

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Steff Affleck, Pete Cain, Will Savage, Tom Webb, Brian Jones, Martin Miller (Secretary).

John Cypher mentioned the sad passing of Sandy Jenkinson and Will Savage stated she was devoted to the Park Group, she was an active member of the RGA, coordinated the Neighbourhood Watch scheme for many years and was a strong campaigner for RG who will be missed. John Cypher also welcomed that Wendy Easter had been co-opted onto Alvechurch Parish Council (APC) to represent RG. Wendy had also agreed to join the group of Trustees looking at the future of RG Chapel which will now have a link with APC.

- 1. Apologies received from:** Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Wendy Easter, Margaret Rollason, Cllr Marc Worrall, Cllr Alan Bailes, Dorothy Snaddon. Post Hoc: Richard Woodward, Nigel Jealous, Wendy Jealous.
- 2. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the January 20th meeting were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising from the Meeting on Jan 20th 2025.**

Michael Corfield confirmed that Sue Stevens (Village Hall Trustee) is investigating the addition of a bleed kit to the defibrillator at the Village Hall and the possible refurbishment of the defibrillator case. The RGA has offered support for any costs involved.

4. Highway Matters.

4.1 As the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) was not supportive of 20-mph speed limits, the RGA will now focus on better road signage to improve warnings to drivers of the potential hazards in RG. Michael Corfield confirmed that with the replacement of bins by BDC he had ordered 500 more '20 is plenty' bin stickers using RG fund and the £200 donation from Cllr Bailes's funds.

4.2 Cllr Bailes has also contacted the County Highways for an update on the previously agreed plan to reduce foliage around the pinch point on the Holloway, relocate its 30mph sign and install relevant road surface safety markings. Wendy Easter had presented an RGA proposal for an additional 6 official highway warning signs and to relocate some existing signs for RG (previously circulated). Will Savage asked why RG highway signs were possible but funding to get a Holloway priority system was not. John Cypher indicated that Cllr Bailes had a divisional budget from the Council that helpfully could manage the provision of some additional RG signs but not more major works. Will Savage raised the issue of cars parked on the few pavements we have in RG. John Cypher indicated that the law is to change shortly to give new powers to local councils to deal with "disruptive" pavement parking. Steff Affleck pointed out that residents were still not adequately trimming their hedges and borders so there was unacceptable encroachment on the road (**Action**). Also, deer regularly cross Storage Lane and a warning sign there would be appropriate (**Action**).

5. Planning Issues

5.1 The formal posting of the Jan 15th 2026 BDC approval of the application from Wain Homes for modification to Bordesley Hall had been considerably delayed. The approval conditions noted were around drainage, the types of materials used in construction and during its part demolition the creation of a historic record of the Hall itself. J R Davis is leaving Wain Homes and so pressing for the restoration of the heritage wall and ensuring the correct traffic management around the site will now be dealt with by his as yet unknown successor. There was no news from Wain Homes on the request for a special payment for RG community improvements in lieu of Section 106 monies for this phase of the development.

5.2 Steff Affleck said there was a poor response from the site manager to requests about use of the approved route for the Hall's construction traffic but they did respond if something affected them, such as their post going to her! Cllr Bailes had been contacted about lorries using Storage Lane against the requirement of the

traffic management plan and he had asked the Bromsgrove Council to enforce the rules. The planning officer had given him an assurance that signage was in place. At the time of this RGA meeting the only signs in our area directed allcomers to Bordesley Manor, the site's new name. There are no signs yet in place saying lorries must not use Storage Lane. It was agreed that Cllr Bailes should continue to pursue the Bromsgrove council CEO about ensuring the construction used the BDC approved approach. As a fall back the RGAs might need to formally complain to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) about the failure to enforce the agreed traffic management plan for the developments (**Action**). [PS: Several days after the meeting the RGA was advised with accompanying photographs that Wain homes at the request of BDC had installed *No Construction Traffic* signs on Storage Lane].

5.2 John Cypher clarified that grey belt land referred to currently designated green belt land that was on the boundary of existing settlements in Bromsgrove district and according to national planning policies did not play a major part in upholding the key features of green belt designation. As BDC was still to identify proposed grey belt land it was open to developers to make a case for their housing proposals to be classified as on grey belt land. The proposal for 9 new houses at Withybed was a local example of this and more would likely follow .

6. Adverse Weather Resilience.

A recent outage of electrical power had fortunately been very brief. The RGA had produced an advisory note to help support RGA residents cope during any adverse event. This had been published in the Calling Oak and was available from the Village Hall (VH) and on the RGA website (www.rowneygreen.org/rga/). If a power outage lasted >4hrs the Parish Emergency Plan could be invoked and the VH would be opened up if it had power. Wendy Easter is arranging for an RGA leaflet stand to be available in the VH containing suitable leaflets covering a variety of needs that residents may experience in emergencies and in ordinary times. Tom Webb asked about the possibility of the VH having a generator but John Cypher said previous discussion involving APC and Hall trustees had indicated this was not appropriate.

7. RG Village minor improvements scheme.

The questionnaire has been circulated in the pages of the Calling Oak and is available from the RGA website. Once these have been returned (**by March 20th**) responses will be collated and presented to the next RGA meeting. Projects will be ranked and APC and BDC advised at times when grant funding might be available. Brain Jones welcomed the questionnaire as an example of inclusivity for RG. Steff Affleck suggested a prompt via RG Chat for the questionnaire to be completed and sent in (**Action**). It was noted that BDC has re-introduced a Community Improvement Scheme.

8. Limited car parking in Alvechurch -a Rowney Green concern?

A study by BDC on Alvechurch parking was yet to be published. It was felt that shops and businesses were losing custom due the now much more limited parking arrangements in Alvechurch. Use of Alvechurch Village based health services was a necessity for residents across the parish. John Cypher wondered if local people visiting the centre could have a time window for free parking. It was raised that residents living in the centre might be using the parking behind the Red Lion as off-road parking which limited the available visitor parking. It was agreed that the RGA should write to Alvechurch Parish Council about this (**Action**).

9. Village representative for Campaign for Preservation of Rural England (CPRE).

Cllr Ruth Clarke is discussing with Wendy Easter about her possibly being a CPRE representative for RG.

10. Crime Issues.

No new events had been noted. There was discussion about traffic camera surveillance for RG. It was agreed that pursuing this through BDC was at a dead end. Some felt centrally placed cameras at the Hall would not achieve satisfactory cover. Cameras at each end of the village would be difficult to implement and there might be issues around data protection. Tom Webb said he had a camera image recording device available if this was to be pursued.

11. Treasurers report.

Finances as of 28th Feb 2026 were: £2,494.77 in the bank, £189.51 as cash, making £2,684.28 in total. Outstanding liabilities were £400 for bin stickers (£200 from Cllr Bailes has been credited) and £250 for Newbourne Wood Information Board.

12. Any Other Business.

Will Savage commented that the look of the village was brightened and improved by the daffodils planted by RGA in the past and asked if this could be continued. Michael Corfield stated that in the past 2,000 bulbs had been purchased for £440. Will Savage and Tom Webb both volunteered £100 each towards repeating this.

Meeting closed at 20:55hrs

Next meetings are on May 5th (with AGM followed by the General Meeting), July 7th, Sept 1st and Nov 3rd.