

## **Rowton Parish Council**

### **Chair's Report May 2020**

Rowton Parish Council (RPC) maintained its schedule of bi-monthly meetings until March 2020, at which point the introduction of social distancing to minimise the spread of Coronavirus caused the suspension of all face to face meetings. RPC followed the guidance of the National Association of Local Councils in postponing its next Annual Meeting until 2021, while adopting an online platform to conduct regular meetings until further notice.

Having started the 2019/20 year with only five councillors, RPC was pleased to co-opt Michael Smythe at the July meeting. Michael had moved to Rowton fairly recently and was previously a parish councillor at Littleton.

Once again matters connected with Highways featured regularly on RPC agendas. Issues of flooding, drainage, pavement accessibility and uneven road surfaces were addressed during the year. Another source of concern has been speeding traffic, both on the A41 and on local roads such as Moor Lane. RPC was delighted when, following a survey instigated by the A41 Pedestrian Crossing Action Group, CWaC acknowledged the need for a signalled pedestrian crossing on the A41 near its intersection with Rowton Bridge Road. Meanwhile RPC arranged for five volunteers to be trained in the operation of a Speed Indicator Device, with the training now expected to take place later in 2020.

The Village Green continued to benefit from light maintenance carried out by local volunteers and coordinated by RPC. The spring bulbs and rhododendrons made an attractive sight in the spring. RPC has been grateful to Rowton Hall Hotel for cutting the grass, with appropriate liability insurance in place. The Green was once again host to the annual Carol Service in December, with a good number of local people enjoying the singing and refreshments under the illuminated tree.

During the year RPC began to consider the possibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, potentially enabling residents to have a greater say in planning and other matters in their locality. Further research and discussion will determine whether RPC goes ahead with this idea in 2021.

As always, the activities of RPC can be viewed on the website, which is shortly to be revamped to make it more accessible. My thanks are due to our Clerk Christine Davies for her efficient organisation of day-to-day matters, to CWaC Councillor Stuart Parker for his advice and financial support, and to all members of RPC for their commitment and willingness to act in the best interests of Rowton residents.

Paul Shannon