

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Cllr Alan Bailes, Cllr Barry Thornton, Brian Jones, Wendy Easter (Committee Member), Will Savage, Richard Holt, Margaret Rollason (Committee Member), Martin Miller (Secretary).

1. **Apologies received from:** Cllr Marc Worrall, Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Dorothy Snaddon, Pete Cain, Richard Woodward, Maggie Moore, Sandy Jenkinson.

2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the January 14th meeting were approved.

3. **Matters Arising from the Meeting on January 14th 2025.**

3.1 John Cypher had corresponded with the Chief Engineer for Severn Trent (ST) who had reassured the RGA that ST had fully assessed the impact of extra dwellings in RG and the booster pump had capacity to cope with double the number of total dwellings in RG on completion of the Bordesley development. ST had been in touch with Wains developers to ensure that lorries servicing the development did not damage ST infrastructure.

3.2 Alvechurch PC (APC) had supplied a new green grit bin at the top of Chapel Lane and Worcestershire CC (WCC) had accepted responsibility for their two yellow grit bins (at the bottom of Chapel Lane and opposite Hornton House).

4. **Highway Matters.**

4.1 WCC had rejected the RGA proposal for a 20mph limit (speed signs model) as it did not score highly enough in their ranking which puts collisions and speeding incidents as top priority. Our complaints about how the RGA proposal had been handled had also been rejected by WCC. The RGA Committee had chosen on a split decision to desist from pursuing the complaints and instead concentrate on engaging with our MP Bradley Thomas who is interested in road safety in rural villages. RG Lane (RGL) comprises a 1.6km stretch between the 30mph signs of which 1.1km has no pavement. John Cypher stated that RGL should be a special case for a 20mph limit because of the many pedestrians, as vulnerable users, needing to walk along RGL, horse riders on the road and many driveway entrances with poor sight lines.

4.2 Michael Corfield had managed to secure £200 from District Cllr Bailes' Ward fund to purchase more '20 is plenty' stickers for rubbish, recycling and garden bins. Will Savage warned that we must be careful to avoid any suggestion we want more pavements or lighting on RGL and he mentioned that parking across pavements was a problem. Although this is legal outside of London Richard Holt pointed out that it was illegal if the car blocked the pavement such that a push chair or wheelchair could not pass. Cllr Thornton indicated pavement parking was a problem in Wythall and prosecutions had been made. It was agreed to discuss this at a neighbourhood police session. **(Action)**

4.3 The RGA request to the APC to have RG Road Safety added to their strategic action plans was deferred because WCC had recently rejected the RGA 20mph limit proposal. John Cypher has yet to hear from the APC about any decision for inclusion in the plan.

5. **Planning Issues.**

5.1 Cllr Bailes said there was no further news as to when planning conditions for the Bordesley Hall development were to be provided to the Bromsgrove Planning Dept. Once this occurs, we need to establish liaison with the site manager to ensure the heritage wall was restored and site traffic only used the Holloway.

5.2 The Exagen proposal for a solar farm at Weatheroak was currently paused. A preapplication proposal had been seen and commented on by Cllr Bailes. The battery storage would apparently be more than 2

miles from the solar panels which made it problematic. Dorothy Snaddon wished her written views to be expressed at the meeting by Martin Miller, stating that the plans show that hedges and other wildlife forming the corridor along the Roman road Icknield Street would be destroyed and these were extremely important habitats. Cllr Bailes was happy to liaise with Dorothy on this having his own concerns about the necessary scale of works on this street.

6. Adverse Weather Power Supply Resilience and Emergency Plan Activation.

During the power cut due to Storm Darragh the RG WhatsApp Chat had helpfully been used by several residents who needed support. The Village Hall had been opened up when power was partly restored in RG to help residents still affected by the outage. The RGA Committee had proposed setting up an RG Community Assistance Network (RGCAN) to give advice and support especially during an emergency affecting RG residents. This would likely be a list of people who could be contacted by phone to advise and coordinate an appropriate response. Will Savage agreed that a phone call contact would be best and simplest for everyone. The RGA Committee will develop this further (**Action**).

John Cypher reported on a productive meeting he and several Committee Members had with Mr Tom Palmer who is the Area Manager for the National Grid (NG). NG are responsible for maintaining, on a 5-year cycle, those trees that are within 3 metres of overhead power lines. However, property/land owners are responsible for trimming branches of trees to prevent them from encroaching the 3-meter limit and NG can give advice on relevant power line safety considerations. Richard Holt mentioned he had been visited by NG that day to advise about tree maintenance to be done next week. Tom Palmer had accepted that RG had a number of features that could make it a special case and some clusters of trees were noted as part of this. In an emergency NG can possibly rig up a generator to supply RG or supply battery storage to support the village hall as a refuge. Mr Palmer was unaware of the Parish Emergency Plan (PEP) and is happy to meet APC to learn more about it and to support its activation. Richard Holt requested that there needed to be clear criteria for activating the PEP and how to do this. Andy Free, Tony Wallis or Cllr Steve Hornsby are currently shown as RG contacts to activate the PEP.

7. Crime Issues. None reported.

8. Treasurers report. There was £2,472.37 in the bank, £259.51 in cash, making a total of £2,731.88. £250 remains ringfenced for Newbourne Wood information board.

9. Any Other Business.

John Cypher indicated that County Council Elections were to go ahead in May with Danny Bromage as a Conservative candidate for our ward and District Cllr Bailes also standing as an independent county candidate. Others may be announced soon. Cllr Luckman was standing down.

The re-organisation of Worcestershire Councils was not being undertaken on the fast track as debate was still underway around a one all-Worcestershire Council or two unitary councils. Meanwhile the work on the revised Bromsgrove District Plan for land release/housing development results in a first public consultation in May/June

The meeting was closed at 20:45 hrs.

Next RGA meeting is the AGM: Tuesday May 6th 2025 at 7:30pm.