



## **Annual General Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Attendees:** John Cypher (Chair), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alan Bailes (Bromsgrove DC & Worcs CC), Mark Easter, Wendy Easter (Committee Member), Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Tim Edwards, Pete Cain, Margaret Rollason (Committee Member), Martin Miller (Secretary).

**1. Apologies received from:** Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Cllr Marc Worrall, Cllr Barry Thornton, Richard Woodward, Maggie Moore.

John Cypher thanked the Park Group for their excellent decoration of the Canadian Aircrew War Memorial ready for VE Day later this week.

John Cypher congratulated Cllr Alan Bailes on his recent election to be a Councillor on Worcs CC. He continues as a Bromsgrove District Councillor as well. Cllr Bailes thanked RGA members for their continuing support.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 were approved.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.** John Cypher had contacted the owner of the Gravel Pit to ask about whether some days of public access were being considered but had not heard back.

### **4. Chairperson's report.**

Following the 2024 AGM, the RGA committee had two new members and the Chair no longer rotated. The RGA committee itself had a number of useful meetings over the year on key topics. John Cypher thanked the committee members for their work and support over the year.

The Association's membership has fluctuated around 70% of households. The regular meetings have been well attended, encouraged by increased publicity on the RG WhatsApp group about meeting dates and their agendas and the regular reporting about RGA news in The Calling Oak. The meetings benefited considerably from the attendance of APC Cllrs Mark Worrall and Barry Thornton and District Cllr Alan Bailes.

Over the year RGA business has included:

- the addition of Rowney Green in the National Trust's proposed 8 Hills Plan
- examining the proposed solar farm in Weatheroak about which we reserved our position
- successfully adding the World War II memorial for the Canadian Aircrew crash and the Victorian hydraulic ram house near Seecham Farm to the District Heritage List
- securing regular contact on behalf of residents with the water and electricity suppliers
- planting a significant number of daffodil bulbs at choice village locations
- increasing annual financial support to the important monthly newsletter The Calling Oak.

The continuing major items on the RGA agenda have been i) road safety, ii) major planning developments, and iii) the unexpected addition in December 2024 of assessing the impact of Storm Darragh and the subsequent lengthy power outage on residents.

i) The request for the village centre 30mph limit to be reduced to 20mph has been refused by Worcestershire CC. This was hampered through misunderstanding and lack of direct contact by both County Officers and the previous County Councillor. Despite the County's rejection of our follow-up complaints about its overall handling of the request our efforts will continue. Our MP shares an interest in road safety on rural village roads and is meeting the RGA on Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> in Rowney Green to discuss our proposal. District Councillor Bailes arranged generous funding for the return of our 20mph wheelie bins stickers project.

ii) On major planning our focus has been on the developer's proposed changes to the outline approval for up to 49 new dwellings at Bordesley Hall. Our fruitful discussion with the project manager resulted in low level bollard lighting in place of the initial lighting features, and some key changes to the numbers and mix of the new dwellings (houses and apartments). Our still outstanding concerns are about restoration and maintenance of the heritage Victorian garden wall and a better construction management plan for heavy vehicles using the Holloway. As to the Holloway itself the County Council has decided that the RGA's request for a reduced speed limit from 60mph to 30mph on that road will not be progressed until the development is complete and the traffic situation assessed.

iii) The impact of Storm Darragh on Rowney Green was significant over a fifty-two-hour period with many residents being without power for that time. There are emergency management questions on which the RGA is taking action: around forming a Community Assistance Network for advice and support (RG CAN), tree maintenance in relation to overhead power lines, improving the information from National Grid sent by texts to residents without power, and National Grid's role in future emergency situations when the Parish Emergency Plan is activated and restoring power supply/re-routing of available power is important. The RGA has an on-going helpful dialogue directly with the National Grid network area manager. In addition, we will meet soon with the Parish Council to review the activation of the Parish Emergency Plan drawing on the RG experience and have begun discussion with RG village hall trustees about aspects of the role of the village hall in such emergency situations.

#### **5. Treasurer's report.**

A copy was distributed and summarised by the Chair. There had been extra one-off expenditures in the last year for History Archive materials, Infant Defibrillator for the Village Hall, Tennis Court Bench, 20mph bin stickers and there was recurring support for the Calling Oak. The bin stickers cost had been covered by a generous donation from Bromsgrove DC secured by Cllr Bailes. £585 was accrued from membership subscriptions and £320 from donations. Operating deficit for the year was £338.76 with reserves standing at £2737. The accounts had been reviewed and signed off by Mike Stilwell.

#### **6. Annual Subscriptions**

There was no recommendation to increase the £5 per household annual subscription.

#### **7. Constitution Change Proposal for Treasurer's Report to be based on a calendar year.**

This proposal from the Treasurer was approved but it was noted that closing and signing off the accounts at the end of December occurs at a busy time of year. **ACTION**

#### **8. Open discussion of a Proposal for RGA membership to be extended to persons owning land or running businesses in Rowney Green.**

This was discussed with Pete Cain proposing membership could be extended to landowners or business owners with a post code address in RG. Tim Edwards pointed there are places within Rowney Green that accommodate a number of different businesses within one post code. Andy Ballard suggested applications for membership could be made by landowners or business owners which would be assessed by the RGA Committee but Mark Easter was concerned that there could be arbitrary decisions made and firm criteria are needed. Martin Miller expressed that landowners would

only have one vote compared to households who can have votes from all household residents over age of 16. He could not see that there was any risk of landowners being able to have excessive sway over the RGA. A vote of 4 to 2 with 5 abstentions was in favour of this being further discussed by the Committee. **ACTION**

#### **9. Nominations and election of Executive Committee**

John Cypher to continue as Chairperson, ratified by attendees.

Michael Corfield to continue as Treasurer, ratified by attendees

Andy Dunkers to continue as Vice-Chair, ratified by attendees

Martin Miller to continue as Secretary, ratified by attendees.

Wendy Easter to continue as Executive Member.

Margaret Rollason to continue as Executive Member.

Andy Ballard suggested that Officers might be in post for 2 years before re-election, noting that non-profit organisations usually have a 3-year tenure for Officers.

The AGM was closed at 20:16 hrs.

Date of next AGM – Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 7:30pm