

**Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting
on Tuesday May 2nd 2023 at 7:30pm**



Attendees: Michael Corfield (Acting Chairman), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), John Cypher, Dorothy Snaddon, Pete Cain, Owain Lewis, Brian Jones, Richard Woodward, Cllr Annette English Bromsgrove DC, Maggie Moore, Pauline Knight, Mike Stilwell, Cllr Marc Worrall Alvechurch PC, Sheila Pellowe, Martin Miller (Secretary).

1. Apologies: James McManus, Wendy Easter, Mark Easter

2. Rowney Green Association AGM. See relevant minutes.

3. Approval of Minutes. These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting on March 7th 2023.

4. Matters Arising from the Meeting on March 7th 2023

4.1 Alvechurch Parish Council (APC) had been contacted about the RGA proposal for Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras for use across the Parish including in Rowney Green. Cllr Worrall indicated that our local Worcestershire County Council (WCC) councillor was currently building a list of priorities and might consider ANPR. It was pointed out that Camera recording including ANPR on roads is only legal if licenced and supported by a public body. John Cypher indicated that three Parish Councils in Shropshire have joined local police in trialling portable ANPR to reduce speeding and anti-social behaviour. Richard Woodward and Dorothy Snaddon both spoke up in support for ANPR citing recent criminal activity that might have been deterred by ANPR. John Cypher drew attention to the distinction between CCTV which offers post hoc evidence and ANPR which gives immediate recognition centrally that can then be acted upon. The cost of the former is much less than ANPR. Bromsgrove CC manages CCTV in the area with several fixed cameras in Alvechurch village centre and requests can be made for the potential positioning of a mobile camera. Michael Corfield indicated that it was obtaining the local legal framework for ANPR that was the limiting factor and not cost. Richard Woodward suggested that signs indicating the presence of ANPR would be a deterrent but Owain Lewis pointed out that the Police do not usually endorse advertising the presence of ANPR.

4.2 In respect of the proposal for a 20mph speed limit in Rowney Green, John Cypher pointed out that there was a difference between introducing 20mph signs and introducing a 20mph zone that must also include traffic calming measures (such as in Alvechurch). It was the former that the RGA would propose as there are already natural restrictions to the road. Cllr Worrall sought regular meetings with WCC as APC has speeding issues elsewhere in Hopwood and Weatheroak Hill. Lots of

requests have been put forward including that from the RGA. Cllr Worrall indicated that work was being done by the Crime Commissioner with local Councils to address trouble with speeding. A further difficulty was in getting WCC to put in place the traffic order paperwork that allowed for legal enforcement. Cllr Worrall indicated that the Crime Commissioner was promoting the training of Community Speed Watch Groups. People volunteering need to be vetted and this was taking time. Pauline Knight mentioned that over 15 years ago a similar thing was undertaken in RG with Police involvement but it disbanded when access to the camera guns was no longer forthcoming. Michael Corfield referred to a speed check done in Rowney Green in 2019 when the average speed was found to be about 25mph. A threshold of 35mph would trigger Police interest in arranging speed enforcement measures.

4.3 The RGA committee had asked the Parish Council about how to ensure paths and roadways were kept clear of over growing garden foliage. Cllr Worrall indicated that writing to the Clerk of the APC citing the address where there were problems would be followed up by a letter from the APC indicating the house owner's duty to clear the path and roadway. Failure to comply could lead to compulsory remediation which would be recharged to the owner.

5. Flooding Issues outside the Dell. Michael Corfield indicated that it was difficult to get Aled Luckman our WCC councillor to respond to the issue. Some clearance of the drain had been undertaken but the drain is again blocked (**Action**).

6. Bordesley Hall Development

6.1 John Cypher raised that a week after the development had been approved, which included restrictions to maintain or improve the Heritage Wall, residents reported the developers had demolished the wall. This was a breach of the agreement for the development. BDC planners had been alerted to this.

6.2 Several objections had been raised with BDC by official consultees to the recent new proposal for barn demolition and new dwellings at Bordesley Hall Farm with concern that the land was potentially polluted and that a heritage assessment needed to be made because of the historic barns. APC had put in an objection to the barn development. The RGA needed reassuring that appropriate action would be taken by BCC on these matters (**Action**). Cllr English stated that the BDC needed to take into account public perception over the whole planning process as there was concern that the process was not transparent. There was often difficulty in getting any response from the Planning Officers. Cllr Worrall indicated that failure of Planning Officers to respond was a nationwide problem.

7. Crime Issues. An attempt of car theft from the Shambles and Bleaklow was recorded as well as a mugging of a cyclist by the Peacock Inn at 3pm by 4 masked men with subsequent bicycle theft. APC has invited Police to attend its next meeting to discuss the local increase in theft and anti-social behaviour.

8. Treasurer's report.

Current accounts held £2833.49 with 141 members out of 193 RG households (73%) which is highest it has been.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Richard Woodward expressed his thanks to the RGA Committee for its diligence over the year in responding so strongly to issues that had been raised.

9.2 Cllr Worrall encouraged the RGA to engage with the APC to help improve things for RG residents. He indicated there was no representation from RG on the Council at present and hoped this could be remedied soon.

9.3 Cllr English indicated this was her last meeting with the RGA as she was standing down as Councillor and thanked the RGA for their welcome and help in progressing things for RG.

9.4 Owain Lewis raised that there had been water overflowing from one drain across the road. Michael Corfield indicated that blocked drains should be reported to WCC and this can be done online.

The meeting was closed at 8:38 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday July 4th 2023 at 7:30pm.