

**MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillor Glenys Harrison (Vice-Chair)
Pat Fitton
Morfudd Salmon
Paul Shannon

In attendance: Cllr Stuart Parker (left at 8.15pm)
Clerk Christine Davies
Simon Maudslay (local resident)
Cllr Simon Kent – Christleton Parish Council

1. Apologies

Cllr Bob Knight (family commitment)

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. To consider the approval of the minutes of Ordinary Parish Meeting of the Council held on 10 July 2017

Resolved: Minutes approved and signed as a true record by Cllr Glenys Harrison (Vice-Chair)

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda
Scottish Power –**

Cllr Fitton received telephone communication to advise of cutting back of branches on tree on Village Green as they are touching the electric wires on a nearby pole – this is a legal requirement to conform with health and safety.

5. Public Participation

Cllr Simon Kent queried if the Council had received notification of the running costs of the King George Playing Field, as the use of the field and its facilities is also for the benefit of Rowton residents. Cllr Salmon replied that the issue of contributing to running costs and maintenance had been discussed at length previously and the Parish Council had declined on the grounds that local residents use the facilities in Waverton. Cllr Stuart Parker advised that the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) review of Cheshire West and Chester had produced its draft recommendations. It recommended splitting the current Chester Villages ward into two namely, Elton and Mickle Trafford, and Christleton and Huntington with Rowton being in the latter. Cllr Parker asked if the Draft recommendations could be advertised locally and the Clerk confirmed that the information is being displayed on the noticeboards and would be uploaded to the parish council website. It was agreed that a submission to the LGBC be made by the Parish Council in support of the proposed Christleton and Huntington ward.

6. Parish Council Vacancy

Peter Thomas was proposed by Cllr Morfudd Salmon and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitton and therefore duly elected. Cllr Thomas signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and completed his Notification of Members' Interests.

7. Highways – Village Ward Traffic Group

Cllr Simon Kent of Christleton Parish Council gave a presentation about the basis and formation of the group. The Group comprises representatives from local parishes to act as a single forum for discussions with CWaC and the Police. With regard to speeding on the A41, particularly HGV's, the Group has met with the Police Commissioner, which has resulted in increased speed awareness surveillance by the Police. The detection of night time speeding (between 8pm-6pm) by HGV'S necessitates the use of special infra-red cameras and the Police Commissioner is liaising with the Police to train-up officers to operate this equipment. The Police are very keen on the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SID's are temporary mobile interactive signs designed to alert passing motorists of their speed). Littleton PC have purchased one and Christleton may purchase one.

Local resident Simon Maudslay, raised the issue of fixed speed cameras on the A41 – Cllr Kent said the Police were not in favour of them as they were not considered effective and the criterion for installation was 3 fatalities in 3 years. The installation cost of £100,000 and annual running costs of £10,000 make it prohibitive.

Cllr Kent said the next Group meeting would be arranged as soon as possible at Mickle Trafford Police Station. Cllr Paul Shannon confirmed that Rowton PC had two volunteers to operate a speed gun and Cllr Kent replied that the volunteers do not operate within their parish for reasons of anonymity.

8. Finance

Payments	Amount	Cheque No
A Cartwright T/A ACC Solutions – hosting of website	£72.00	000674
CM Davies July Sal 175.33 + 33.42 expenses	£208.75	000675
Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual Subscription	£67.00	000676
CM Davies August Sal 167.48 + 17.00 expenses	£184.48	000677
Bank Balance as at 05/09/2017	£6192.96	

Transparency Fund Clerk confirmed receipt of £651.02. This is the final application to the fund.

Signatories re Bank Account Cllr Glenys Harrison has been confirmed by NatWest as a signatory. A further signatory is required and Cllr Paul Shannon was nominated and confirmed as an additional signatory. NatWest forms given to Cllr Paul Shannon to complete and submit to bank.

9. Audit re y/e 31/03/2017

BDO, the company auditing the accounts for year ending 31 March 2017, has subjected the Parish Council's accounts to a senior review and had originally raised a qualified issue regarding revaluation of the bench on the Village Green. BDO stated that the Asset Register should list the bench's value as £1 and not £1000 as currently listed. However, BDO subsequently confirmed that as the asset has held a consistent value since 2011, then it could remain at the listed value, and no further action be taken.

10. Planning

To receive planning decision re 17/1559/FUL – Rowton Grange West: proposed detached garage, sun room and garden store: Approved. To receive the following Planning Applications 17/02977/REM – Land at Moor Lane: erection of one dwelling. Comments submitted raised concern re drainage and size and alignment compared to previous outline planning permission and 17/03223/FUL – 33 Croft Close: First floor extension: No comment.

11. Parish Treasure Hunt – 15 October 2017

200 A5 flyers printed at a cost of £14.98. Cllr Fitton handed out flyers for distribution. Clerk confirmed application to Member's Budget for £100 submitted to CWaC. Cllrs Fitton and Salmon to organise and purchase refreshments. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Salmon re printing of questions.

12. Volunteer Rota for Village Green

Cllr Fitton has organised a team of volunteers to care for and maintain the Village Green, in particular the area around the Memorial Stone. She has arranged a rota up until April 2018. Clerk confirmed that the Employers' and Public Liability Insurance sections provided by the Council's policy will automatically cover volunteers who are carrying out the work on behalf of the Council.

13. Carols on the Green

Provisional date of either 6 or 7 December chosen, dependent on availability of Rachel Morrey, keyboard player. Cllr Peter Thomas offered to contact Walker's Nurseries to arrange purchase and delivery of a 15ft spruce tree for first week of December. Cllr Salmon to deliver Christmas song sheets to Cllr Shannon. Regarding refreshments Cllr Harrison offered to purchase mince pies and Cllr Fitton to purchase the gluehwein and polystyrene cups. It was agreed to use the same style flyer as last year, A5, and for them to be printed and ready for 30/10/17. Cllr Salmon advised that a section of the Christmas tree lights had been damaged last year and therefore the lights needed replacing. In view of this it was decided to approach Cllr Stuart Parker to request an additional £50 from his Member's Budget.

14. To receive resignation of Cllrs Pat Fitton and Morfudd Salmon

It was with much regret that the Parish Council accepted the resignations of Cllrs Pat Fitton and Morfudd Salmon. Cllr Harrison thanked them both for their long service and dedication to the community – they both joined the Parish Council on 11 May 1987, totalling 60 years of combined service to the Parish of Rowton.

15. Items for Discussion/Consideration Issues can be discussed but no decision made.

Estate Agents Signs - Junction of A41/Rowton Lane Obstructing view of drivers exiting onto A41. Also overhanging tree on left hand side of junction obstructing footpath.

Overhanging Hedge situated to the right of Vaynol (semi-detached property located to the right of Rowton Court Hotel) – causing obstruction together with soil on footpath

Purchase of Daffodil Bulbs Extra bulbs required to be planted on Claypits Road side of edging wall on Village Green.

16. Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct – Sept 2017

J Parker's Wholesale Catalogue – Autumn 2017

The Clerk Magazine – Sept 2017

17. Date of Next Meeting – 13 November 2017