

**MINUTES OF ROWTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2026 at 7.00pm
held at Rowton Methodist Church, Moor Lane, Rowton**

Present: Councillors Cllr Michael Smythe (Chair)
Cllr Paul Shannon
Cllr Melanie Fildes
Cllr Robert Scott

In attendance Clerk The meeting was Clerked by Cllr Smythe in the
Clerks absence.

1 Apologies

Cllr Glenys Harrison and Cllr Howard Hopwood – other commitments. Clerk Muna Clough - illness

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 To approve Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 5 January 2026

Resolved: The minutes will be signed in the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

4 Public Participation

No members of the public present.

5 Borough Councillor's Report

None

6 Budget and Finance 2025 – 2026

RESOLVED the Council approves The Parish Council to consider a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

7 New Project

RESOLVED PC to Reinstate Rowton Cleanup day in 2026. Chair to confirm date of last session which was well attended. This to be disseminated through Rowton Roundup and to use the opportunity to knock on doors and into the PC and advertise the event.

8 Planning Matters

- i. There were no new planning matters
- ii. Cllr Fildes is due to attend a meeting of the Cheshire Greenbelt Alliance on 6th March 2026

- iii. To ratify the comments submitted to the Borough Council, regarding planning application 25/03444/OUT – Moor Lane (Comments attached).

RESOLVED The comments were ratified by the Council and the Chair will confirm with the Clerk that they were submitted.

9 Parish Policy Statement for Rowton

Draft to be recirculated by Chair, edited by all councillors and finalised by 13th March

10 Parish Council Archive Documents

RESOLVED Cllr Fildes to audit and submit to Cheshire Archives

11 Highways Volunteer Scheme

RESOLVED the Chair will apply to CWAC once there is an agreed date for Rowton Cleanup

12 FINANCIAL MATTERS AND THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Due to recent concerns highlighted by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, the Parish Council to consider:-

- (i) The up-to-date position regarding the refund of unauthorised transactions to the Parish Council (transactions from the bank account to the date of Agenda despatch are circulated); Chair read a statement and the council awaits response from the NatWest bank following their investigation
- (ii) The up-to-date position regarding the complaints submitted to the NatWest; Chair read a statement and the council awaits response from the NatWest bank following their investigation
- (iii) The effect of the current banking mandate on the Financial Regulations, and any amendments required. – Postponed until the new Clerk is in post

13 Old Laptop

RESOLVED Chair to take responsibility for correct data cleansing and disposal of physical asset which now has zero monetary value

14 Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED To move this to Monday 11th May 7pm.

15 Urgent Items

Cllr Shanon will contact the previous auditor to enquire about this years audit.