

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



Attendees: Michael Corfield (Acting Chair), Andy Dunkers, John Cypher, Barry Thornton (Alvechurch PC), Alan Bailes (Bromsgrove DC), Maggie Moore, James McManus, Pete Cain, Tim Edwards, Wendy & Nigel Jealous, Brian Jones, Pauline Knight, Sandy Jenkinson, Wendy Easter, Martin Miller (Secretary).

Apologies: Marc Worrall, Dorothy Snaddon, Margaret Rollason, Richard Woodward

Michael Corfield welcomed Councillors Thornton and Bailes and thanked them for attending. With the increased notices about the meeting there was a larger attendance than usual. It was suggested that in the RG WhatsApp Chat notice a link to the RGA website should be added (**Action**).

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting on Sept 5th 2023.

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting on Sept 5th 2023. Cllr Bailes indicated that Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) was responsible for the mowing around the memorial to the Canadian Aircrew. The National Trust had been contacted about the 8 Hills Regional Park proposal indicating the RGA request to enlarge the boundary to include Rowney Green. There had been no reply to date.

3. Request for 20 mph speed limit in Rowney Green. John Cypher indicated that this proposal was supported by the Alvechurch Parish Council (APC) and by the local police who said it would be self-enforcing. Cllr Aled Luckman had been invited to propose this to the Worcestershire County Highways but had not replied to recent RGA enquiries. If this continued it was suggested contacting Mike Rouse Worcestershire CC (WCC) cabinet member for highways and transport. Wendy Easter suggested there should be more signs indicating horses in the road and children walking through the village. It was suggested this awaited progress on the 20 mph proposal.

4. Highways Issues.

4.1 Flooding by The Dell. Aled Luckman had agreed to fund the necessary work which was awaiting prioritisation. Michael Corfield expressed thanks to Phil Malin who lives at The Dell and regularly clears debris to help prevent flooding.

4.2 HGVs in Storage Lane. Following specific problems of HGV's delivering to Lower Park Fishery, Michael Corfield had emailed the owner to ask that delivery documentation specify using the Dagnell End Road access (their website instructions already specify this). No reply had been

received.

BMI trailers claim to already do this, but it was uncertain how consistently they do it. If problems continue it might be worth contacting their head office. It is hoped these problems will reduce when the “Not suitable for HGVs” sign at the Lilley Green Road end of Storage Lane is moved to a more prominent position on the junction (**Action**). James McManus indicated that Sat Nav instructions were also to blame.

4.3 Radford Road Junction. Removal of vegetation to the East of the junction had helped but there was still a restricted sight line to the West.

4.4 Holloway Pinch Point. WCC had agreed to improvements to the signage and trim the foliage.

4.5 Grit Bins. Cllr Bailes indicated that grit bins should be topped up soon. It was thought yellow grit bins were an APC responsibility and green grit bins were a WCC responsibility. Cllr Thornton would check on this (**Action**).

5. Planning issues including Bordesley Hall & Arosa developments. There was no new progress information about the Bordesley Hall development. A meeting to sort out the reinstatement of the heritage wall had not yet occurred. Cllr Bailes has complained to the Planning Office about the lack of progress on this. Construction cannot begin until the street/footway lighting issues have been properly discussed and sorted out. Cllr Bailes had instigated the setting up of a planning enforcement policy for BDC which was currently being produced. John Cypher commented that a report on the performance of BDC Planning committee functions from the Planning Advisory Service had been presented to the BDC council meeting on October 25th and had surprisingly stated that it was working well with no significant problems. The report had commented that Parish Councils claimed their needs were not adequately met by the Planning committee.

The Arosa development had been refused on the grounds of siting and size, being harmful to the green belt, unsustainable location, proposed new building design not in keeping with existing property and the inclusion of converting an unbuilt property to a different use.

Cllr Bailes indicated the review of the Bromsgrove District Plan was restarting soon. The Alvechurch Neighbourhood plan would in due time also have to be reviewed.

6. Repair to Bridleway/Footpath from RG Lane to Alvechurch Lodge Farm – path number AV-588. The RGA had written to the Worcestershire County Council about maintenance on the footpath but in reply this was a low priority for them. Pauline Knight indicated that the path was unusable from November to March unless one was wearing long wellington boots. It was suggested the RGA wrote to Adrian Smith the Footpath Warden to ask whether its maintenance could have a higher priority (**Action**).

7. Crime Issues. None had been reported.

8. Treasurers report. The RGA held £ 2,465.23 in the bank, £ 364.51 as cash, totalling £ 2829.74. There

are 132 houses that are members out of a total of 193 (68%). There was a special thanks to Bob and Pat Taylor who have started to donate every month to the RGA.

9. Any Other Business. John Cypher raised three items. First, a reminder of the memorial wreath laying being made on Saturday Nov 11th at 10:45am. This is the 80th anniversary of the tragic loss of Canadian Aircrew whose aircraft crashed in Rowney Green. Afterwards coffee, tea and cake will be available in the playing field's Green Barn. There is also a Remembrance Service in Alvechurch this coming Sunday. All are welcome to both of these events. Second, notice was made of the closure of the Hollway for 19 days from November 20th so the gas main can be serviced. It was thought that school buses will have to stop at the bottom of the Hollway for pick up and drop off. Lastly, attention was drawn to the success of the APC in being awarded a Quality Gold award by the National Association of Local Councils. They are 1 of only 52 local Councils with this award out of 10,000 town and parish councils overall. They were commended for their governance, community engagement and success in bringing about improvement. Pete Cain drew attention to the fact that Village noticeboard used by RGA was suffering from ingress of water. Michael Corfield indicated that the RGA had purchased 1000 daffodil bulbs which had been distributed to be planted round the Village to bloom in the Spring.

The meeting was closed at 8:35 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday Jan 9th 2024 at 7:30pm.