

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting
on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chairman), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chairman), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Dorothy Snaddon, Cllr Barry Thornton (Alvechurch PC), Pete Cain, Maggie Rollason, Maggie Moore, Brian Jones, James McManus, Wendy Easter, Tom Webb, Tim Edwards, Simon O'Brien, Kim Copeland, Nigel Jealous, Wendy Jealous, Elisa Bailey, Will Savage, Andy Ballard, Martin Miller (Secretary).

Apologies received from: Cllr Marc Worrall (but expected during the meeting) and Cllr Alan Bailes

- 1. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the May 7th AGM and General Meeting were approved.
- 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting on Mar 7th 2024.** Following the successful removal of unruly lavender bushes blocking a path in the village John Cypher requested that the RGA be notified if there were other instances where residents needed reminding about keeping the paths and roadway clear of foliage.
- 3. Update on Highways Issues.**
 - 3.1 Radford Road Junction with RG Lane.** Will Savage had contacted Wayne Sprigg to say that his late father had kindly maintained the sightlines for this junction and could this continue. Wayne had readily accepted this needed doing and would proceed. (See Addendum A1 below). Cllr Thornton indicated that Worcestershire Highways did not cut grass and Bromsgrove DC were not interested; he had raised a complaint to them on this, as had Maggie Rollason. (See Addendum A1 below).
 - 3.2 A 20 mph speed limit through Rowney Green.** Cllr Luckman was asked in Oct 23 to put a proposal to Worcestershire CC Highways this but we had not heard back on this. It was to be discussed at a "Partnership" meeting in Alvechurch between the Police and Councils in June. Cllr Thornton indicated Alvechurch PC had supported both the 20mph and the 30mph speed restrictions proposed by the RGA. Marc Worrall's feedback was awaited. (See Addendum A2 below).
 - 3.3 A 30 mph speed limit on part of Storage Lane and the Holloway.** Alvechurch PC had accepted the RGA proposal and the Partnership meeting had been informed. Cllr Thornton indicated that a new volunteers led Community Speed Watch group was active in various areas in the Parish. Tim Edwards asked if the pinch point on the Holloway was to be addressed by County Highways. Will Savage commented that the pinch point helped to control speed on the Holloway. John Cypher stated we need to await Marc Worrall's feedback . (See Addendum 2 below). More immediately, the repositioning of the 30mph sign at the pinch point and the trimming of vegetation will be raised directly with county representatives given their earlier agreement to take action.
- 4. Local Heritage Lists.** On behalf of the RGA, Michael Corfield had made submissions for two new items to be added to the Bromsgrove Heritage List - (i) The Canadian Airmen's Memorial Site and (ii) the abandoned

hydraulic ram (dated 1888) which is in a field between Seechem's Farm and RG Lane. In addition, clarification had been sought regarding the Alpine Barn listing, as the description seems to relate to Rowney Lodge Farm. Will Savage stated that he had received a letter suggesting his property should be added. Michael Corfield confirmed to Will Savage that the Chapel was already on this list. Will Savage wondered if the ridge/furrow in a field leading up to Storage Wood should be included as it represents 1000 years of farming history; this proposal was supported by Dorothy Snaddon and Maggie Moore (**Action for Will Savage to submit**). John Wells added that listing could affect applications for planning but John Cypher stated it would not affect permitted development.

5. Planning Issues.

5.1 Arosa development. An appeal of the rejection for its subdivision into 9 apartments had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. The subdivision into 6 apartments had more recently been approved by Bromsgrove. The RGA had again sent objections to the subdivision based on sustainability and road safety impact. John Cypher expressed dismay that the Bromsgrove DC planners give little weight to the National Planning Priority Framework paragraphs 114-116 concerning road safety implications of development. It was reported Cllr Bailes had also lodged concern over lack of attention to these paragraphs.

