

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Wendy Easter (Committee Member), County and District Cllr Alan Bailes, Pete Cain, Helen Hawkeswood, Nigel Jealous, Dorothy Snaddon, Martin Miller (Secretary).

1. **Apologies received from:** Cllr Marc Worrall, Richard Woodward, Maggie Moore, Andy Dunkers, Wendy Jealous, Margaret Rollason.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the May 5th meeting were approved.
3. **Matters Arising from the Meeting on May 5th 2025.** John Cypher had written to the owners of the Gravel Pit enquiring about the possibility of occasional public access. He had received a very nice and thoughtful reply from Claire Galletly that they had considered opening it but it was full of broken glass, torn metal and other rubbish from years ago and going down to some depth and there are unstable trees. Suitable public liability insurance at reasonable cost would not be forthcoming. So they regret that public access will be impracticable.
4. **Highway Matters.**

4.1 Speed limits: John Cypher was awaiting confirmation that local MP Bradley Thomas would be coming on Thursday July 3rd to the Village Hall at 10am for a walkabout to discuss the proposed RG Lane 20 mph speed limit. Cllr Bailes will be attending. Wendy Easter's photos of hazards on the Lane will be available to view. Cllr Bailes indicated it may be possible for one traffic order to be presented to Worcs CC for the Rowney Green and Holloway speed limit proposals. He has requested the proposed 20 mph limit be raised again with the traffic management team and he reassured the RGA that it was not just about vehicle traffic but importantly included consideration of the risk to horse riders and pedestrians. Nigel Jealous raised concern about foliage restricting sight lines at the Radford Road T junction. He was reassured by John Cypher that this was in hand with Will Savage contacting the farmer and Bromsgrove DC had also been informed.

4.2 Road Signage in RG: Wendy Easter had met with Police Support Officer (Mark Hyder) at a coffee morning who confirmed we do not need permission to take down the excessive and cluttered Neighbourhood Watch (NW) signs and Smart Water signs along RG Lane. He indicated that NW had not been active in RG for over 10 years and neither were known to be effective in reducing crime. He suggested RG had one of the best and most coherent community support structures in the area. Michael Corfield volunteered to look at removal of these signs (**Action**). With regard to repositioning the signs warning about Horse Riders and lack of footpaths Cllr Bailes said it was best to wait upon the 20mph proposal but in the meantime send him details and photos to start the process. (**Action**)

5. Planning Issues

5.1 Bordesley Hall/Manor Development: There was a misprint in the literature online for the new Bordesley Manor development which suggested there were going to be 2-bedroom houses, which was incorrect. John Cypher would invite JR Davies from Wain Homes to attend the September RGA meeting to inform us about how things will be proceeding (**Action**). Cllr Bailes has requested an update from the BDC planning officers in the meantime about the reinstatement of the heritage wall and details about the construction environment plan which are both part of the development's approval conditions.

5.2 Bromsgrove District Plan Review: John Cypher mentioned that Cllr Marc Worrall (Chair of Alvechurch PC) was keen for more comment to be made by residents about the plan which can be made online at <https://forms.office.com/e/UHmTyb7qUy> which connects to the Parish Council's questionnaire about the Bromsgrove Council proposals. Sites have been selected by Bromsgrove Council planning officers for potential development but Cllr Bailes stated that the criteria for selection were not specified and some suitable sites had

not been considered at all. Due to his prior holiday arrangements and in his absence, he had requested that his letter of concerns be read out at an extraordinary meeting of the Bromsgrove DC held on this topic but the Chair had ruled against this. Alvechurch will possibly have an extra 500 houses, 400 on one site and 100 on another. This was lower than previously anticipated by some in our parish and lower than in many other Bromsgrove areas. No real details are given of the infrastructure development needed, such as schools, GP services, Dental services, sewage and water services. Details of flooding risk, access issues, sustainability and viability of the project are not available. As Government minister, Angela Rayner has stated that release of Green Belt land for development must be linked to infrastructure development. Cllr Bailes indicated that the positioning of employment areas related to these housing developments is important. The possibility is to build business premises around Junctions 2 and 3 of the M42 but Cllr Bailes said it would be better to spread this around and build them closer to the actual housing developments. The consultation on the Bromsgrove Council's proposals can be viewed at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan

6. Adverse Weather Resilience

There was no response back from the article in The Calling Oak on the proposed RG Community Assistance Network (RG CAN) inviting volunteers to help form an *everyday* advice and assistance phone/online service for our residents. The RGA Committee had met separately and now intends to form a group from the Committee who can field phone enquiries specifically in *emergency* situations affecting RG. An information handbook on key public, utility and voluntary organisation services will be generated to support RG CAN. Additionally a review of the Parish Emergency Plan design and activation is due to be undertaken by Alvechurch PC with RGA and Village Hall reps. The Plan should probably have been activated for Storm Darragh but there first needs to be better definition of roles and better briefing by Alvechurch PC for the key people involved.

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

CPRE is an important campaigning body and John Cypher indicated an active local branch could be an important player with regard to the proposed District Developments involving release of land from the Green Belt. Dorothy Snaddon, a personal member of CPRE, indicated that the Chair for the Worcestershire Branch (Dr Peter King) who has an influential role, thought confusion was likely to arise when a branch has individual, community group and Parish Council members. However Alvechurch Parish Cllr Ruth Clarke is keen for other local people to join her on CPRE. Since the RGA has its own membership of CPRE, John Cypher will contact Cllr Clarke to see how best to take this forward (**Action**). Wendy Easter and Nigel Jealous are interested in knowing more about membership possibilities

8. Crime Issues.

Michael Corfield mentioned two recent incidents. A brand-new lease car was stolen within days from a Newbourne Hill address by a break-in to steal the keys. Also, when Severn Trent were in the area doing works their van was broken into by masked men to steal tools.

9. Treasurers report.

Finances as of June 30th were £2,534 in the bank, £310 in cash, making a total of £2,844. There were 30 properties still due to pay their subscription. Chasing these will desist in September.

10. Any Other Business.

Wendy Easter reported that Worcestershire Wildlife Trust will not get round to doing the Newbourne Wood Information Board for several years to come and had rejected the RGA offer to create this locally while following their guidance. Therefore £250 of RGA funds was no longer set aside for this project.

The meeting was closed at 20:55 hrs.

Next meeting is Tues Sept 2nd, followed by Nov 4th. In 2026: Jan 6th, Mar 3rd, May 5th, July 7th, Sept 1st and Nov 3rd.