

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Cllr Alan Bailes, Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Wendy Easter, Nigel Jealous, Helen Hawkeswood, James McManus, Martin Miller (Secretary).

1. Apologies received from: Pete Cain, Hedley Brook-Carter, Margaret Rollason, Wendy Jealous, Cllr Ruth Clarke, Cllr Marc Worrall

2. Approval of Minutes. The minutes for the November 4th meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Meeting on Nov 4th 2025.

3.1 An advert was placed in the Calling Oak for an RGA resident to apply for co-option as a Councillor on Alvechurch Parish Council (APC). A few people had shown initial interest. Someone living in Alvechurch had applied to the APC for the RG ward position but was turned down as they wanted an RG resident.

3.2 A note had been placed in the Calling Oak encouraging residents to maintain the foliage that can impinge on the pavements and roadways.

3.3 John Cypher had written to Wain Homes requesting a separate donation towards improvements for RG in lieu of section 106 monies from their latest development application.

3.4 John Cypher noted that the Remembrance Ceremony had been well attended and thanked the ladies from Lower RG who had decorated the memorial. Cllr Worrall had made a speech and recited a poem on behalf of APC.

4. Highway Matters.

4.1 The RGA had tried over the last few years to get a 20-mph limit on the village section of RG lane but Worcestershire County Council (WCC) was firm in rejecting this. The new Reform led Council had also set up and then cancelled a County Highways review group to assess road safety. John Cypher mentioned that in the recent Institute of Advance Motorists journal an article mentioned ways to reduce injuries to pedestrians. The best way forward for RG now was to concentrate on improving the hazard warning signs on RG lane in relation to pedestrians and horse riders on the road. Also, RG needs to increase the number of 20mph stickers on recently replaced bins. County Cllr Bailes has both supported and secured funding to help with this and the RGA will also contribute. James McManus pointed out that the 30mph sign on the Holloway needs to be repositioned as it is obscured. Cllr Bailes stated that the WCC "revised" policy on the use of 20mph speed limits was very negative and WCC will not endorse areas with sign only 20mph limits. Cllr Bailes will enquire about the earlier WCC agreement through C/Cllr Luckman for dragon's teeth road markings on the Holloway and Martin Miller requested that a give way priority system needs to be implemented for the bottom of the Holloway at the pinch point .

4.2 Cllr Bailes and Michael Corfield had recently explored gritting routes and the filling of grit bins. Green bin filling had been agreed by Alvechurch PC. WCC's responsibility for RG's two yellow grit bins was close to being sorted.

5. Planning Issues

5.1 On Jan 15th 2026 BDC had approved the recent application from Wain Homes for modification to Bordesley Hall itself to create 4 apartments and 3 houses. Hence John Cypher will again contact JR Davis at Wain Homes about a Wain Directors' special donation to RG for improving local amenities.

5.2 There is continuing concern about contractors' vehicles accessing Bordesley Hall through RG and along Storage Lane. They are also ruining the side of the highway and the grass triangle at the junction of RG Lane and the Holloway. Michael Corfield suggested the RGA should contact the site manager as well as JR Davis and

BDC planners on these points all relating to the approved construction environment management plan **(Action)**.

5.3 Helen Hawkeswood mentioned that the heritage wall restoration had not yet been addressed and there was concern that this might get forgotten allowing for further building to occur in its place.

5.4 John Cypher referred to the current consultation on the National Planning Priority Framework (NPPF). It envisages green belt boundaries being changed to support more development around railway stations and that also in preparing local plans, assessments must be done to identify grey belt land. There are other parts of the revised NPPF that relax green belt protections. Bromsgrove DC has not yet identified publicly its grey belt land assessments and meanwhile Developers are putting forward their own views about grey belt as in the current planning application close to the canal at Withybed. The suggested changes to the NPPF look to bring forward the possible development on site ALV001 (opposite the Alvchurch football ground) as identified in the recent BDC draft development strategy consultation.

6. Adverse Weather Resilience.

6.1 There had been some recent outages of electrical power but once contacted the National Grid (NG) had attended within 30 minutes. Tom Palmer from NG continued to arrange for tree work to be done to help avoid further line damage problems.

6.2 The RGA had prepared a one-page 'Adverse Event Advice Sheet', for residents to use in types of emergency situations. which was approved for distribution from the RGA website and as leaflets from the Village Hall. If wider coverage was needed it might be distributed as a leaflet with the Calling Oak.

7. RG Village minor improvements scheme.

Possible improvements to RG with benches, smoother paving, a bus shelter etc. could be explored by a survey of RG residents views. John Cypher asked the meeting for comments about how to structure the survey. It was agreed to offer a list of possible choices and also a box for free text suggestions that could be specific for a particular part of the village. It was agreed to stick to improvements for RG only and not for further afield in the parish. James McManus will explore the possibility of printing the questionnaire **(Action)**. An online version of the survey would be available for completion and box placed at the village hall to receive paper copies. If supported by residents, Cllr Bailes stated he was happy to pursue funding for a bus shelter in the light of the increased number of bus services to RG together with the school bus service

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

Cllr Ruth Clarke on the APC is a CPRE representative. Wendy Easter has expressed interest in CPRE and is exploring the possibility of being a representative for RG.

10. Crime Issues.

In the light of the recent violent attack at Seecham's Farm the village was interested in how organised community camera surveillance might be of help in future. Rachel Nicholls (CCTV and Telecare Manager for BDC) had responded helpfully about how to proceed with their portable cameras in RG. She said 3 cameras were available for temporary deployment, usually for up to 3 months. Following the temporary deployment it might be possible to move to a permanent placement but at a cost. As camera placement has to be indicated by signage they would have a deterrent effect. Cllr Bailes will liaise with Rachel Nicholls on this and RGA will make a formal application through the special form that envisages local police support. **(Action)**.

11. Treasurers report.

Finances as of 31st Dec 2025 were: £2,294.77 in the bank, £189.51 as cash, making £2,484.28 in total. £250 set aside for Newbourne Wood and £200 for bin stickers. 130 out of 196 properties were members in 2025 (66%). The RGA would pay the annual £75 membership for CPRE.

12. Any Other Business.

12.1 A recent event requiring the RG village hall Defibrillator found some difficulty in accessing the device. The Ambulance service has stated it is currently out of action and this is being addressed by them. The RGA pays

half the maintenance costs of the Defibrillator at the Village Hall. Michael Corfield with discuss this further with Sue Stevens (**Action**).

12.2 There is a 'Bleed Kits' initiative from the APC. A kit could be added to the defibrillator unit. Michael Corfield will also pursue this with Sue Stevens (**Action**).

Next meetings are on Mar 3rd, May 5th (with AGM), July 7th, Sept 1st and Nov 3rd.