

## MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025 at 7.00pm

Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane

Present                      Cllr Paul Shannon  
                                    Cllr Melanie Fildes  
                                    Cllr Michael Smythe

In Attendance:          Christine Davies (Parish Clerk) 3 Members of the Public

### 1      **To Elect Chair and Vice-Chair**

Nominations for the position of Chair were called for. Cllr Melanie Fildes proposed Cllr Michael Smythe, and this was seconded by Cllr Paul Shannon. Cllr Smythe accepted the position. Nominations for the position of Vice-Chair were called for. Cllr Fildes proposed Cllr Paul Shannon, and this was seconded by Cllr Smythe. Cllr Paul Shannon accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

### 2      **Declaration of Acceptance**

Cllr Smythe signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.  
Cllr Shannon signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chair.  
All other Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### 3      **Register of Interests**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Authority's Code of Conduct all councillors signed their Notification of Members' Interests.

### 4      **Apologies**

Cllr Howard Hopwood (holiday). Cllr Glenys Harrison – absent (no apology given).

### 5      **Chair's Report**

The outgoing Chair's report for 2024/25 was received and accepted unanimously by all members. Here is a brief resume of his report:

#### Precept

For the first time for many years the Parish Council reduced the annual Precept. It was felt that every effort should be made to minimise cost because of the challenging economic climate.

#### Council

The Parish Council still struggles to recruit Councillors and we are continuing to operate without a complete quota of Councillors. We are always looking for new Councillors so please let us know if you are interested

### Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

As outlined in the last Chairman's Report, Rowton Parish Council are in close contact with Christleton to ensure that any Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS) will be closely aligned with the Christleton Plan. The co-operation is continuing with Christleton and will result in a unified approach.

### Community Bench

After nearly two years of working with the Canal and River Trust the bench has finally been installed alongside the canal.

### Community Clean Up

The first Community Clean-up was held in August last year. A good turnout meant that the look of the village was greatly improved.

### Carols on the Green

The new tree lights and a child friendly selection of songs resulted in a very enjoyable evening. This year's is Wednesday 10 December at 6.30pm

### Finally

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their efforts this year. Also, thanks to Christine, our Clerk, for all her tireless efforts and expertise to keep the Council operating efficiently.

The full report can be viewed at [www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## **6 Financial Report**

The Financial Report for year ending 31 March 2025 was received and accepted unanimously by all members. The report gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year 2024/5 and it can be viewed on the parish website [www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## **7 Meetings**

The following dates were approved: -

Monday, 14 July 2025

Monday, 08 September 2025

Monday, 10 November 2025

Monday, 12 January 2026

Monday, 09 March 2026

Thursday, 21 May 2026

## **8 Forum**

No questions from electors.

Meeting finished at 7.20 pm.