

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7:30pm



Attendees: Andy Dunkers (Acting Chairman), Michael Corfield (Treasurer), Dorothy Snaddon, Cllr Barry Thornton (Alvechurch PC), Cllr Marc Worrall (Alvechurch PC), Maggie Rollason, Maggie Moore, Wendy Easter, Brian Jones, Tim Edwards, Emma Webb, Andrew Clarke, Karen Morgan, Chris Morgan, Richard Woodward, Rob Brush, Andy Ballard, Liz Ballard, Martin Miller (Secretary).

Apologies received from: Cllr Alan Bailes, James McManus, John Cypher, Pete Cain

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes for the July 9th Meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting on July 9th 2024. Will Savage has yet to register the ridge/furrow in the field up to Storage Wood for the local Heritage List. Michael Corfield has already registered the other items. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust have deferred implementing the Newbourne Wood Information Board to 2025. A bench for the tennis court has been purchased and RG Park will fund a second one. Cllr Luckman has agreed that the County Council will maintain and trim the vegetation at the junction of Radford Road with RG Lane. Tenders are still awaited at the County Council for repairs to bridleway/footpath number AV-588 from RG Lane to Alvechurch Lodge Farm.

3. A 20-mph speed limit through Rowney Green.

Cllr Worrall and three other PCllrs had attended a partnership meeting arranged by Alvechurch PC to include the Police and County Council. Cllr Luckman could not be present but Richard Cenci (WCC County Highways Liaison Officer), Inspector Richard Field (West Mercia Police) and Paul Waterhouse (Traffic Management Advisor for West Mercia Police) attended. John Cypher had provided written details of the RGA's concerns and requests which formed the basis of that part of the discussion. APC has yet to discuss the outcome of the meeting fully. Cllr Worrall indicated that a new County Council Highways Officer had been appointed with a wider remit to include Redditch and the RG requests, as well as other highway issues being championed by APC, may not be a high priority for the near future. Cllr Worrall was asked by Richard Woodward what further could the RGA do and he indicated the RGA should continue to lobby Cllr Luckman. Wendy Easter asked if more road signs indicating that Pedestrians and Horses were on the Highway could be installed and Cllr Worrall suggested the RGA should email APC's Clerk with this request (**Action**). Cllr Worrall would email a link to Andy Dunkers (**Action**) about the pressure group championing '20's Plenty'.

4. Planning Issues.

4.1 Arosa development. An appeal of the rejection for its subdivision from 6 into 9 apartments had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate and the result still awaited.

4.2 Bordesley Hall. Cllr Worrall indicated that the development did not fit the need for starter homes and homes for the elderly that APC's Neighbourhood Plan promotes. Also, the type of dwellings proposed were not architecturally befitting the setting. APC objected to the plans on this basis. Andy Dunkers read a message from Cllr Bailes stating that Wains would submit amended plans later in September. It is known they are amending the lighting following RGA comment. Wain's were to be invited to meet with APC following their Planning & Highways committee meeting held on the 2nd September. Cllr Worrall indicated that the decision for the Wain proposal could be delegated to Officers. Cllr Worrall suggested the RGA need to keep in close contact with Cllr Alan Bailes because if the Officers are minded to approve Wain's

application, there will be a narrow time window to request it to be considered by BDC's full Planning Committee.

4.3 Atlas phone mast. Cllr Worrall stated that the County Council has teamed up with Atlas to improve signal coverage. This was triggered by that fact that within 2 years all emergency services will rely totally on mobile signal for communications and the one blind spot identified locally was in RG. Siting a mast in a nearby field might do but the optimum site was around or in the RG Park. The Village Hall Trustees (VHT) had 12.5 years remaining on their lease on the Park and would need to approve any proposal. Richard Wooward was concerned that the VHT did not circulate minutes of meetings and so the basis of any decision would not be disclosed (**Action** RGA to contact VHT to request being kept informed). Cllr Worrall indicated that APC would be guided and need to have evidence of the wider RG community's views or support for the mast if it was to agree to its installation, as well as the agreement of VHT's. Cllr Worrall and John Cypher had been on a virtual meeting with Atlas that was very informative and he recommended that VHT and the RGA membership should look to arrange a similar meeting to get up to speed on this topic. Atlas should be questioned about the need for their electrical supply and any noise generated by their equipment.

4.4 Proposal from Exagen for a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System at Weatheroak. Andy Dunkers read out a list of points/questions raised by Weatheroak Residents. It was clarified that the land is owned by a local farmer who plans to continue sheep grazing. Concern was expressed that once a solar farm was in place the land may then be classified as brown field status and within a few years could be converted to housing development. Road access to the sites will likely need to be improved. Cllr Worrall recommended attending the forthcoming drop-in session with Exagen in RG Village Hall on Thursday Sept 19th 16:00 to 20:00 hrs to ask questions but NOT to voice opinion. Better to await any application than to engage too much at this stage. On a vote 3 objected to the proposal and the remainder voted to defer until more information was available.

5. Crime Issues. None to report.

6. Treasurers report. Finances as of 31st Aug 2024: £2,215.36 in the bank, £354.51 as cash, making £2,569.87 in total. Recent purchases include history storage wardrobe (£75.42) and tennis court bench (£495.00) with £250 ringfenced for Newbourne Wood information board.

7. Any Other Business. Cllr Worrall indicated that there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Alvechurch Parish Council **and expressed a strong desire for a resident of Rowney Green to take the position.** Meetings were once a month. Cllr Barry Thornton was currently the link person for RG but did not reside in RG.

The meeting was closed at 20:42 hrs.

Next RGA meetings: Tuesday Nov 11th 2024 followed by Jan 7th 2025.