

MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022 at 7.00pm
held at Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane, Rowton

Present: Councillors Howard Hopwood
 Bob Knight
 Paul Shannon
 Glenys Harrison
 Peter Thomas
 Melanie Fildes

In attendance Clerk Christine Davies
 CWaC Cllr Stuart Parker (7.15pm – 7.30pm)
 John Neary (7.30pm – 7.55pm)

1 Apologies

None

2 Declaration of Interest

None.

3 To consider the approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2022

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

4 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Carols on the Green Cllr Peter Thomas has offered to provide a tree for this year's event.

5 Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair moved to item 7 as John Neary not yet arrived to give Broadband presentation.

7 Highways

- i) Moor Lane Flooding – Notification received from Principal Engineer, Stuart Bateman that he is chasing up works order. Cllr Parker said he would keep pressing this issue.
- ii) A41 Average Speed Cameras – Cllr Parker said he would make further representations to the Police & Crime Commissioner, John Dyer.

The patch of road resurfaced on the A41 between the BP Petrol Station and Moor Lane dips down and could be a potential hazard to road users at night. Car headlights give the illusion of dipping when passing over this section of road.

Action: Cllr Peter Thomas to send photos to Clerk prior to reporting to Highways.

8 Finance The following retrospective expenditure for January, February and March was approved:-

Payments	Amount	Cheque No/Online Payment	Statute Power
CM Davies - Dec Sal 211.14 + 26.53 Exp	£237.67	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 111
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 112
Antony Cartwright re 6 month's Web Hosting	£72.00	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 142
CM Davies Jan Sal 217.26 + 21.14 Exp	£238.40	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 111
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 112
CM Davies Feb Sal 195.84 + 6.98 Exp	£202.82	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 111
CM Davies – Reimbursement re Microsoft 365	£14.93	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 112
Penny Lane Accountants - Payroll	£5.00	OP	LGA 1972- Sec 112
Bank Balance as at 04 March 2022	£7379.78		

Print out of Electronic Cash Book reconciliation verified and signed and dated by Cllr Glenys Harrison.

i) Covid Support Grant - The £200 awarded to Rowton Support Group is unspent and has been returned to the Parish's bank account. It was agreed that the funds could be used to contribute towards holding a community event.

Resolved: Request to CWaC to retain the funding for a community event.

ii) National Pay Award – Resolved: 1.75% pay award approved and to be back-dated to April 2021.

iii) Clerk's Salary Increment – Resolved: Clerk's salary to be increased to SCP16 from 01 April 2022.

At this point John Neary arrived to give presentation

6 Broadband Scheme

CityFibre has commenced their rollout of Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Ultrafast Broadband in Upton-by-Chester. In order for the 4 local villages of Christleton, Littleton Rowton and Waverton to be included in this rollout (earliest 2023) residents need to register their interest with CityFibre. Residents will not pay for physical infrastructure – this will be borne by CityFibre. Costs will only be incurred once the household/business has signed up to a chosen Internet Service Provider (ISP). The main imperative is for as many residents as possible to register their interest with CityFibre to establish level of commitment to progress to planning stage for installation across all 4 villages. It was therefore decided to hold an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.00pm to explain to residents the importance of registering their interest for FTTP Broadband. Posters will be placed on the Parish Council's notice boards and on the website with this information.

9 Planning

Planning Application 21/04951/FUL – Land adjacent to The Drift, Moor Lane: Erection of a two-storey block of four affordable one-bedroom apartments. The Chair, Cllr Hopwood, agreed to compile a response objecting to the Application on the grounds of entrance too close to the A41, flooding and drainage issues.

Submission to be submitted by 15/03/22.

Cllr Knight requested the Clerk to write to United Utilities to convey the Parish Council's concern regarding the overload to the drainage system.

Planning Application 22/00445/S73 – Rowton Moor Nurseries, Promised Land Lane: Removal of Condition 6 (Agricultural occupancy) of application

07/01102/FUL. Cllr Knight said he would formulate a response objecting to the application before the submission date of 30/03/22.

No Comments submitted to the following: 21/04980/FUL – 2 Croft Close, Rowton CH3 7QQ: Replace existing tiles hanging on front elevation with insulated render system and 22/0009/FUL – Moor Cottage, Moor Lane CH3 7QW: Single and rear two-storey extension and demolition of and erection of replacement ancillary building.

i) CHaLC Special Planning Meeting: Cllr Hopwood attended this meeting about the proposed changes to Planning law. It appears that Local Authorities will have little control over planning other than design issues.

ii) Procedure for Handling Planning Applications: Revised procedure received and adopted.

iii) Introduction to Planning Course: Resolved – Cllr Melanie Fildes to attend course on 31/3/22 at cost of £30.

10 Litter Picking Volunteer Group

It was agreed that the formation of this group is dependent on the purchase and installation of weatherproof storage box. Item to be deferred to May meeting,

11 Weatherproof Storage Box

Cllr Peter Thomas reported he is in process of organising concrete base to be laid at a cost of approximately £120. Once this has been completed the storage box can be purchased. Unfortunately, since January 2022 the price of the storage box has increased from £274.80 to £298.80.

12 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed that as we are a very small parish with limited resources and community space it would be best to take up Waverton Parish Council's offer to join them in their celebrations at a picnic on Sunday 5 June 2022.

Action: Clerk to advise Waverton Parish Council that RPC would like to accept their offer to join their celebrations and is prepared to contribute financially, in proportion to the size of the Parish.

13 Schedule of Meetings

The following dates were approved at a start time of 7.00pm

Monday 16 May 2022

Monday 11 July 2022

Monday 12 September 2022

Monday 7 November 2022

Monday 9 January 2023

Monday 13 March 2023

Monday 8 May 2023

14 CWaC Code of Conduct

New Code of Conduct circulated to Councillors.

Resolved: New Code of Conduct approved and adopted from 01 April 2022

15 Election of CWaC Parish Representative on Standards Committee

1st and 2nd candidate selected

Action: Clerk to forward completed form to Jackie Weaver at ChALC.

16 Items for Discussion

Request from NALC for issues to be addressed specific to smaller local councils.

Unfortunately, submission by 30 April 2022 so unable to defer to next meeting.

17 Correspondence

January and March Issues of Clerks & Councils Direct and The Clerk Magazine

18 Date of Next Meeting

7pm Monday 16 May 2022