

**MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
MONDAY 26 July 2021 at 7.30pm**

Held at Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane, Rowton

Present: Councillors Howard Hopwood (Chair)
 Paul Shannon
 Glenys Harrison
 Bob Knight

In attendance Clerk Christine Davies
 John Neary (7.45pm to 8.15pm)

1 Apologies

Cllr Peter Thomas and CWaC Cllr Stuart Parker

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 To consider approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 May 2021

Minutes were approved and signed as a true and correct record by Cllr Howard Hopwood, Chair.

4 To consider approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10 May 2021

Minutes were approved and signed as a true and correct record by Cllr Howard Hopwood, Chair.

5 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Internal Auditor – Clerk advised Fil Prevc is considering moving away from the area. It was decided that as the accounts had been successfully audited electronically for the past two years to ask him if he would consider continuing this arrangement. Clerk to approach Fil Prevc

Dog Control Meeting – Cllr Harrison advised that there were no changes to the current measures.

At this point the Chair asked for item 10 to be brought forward

10 Broadband Presentation

John Neary gave a brief background to the current situation. The four villages Christleton, Waverton, Littleton and Rowton all receive Broadband from the exchange in Christleton via green cabinets which are positioned around the area. At the moment the fibre optic cables only go to the cabinets and not the properties themselves which makes the broadband slower. The Government

have recognised that rural areas need to be upgraded more quickly and have introduced the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme which has eligibility criteria. Unfortunately, in this area only Littleton meets the criteria as it is classed as “rural”, whereas Christleton, Rowton and Waverton are classed as “urban”. John suggests that the four villages form a joint committee to lobby for a change in the criteria. Cllr Paul Shannon has agreed to be Rowton’s representative.

6 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

7 Highways

Speed Limit Reduction - We are still awaiting the data from Highways for the Speed Assessment of the A41.

Re the signage warning traffic users of new pedestrian crossing. The temporary signs need to be repositioned further away (particularly approaching Chester direction) so that road users have sufficient warning.

Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Parker re data and Highways re signage.

8 Pavements

The Chair listed the main areas that require attention:

Between Vaynol and Woodbank – encroachment on the pavement.

Left of junction of short Rowton Lane with A41 up to layby (opposite BP Garage) – overhanging bushes and encroachment on pavement

Left of long Rowton Lane with junction of A41 – Pavement has been cleared but surface remains uneven and needs resurfacing

Action: Clerk to contact Sian Williams, Area Engineer

9 Finance

The following retrospective expenditure for May, June and July was approved:-

Payments	Amount	Cheque No/Online Payment	Statute Power
CM Davies April Sal £192.00+ Exp £13.34	£205.34	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 111
Came & Co - Annual Insurance	£358.20	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 112
CM Davies - Reimbursement re speed gun	£188.00	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 112
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 112
CM Davies - May Salary £226.44+ Exp £24.79	£251.23	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 111

Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 112
CM Davies - June Sal £210.12 + £30.05 Exp	£240.17	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 111
CM Davies - reimbursement re honorarium to Fil Prevc	£18.75	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 112
Antony Cartwright re webhosting	£72.00	OP	LGA1972 – Sec 142
Bank Balance as at 05/07/21	£10245.57*		

*includes £1160.25 earmarked for Pedestrian Crossing

11 Litter Picking

Cllr Hopwood has all the equipment stored in his garage. It was agreed to advertise for volunteers and Cllr Harrison suggested inserting a free spot in the local A41 magazine.

Action: Clerk to contact Magazine re September issue, as well as displaying on Noticeboards and website.

12 Speed Watch

Cllr Harrison said that PCSO Linda Bailey is understood to be organising training and that she will liaise with the PCSO to bring this forward.

13 Casual Vacancy

Casual Vacancy notices are currently being displayed on the notice boards and the website. If there is no response after 5 August 2021 then the vacancy can be filled by co-option.

14 Planning

Planning Application 21/01945/LDC – Land at Woodbank, Whitchurch Road: Use of land and buildings for commercial use. Although this Planning application is within Christleton Parish boundary a section of the adjoining land lies within Rowton's parish boundary.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to support Christleton Parish Council's submission against this planning application. Submission date had been extended to 09 August 2021.

Planning Application No: 21/02580/FUL: 2 Croft Close – Extension to front with new pitched roof to over garage, conversion of garage into habitable room, single storey rear extension and render to rear and front elevations.

Resolved: No Comment to be submitted

i) Cheshire Community Action Membership

Resolved: Annual membership to be renewed at £20 p.a.

ii) Local Plan Consultation Meeting: Cllr Hopwood reported that unfortunately the meeting had not been very informative but hopefully a clearer picture will emerge after the release of the revised Planning White Paper later this year.

15 Eco Green Dog Station

The Parish decided that on reflection there was not a case for the purchase of an eco station.

16 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2022

It was decided to await confirmation of any planned events organised by local neighbouring parishes.

17 Issues for Discussion/Consideration

None

18 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13 September 2021

Meeting finished at 9.15pm