

Minutes of the Rowney Green Association meeting on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7:30pm



Attendees: John Cypher (Chair), Andy Dunkers (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alan Bailes, Tim Edwards, Wendy Easter (Committee Member), Pete Cain, Margaret Rollason (Committee Member), Martin Miller (Secretary).

1. **Apologies received from:** Michael Corfield, Cllr Marc Worrall, Cllr Barry Thornton, Richard Woodward, Maggie Moore.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes for the March 4th meeting were approved.
3. **Matters Arising from the Meeting on March 4th 2025.** None.

4. Highway Matters.

4.1 Speed limits: On Monday May 26th at lunchtime our local MP Bradley Thomas will meet with the RGA committee and walk along RG Lane and the Holloway so he can appreciate our concerns for changes to reduce the current speed limits. County Cllr Bailes indicated that even if the police object to the RGA proposal it can still go forward. He said that it has not yet been decided who will hold the portfolio for Highways and Transport at Worcs CC.

4.2 Road Signage in RG: Wendy Easter for the RGA committee reported that to date there had been no comment or feedback from the Calling Oak article about reviewing the variety (even clutter) of road signage. As research shows only 25% of road signs are properly registered by drivers it is proposed that many duplicate signs are removed and existing ones better placed. There was discussion about the many Neighbourhood Watch (NW) signs but no scheme now operates within RG and the RG chats social media pages already and separately undertake all the roles of NW. Tim Edwards raised whether there was a deterrent effect from the signs and perhaps one at each end of the village should be retained. Cllr Bailes suggested the RGA should draw up separate proposals (i) for reduction of NW signs to put to the Police and (ii) for better placement of signs in RG to put to the Highways Authority. **(Action)**

5. Planning Issues

5.1 Bordesley Development: There was nothing to report on the outstanding items of the heritage wall renovation and construction vehicle management on the Holloway.

5.2 Weatheroak Solar Farm: The proposal for this solar farm was currently withdrawn.

5.3 Bromsgrove District Plan Review: Cllr Bailes indicated this was still the subject of the Council's steering group discussion with a proposal on green belt changes and housing numbers to go to Council on June 19th. If it is ratified it will go out to public consultation later this summer. The likely time a draft new District Plan would be released is later 2026.

6. Adverse Weather Resilience – Storm Darragh.

6.1 The proposed RG Community Assistance Network is envisaged as being volunteers who are prepared to receive calls and offer advice both generally and in the event of a village emergency. Margaret Rollason and Wendy Easter had attended a Citizens Advice course on becoming a Community Information Responder. **(Action)**

6.2 Several Committee members had discussed with the Village Hall Trustees further aspects of how the Hall could be used in the event of an emergency. A Trustees meeting about this will happen soon.

6.3 A review of the Parish Emergency Plan drawing on the RG experience of a long period of power outage was awaited pending the availability of the Parish Council lead councillor.

7. County Council Elections / Local Government Reorganisation.

John Cypher reiterated the congratulation to Cllr Bailes on his success in being elected as an independent

County Councillor. John Cypher also reported that there had been debate at an extraordinary meeting of Bromsgrove DC vis a vis the Government's plans for local government reorganisation with a firm proposal for the preferred form in Worcestershire being required by November 2025. Cllr Bailes indicated local support for two unitary councils in Worcestershire, North and South, rather than a unitary council overall. Bromsgrove Council has formally supported both options being fully appraised before a decision was made. Although the Government favours new unitary councils representing a population of about 500,000 Cllr Bailes said smaller councils were still possible.

8. Crime Issues.

Wendy Easter reported that outside the RG boundary a horse had been shot at by an air rifle. Also, a car had been seen to be harassing horses and riders in Rowney Green.

9. Treasurers report.

Finances as of April 30th 2025 were £2,498.07 in the bank, £299.51 in cash, making a total of £2,797.58. £250 remains ringfenced for Newbourne Wood information board. Wendy Easter reported that Worcs Wildlife Trust was snowed under with work and could not get round to doing the Newbourne Wood Board for the foreseeable future. She had suggested to them that RG had local expertise to be able to produce the board and was waiting to hear back from them on this.

10. Any Other Business. Cllr Bailes expressed thanks to the RG residents for their support.

The meeting was closed at 21:02 hrs.

Next RGA meeting is: Tuesday July 1st 2025 at 7:30pm, followed by Sept 2nd, Nov 4th and Jan 6th 2026.