

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Cllr Marc Worrall (Alvechurch PC), Brian Jones, Tim Edwards, Richard Woodward, Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Wendy Jealous, Nigel Jealous, Pat Taylor, Tony Wallis, Martin Miller (Secretary).

Apologies received from: Cllr Alan Bailes, Cllr Barry Thornton, Cllr Steve Hornsby, Maggie Moore, Wendy Easter (Committee Member), Margaret Rollason (Committee Member), Sandy Jenkinson.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes for the September 3rd Meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting on July 9th 2024. Michael Corfield indicated that the RG proposals were under consideration for inclusion in the Heritage List but the ridge/furrow in the field up to Storage Wood had probably not been put forward. The proposal for an Atlas 5G mobile phone mast to be erected in Rowney Green was to be discussed at a meeting on Dec 5th at 7:30pm in the RG Village Hall which has been set up by the Village Hall Trustees.

3. Highway Matters.

3.1 Proposal for a 20-mph limit. John Cypher outlined that over a year ago, with professional advice from Alan Bailes, the RGA produced a paper for Worcs CC consideration making the case for the introduction in the village centre of a 20mph limit. In line with Dept of Transport policy this would be the speed signage only model rather than for a 20mph zone which would involve road changes further to slow traffic. County Cllr Luckman had never replied directly to the RGA about this proposal or spoken to the RGA about it. Rather he and County officers had commented to the APC on this topic. A Partnership meeting with the Police, WCC and Alvechurch PC was held in June with the notes from this made public in September. A County Officer had stated the 20-mph limit was not needed due to cost and lack of supportive data. In October Cllr Luckman had reported to the APC on highways matters and alleged that the RGA proposal was fraudulent. John Cypher had written to Cllr Luckman for clarification about this referring to the RGA case as in the original paper sent to WCC through Cllr Luckman. No reply had been received to date on this but he had bumped into Cllr Luckman on November 11th at the APC meeting where Cllr Luckman said Worcs CC did not follow government policy in considering on the 20-mph speed signs only model. The meeting was asked what further should be done. Andy Ballard thought the suggestion to raise a complaint about Cllr Luckman's dealing with the RGA should be carried through (**Action**) and a resubmission made (**Action**) with the Rowney Green road safety topic being a major point in forthcoming elections for County Councillors. Richard Woodward and Martin Miller concurred with this view. Cllr Worrall stated the APC supports the RGA proposal as well as for 20-mph restrictions in other parts of the Parish. The APC have had a dialogue with Cllr Luckman. Cllr Worrall said it is WCC Officers who will decide and as the Police roads safety team is against, with them stating that reduction to 20-mph leads to pedestrian complacency and increasing likelihood of accidents, the 20-mph speed limit reduction is not likely to happen.

3.2 Proposal for a 30-mph limit from Storage Lane down the Holloway. As discussed at the June Partnership meeting the RGA proposal for 30mph on part of Storage Lane and the whole of

the Holloway with priority signage at the pinch point was more likely to be successful. In rejecting the Arosa appeal (see below) a Government Planning Inspector mentioned that the Holloway was currently a problem with regard to safety and increased users would not help. Cllr Worrall indicated that for the Bordesley Hall housing development proposal a computer program predicting traffic was used and surprisingly had predicted that conversion from offices to 46 dwellings would reduce traffic. This probably resulted in no provision being made for a developer contribution to make road safety improvements on the Holloway. The RGA has requested even at this late stage that Bromsgrove planners, County Highways Officers and Cllr Luckman review possibilities for Holloway safety measures and an update is awaited.

3.3 Other RG Road signage requirements. Wendy Easter is preparing a paper on how best to streamline all the current and needed road signage for RG (**Action**). This will be on a future meeting agenda.

4. Planning Issues.

4.1 Arosa subdivision appeal. While conversion to 6 apartments had been approved by Bromsgrove DC, the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on the proposal for 9 apartments was rejected chiefly because of its injurious effect on the green belt and unsustainable location. Substantial extensions were needed for the 9-apartment proposal.

4.2 Bordesley Hall. Wain Developers had adjusted their proposals in the light of RGA and other comments. They had changed the lighting to some 1 metre bollards only in the centre of the development. Michael Corfield indicated that this had significantly reduced light pollution when compared with the previous proposal. The RGA still had concerns about how the Heritage Wall was going to be reinstated and also how construction traffic was going to be managed.

4.3 Proposal from Exagen for a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System at Weatheroak. It was agreed that the RGA did not think this significantly affected RG so would not express a view and await the full proposal. Regarding the impact on the village of Weatheroak, Andy Ballard pointed out that the RGA remit was to RG and close environs and so may need to offer a view.

5. Crime Issues. Several car number plates had been stolen from vehicles in RG in the last month.

6. Treasurers report. There was £2,338.61 in the bank, £254.51 as cash making a total of £2,593.12. £250 is ringfenced for Newbourne Wood information board. Of 196 houses in RG 129 houses are members (66%) which is a slight reduction. Some membership was lost due to the RGA not giving an opinion about a recent planning application for a property conversion. The RG Committee had agreed to fund 'The Calling Oak' village newsletter with £120/annum as it needs further support and helps bind the community. Richard Woodward indicated the RG Park Committee was considering offering financial support as well.

7. Any Other Business. Cllr Worrall restated that there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Alvechurch Parish Council **and expressed a strong desire for a resident of Rowney Green to take the position.**

The meeting was closed at 20:47 hrs.

Next RGA meetings: Tuesday January 14th 2025 at 7:30pm. Note this is a change of date .