

**Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting
on Tuesday Sept 5th 2023 at 7:30pm**



Attendees: John Cypher (Acting Chair), Andy Dunkers, Barry Thornton (Alvechurch PC), Alan Bailes (Bromsgrove DC), Maggie Moore, Richard Woodward, Tim Edwards, Wendy & Nigel Jealous, Martin Miller (secretary).

Apologies: Michael Corfield, James McManus, Pete Cain

1. Approval of Minutes. Firstly, John Cypher welcomed Cllr Bailes and Cllr Thornton to the meeting. Cllr Bailes requested an amendment to the previous minutes to indicate under item 5. Arosa that the Alvechurch Parish Council (APC) also did not support the proposal and he had asked for the application to be 'called in for Planning Committee decision'. Following this the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting on July 4th 2023.

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting on July 4th 2023. John Cypher drew attention to the earlier failure to maintain the grass around the memorial to the Canadian Pilots who died in the air crash in 1944. This was an important memorial previously visited by dignitaries from the Canadian High Commission and their Armed Forces. Richard Woodward indicated that the Park Group had recently worked to tidy it up. Cllr Bailes said he would raise with the Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) who was responsible for its upkeep.

3. Request for 20 mph speed limit in Rowney Green. John Cypher indicated that RGA Reps had discussed this with Richard Cenci the County Highways Liaison Officer and a paper had been written forming a request to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) for a change in the speed limit. It was alleged that WCC had been slow to proceed with 20mph speed limits. John Cypher indicated that the previous RGA Chair, James McManus, had communicated that he was not in favour of the proposal as it was unlikely to be enforced. John Cypher said Govt policy and research were concerned to indicate to drivers that the safe maximum speed through a village setting like RG. The speed survey in 2019 indicated an average south bound speed through RG of 24mph and this was found in research to be a tipping point level indicating that further reduction would occur. It was pointed out that the road through RG did not have adequate pavements, was used by pedestrians, horses, children and push-chairs. Cllr Bailes indicated that in his role as a resident, he would assist with the RGA's proposal for a 20mph speed limit. Wendy Jealous suggested there should be more

signage indicating hazards ahead, road narrowing, and horses in the road. It was commented that having white gates at each end of the village might also help indicate that a slower speed was appropriate. There was unanimous support at the meeting for the proposal and Cllr Thornton would support the RGA proposal at APC .

4. Flooding Issues outside the Dell. John Cypher stated that County Councillor Aled Luckman had written to him earlier on 5th Sept helpfully indicating that work was to start on addressing the flooding by repair to the drain, raising the gully, road sweeping and gully emptying. Aled Luckman would indicate the proposed data for this shortly. Cllr Bailes indicated that BDC try to, depending on staff availability, undertake road sweeping 4 times a year. Gully emptying was a highways authority responsibility.

5. Other issues recently discussed with WCC Highways Officer. John Cypher referred to:

1) The Automatic Number Plate Camera pilot in Shropshire funded by the Police Commissioner and 3 parish councils that was still on-going. A report from this study was due at the end of September but it is possible this pilot was focusing on speeding rather than crime reduction. The report will be requested for discussion at the APC.

2) HGV vehicles on Storage lane. Tim Edwards spoke of the problems with HGVs regularly blocking it and of HGV vehicles speeding down the Holloway. It was agreed that the warning signs for HGV vehicles on Storage Lane were in the wrong place. Mr Cenci was looking at possible repositioning.

3) The 30mph speed sign and related signage on the Holloway by the bridge over the dual carriageway that should really be further up the road so vehicles slowed before getting to the pinch point in the Holloway. It was also noted that excess foliage needs to be cut back to improve vision for motorists on the Holloway. Again, and helpfully, County Councillor Luckman had approved the indicated remedial work.

6. 8 Hills Regional Park Consultation. John Cypher outlined that the National Trust had the idea to make a large Regional Park to help open up the countryside for leisure and interest. Some residents had proposed that the suggested boundary should be extended to include more of RG and go as far as the Holloway. This was unanimously agreed and the Chair would contact the National Trust on this and advise Bromsgrove DC in relation to its revision of the District Plan.

7. Planning issues.

Bordesley Hall. Cllr Bailes indicated that the Housing Developers have agreed to reinstate the

heritage garden wall that had been demolished despite being protected. He will pursue what is happening about the lighting on the development as to whether it was just for paths or the street as well. He would pursue what was to be done to rectify the inappropriate felling of trees. He stated that construction traffic for the Bordesley Hall development was not allowed to go through RG or Storage Lane.

Arosa. The decision on this application was awaited and if it was likely to be supported by planning officers, Cllr Bailes said it would be 'called in' for full consideration by the planning committee. Cllr Bailes separately said that he would seek funding from developers of potential projects to help the local community.

8. Crime Issues. No activity was reported.

9. Treasurer's report. RGA funds comprise £2,494 in the bank and £364 in cash. Membership stands at 140 out of 193 properties, meaning 73% of the village are RGA members.

10. Any Other Business

John Cypher said that the Campaign for Preservation of Rural England was holding its AGM meeting at Shires Farm Meeting Room, Lionel Wy, Worcester WR3 7SG on September 28th at 5:45 and asked if any RGA member would be interested to attend.

Richard Wooward mentioned the problems at the T junction with Radford Road. Drivers coming from RG were unsighted with regard to traffic from the left, having to pull out significantly to be able to see and also there was a blind spot to the right. Wendy Jealous had emailed the BDC to cut back the foliage to improve sight lines but this needed to be more radical and the foliage around a tree needs stripping off. Cllr Bailes said the Highway Authority should be involved. It was also suggested that there should be signage to drivers on Radford Road coming from Weatheroak that there was a blind junction ahead. (**Action** - RGA Committee).

Cllr Thornton pointed out that there was a Village notice board at the Radford Road T junction that was in a poor state of repair. (**Action** -RGA committee will look into ownership and repair)

The meeting was closed at 8:47 pm.

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