5.2 Bordesley Hall. J-R Davies from the Bristol Office of Wain Homes had expressed that the site posed some design challenges-such the plans now proposed 43 not 46 houses and the apartments in the Hall increased from 3 to 6. He would attend a special meeting in RG Village Hall Small Meeting Room at 7:30 on Tuesday July 16th to discuss the new proposals as put to Bromsgrove DC and other parts of the plans with RG residents and others with an interest.

Michael Corfield added that the original lighting plan had been for 5-meter-high street lights but in response to the RGA indicating RG was a low light area the proposal had changed to low level footpath lighting. John Cypher noted that the new proposal had not addressed restoration of the Heritage Wall.

5.3 Atlas phone mast. The move to 5G services means more mobile phone masts as their range is smaller (circa 2 mile radius). However, phone provider companies were now moving to share facilities. With Worcs CC support the Atlas Tower group had surveyed our part of Alvechurch for suitable sites to improve and future proof mobile phone signals in the RG area. Around the Village Hall and playing field were identified as the best site for a new mast. Tony Wallis as a Village Hall Trustee (and with the Trustees now leaseholders for the playing field /park) had been initially briefed by Marc Worrall on this. The trustees were now awaiting further contact from the Atlas group for a more detailed assessment of the proposal. Any firm decision to proceed would be with Alvechurch PC after public consultation. Alvechurch PC still owns the playing field which is on a long lease to RG. John Cypher confirmed to Will Savage that there would be an annual payment

from Atlas/the phone companies for a mast.

5.4 Proposed Caravan Site on Grange Lane. Raised as an information item the location of this planning application is within Tutnall and Cobley Parish and not Alvechurch, but Alvechurch PC had lodged an objection to the proposal as had around 30 local residents. Although located within the Green Belt, it was noted that Bromsgrove DC in considering applications for travellers' sites has to pay attention to the health and welfare of travellers' children associated with the proposal. The proposal was viewed as outside the RGA's remit.

6. Repair to Bridleway/Footpath from RG Lane to Alvechurch Lodge Farm – path number AV-588. As before, remedial action for major surface improvement has been approved but we are still awaiting action from the Worcestershire CC countryside service. Meanwhile some helpful vegetation clearance had been done by the Footpath Group.

7. Newbourne Wood Information Board/ Tennis Courts seating. Wendy Easter had spoken to Thomas Watkins (Warden) on this. The previous board was wooden and had rotted through requiring removal. The cost for a new one was about £1000 and would be with a metal frame. It should be ready for Spring 2025. Any RGA donation towards the cost would be acknowledged on the Board. It was agreed at the meeting, following a suggestion from Will Savage, to donate £250 towards the Information Board. Wendy Jealous asked that the RGA consider funding benches for the tennis courts to help players and any spectators. It was agreed to fund one bench (£400 approx.).

8. Crime Issues. None to report.

9. Treasurers report. The RGA assets were £2732.03 banked, £339.51 in cash, totalling £3071.54 and having purchased 2 maps for the history display for the fete. The purchase of the store cupboard /wardrobe was yet to go through (£75 approx.).

10. Any Other Business. None.

The meeting was closed at 20:35 hrs.

Next RGA meetings: Tuesday Sept 3rd 2024 at 7:30pm, followed by Nov 11th 2024 and Jan 7th 2025.

ADDENDA:

A1. On Thursday July 11th Mr Wayne Sprigg and his son had excellently removed the foliage affecting the sight lines at the Radford Road RG Lane Junction. The RGA expresses a big thank you to them on behalf of all residents. It is now clarified with the Parish Council that clearance of this location is a Worcs Highways occasional task.

A2. Marc Worrall arrived at the meeting as it was closing. He was delayed as he had attended the earlier meeting of the BDC planning committee where the Alvechurch Inn application for the construction of Bed and Breakfast accommodation had been rejected. He mentioned that the Police and Councils partnership meeting had had been constructive. Notes were being produced but these would not be released publicly

until after a discussion about them scheduled for the September Parish council meeting .