPs and shops. Cllr Worrall thought it would be difficult to persuade BDC to reduce the numbers from 500 to around 250. There will also be need to identify employment land to accompany the extra houses. Section 106 monies for infrastructure facilities would follow on from the development and the community will need to state what is needed. As BDC does not have a 5-year supply of land available for new dwellings current land owners may make planning applications in advance of the new BDC plans being adopted (expected in 2028) and hope to get approval by arguing "very special reasons" for building on land in the green belt.

7. Adverse Weather Resilience. With the lack of volunteers for the 24/7 RG community response service idea the RGA Committee had agreed to scale back what was on offer and members of the Committee would intend to offer an advice and guidance network to signpost emergency-affected people to get issues sorted. Richard Woodward indicated that good communication was key to helping in genuine emergencies. John Cypher reflecting on Storm Darragh and the issue in Spain and Portugal in the spring said that electrical outages could be the most likely and severe problems to occur. Wendy Easter said it was planned to have information and leaflets available at the Goat & Trousers of people to access.

The review of the adequacy of the Parish Emergency Plan (PEP) had been stalled due the APC Cllr lead being off but he is now back and it is hoped a meeting with him can be arranged (**Action**) also involving a Village Hall Trustee. It was noted that Cllr Hornsby had been added to the RG chats emergency group. Cllr Hornsby stated that RG and Bordesley should have 3 Parish Councillors and currently he is the only one and living in Bordesley. He reiterated the need for RG to have its own Councillor which is an interesting and diverse role. It was suggested that an advert be placed in the Calling Oak about this (**Action**).

8. Village representative for Campaign for Preservation of Rural England (CPRE). Nigel Jealous and Wendy Easter had previously indicated a possible interest in being an RG representative on CPRE. Cllr Clarke would welcome an addition from RG. The part to be played in CPRE by representatives living in Alvechurch parish is to be explored further.

9. Crime Issues. Andy Dunkers mentioned two recent incidents. The theft of a number plate and 20 sheep had been stolen overnight.

10. Treasurers report. Finances as of August 21st were £2,684.07 in the bank, £319.51 in cash, making a total of £3003.58. £250 was reserved for the Newbourne Wood Information Board and the £120 support for The Calling Oak was due.

11. Any Other Business.

11.1 Peter Garrett said that many hedges were not being maintained properly leading to encroachment on the road and pavement. Simple trimming was often not sufficient and a severe pruning required. The hedges along Storage Lane were highlighted as a problem. It was suggested a note be placed in The Calling Oak to prompt owners to be diligent in this respect.

11.2 John Cypher said that as required by the Government the principal local councils in Worcestershire were discussing proposed changes to the form of local government in the County. The choice was between one unitary authority for the whole of Worcestershire or for its division into 2 parts: new unitary councils for the North and for the South. A hybrid element has also been proposed for these N & S authorities with some services joined up. A live stream of the actual Bromsgrove Council debate on this will be available on the 3 September starting at 6.00pm.

The meeting was closed at 21:36 hrs.

Next meeting is on Tues Nov 4th followed by Jan 6th, Mar 3rd, May 5th, July 7th, Sept 1st and Nov 3rd.