

PARISH of ROWLANDS CASTLE

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on 28.04.14

Monday 28 April 2014 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Links Lane, Rowlands Castle

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Parish at its next Annual Parish Meeting

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: J Pickering (Chairman), B Harpur, E Longman, K Molloy, S Protheroe, D Symonds and B Wilson

County and District Councillor: K Moon

County and District Councillor: M Harvey

Public: During the course of the meeting (both part and whole) there were 14 members of the public present who signed the Attendance Register and 0 members of the Press present.

MINUTES:

Taken by Lisa Walker, Clerk to the Council

A SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT was made by the Chairman.

NB: A copy of all the presentations and reports provided for this Meeting will be kept with these Minutes, and will be available to view at the Parish Office.

1. Introduction of County, District and Parish Councillors

The Chairman introduced all councillors to those present at the Meeting.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from P Cllrs Beckett-Leonard and Johnson, D Cllr Newberry, EHDC Community Liaison Officer Jude Simpson, SoB SNT Police Team, Rev T Filtness, Chair of RC Good Neighbours, President of RCWI, Chair of RC Tennis Club, Chair of Village Fair Committee and Reps from RC Scouts and Guides.

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Rowlands Castle Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2013

The Minutes of the Meeting were received and confirmed, then signed by the Chairman.

4. Community Emergency Planning for the Future

Julie James (JJ) introduced herself as a Senior Emergency Planning Officer with Hampshire County Council (HCC). Her presentation included information on the following:

- HCC's activities to alleviate the flooding experienced in Hampshire during Winter 2012/13 and 2013/14,
- The advantages of Community Emergency Plans to guide an area's response to emergencies such as flooding or major incidents (road, rail or air crash) before/during/after the Emergency Services arrive,
- Plans are designed to utilise an area's contacts/organisations on the ground to direct action,
- They should revolve around an identified single point of contact to liaise with the Emergency Services,
- They should be tested and kept up-to-date (incl contact details); HCC and HF&RS can assist with this,
- Further information, including recommended templates for plans, is available on HCC's website.
- JJ stressed that if life was "at risk", individuals should still dial 999.
- Leaflets/documentation on Community Emergency Plans and Household Emergency Action Plans were supplied to the Meeting.

The Chairman thanked JJ for her interesting presentation, providing ideas for the future, and for her continued support of RC's Flood Action Group. He invited questions from the floor. One resident commented contact details could be advertised via Grapevine, the RCA and RCPC's website, and in local pubs and surgeries. The Chairman also commented RCPC could facilitate such a Plan but it was not necessarily responsible for organising it.

5. To Receive a Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr John Pickering

John Pickering's presentation about the Council's activities over the past year, included reference to:

- His thanks to councillors and staff for their collective hard work on behalf of the Council,
- RCPC's work with other local representatives, including George Hollingbery MP, and his sadness at the death of C Cllr John West in January 2014,
- The streamlining of Council finances with the advent of on-line banking,
- Improved cost effectiveness from using new suppliers' contracts and a network of small businesses,
- His appreciation of the contributions made by many residents towards the life of the community in terms of Parish organisations or initiatives such as the RC Flood Action Group and the Diamond Jubilee Mosaic,

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- The 37 planning applications RCPC had considered over the year, and the high number of times RCPC's comments had accorded with EHDC or SDNPA's decision,
- The need for applicants to discuss plans with neighbours, and for residents to look out for EHDC notifications of applications, particularly permitted development under new Govt legislation,
- The successful Appeal by Keydell, and his thanks to those who had contributed to the 'Fighting Fund',
- The forthcoming Appeal against EHDC's refusal of the Keyline Development,
- RCPC's involvement in EHDC's various consultations re its Joint Core Strategy, the Local Plan which will govern planning in the District (excluding SDNP) to 2028, but disappointment at the end result,
- The agreement to pursue CIO status for the 2 charities for which RCPC acts as sole trustee, namely the Recreation Ground and the Parish Hall,
- The beginning of the Pavilion Extension Project build, led by Cllr Symonds
- The continued discussion as to whether RCPC should pursue a Neighbourhood Plan,
- Continuing concerns at the inclusion of South of Butser parishes in PUSH,
- EHDC's unwillingness to give a clear indication as to its intentions for development of Hazelton Farm, part of which is in this Parish, and his concerns around EHDC's governance and policies,
- RCPC's job is not to run the Parish but to participate and facilitate where appropriate, and ensure its assets are kept in order.

He finished by encouraging attendees to view the posted reports from village organisations etc during the break, and expressing his gratitude to all those who work to make the community so vibrant and ensure it keeps moving forward. He invited questions from the floor but none were forthcoming.

6. To Receive Oral Reports from County and District Councillors

C/D Cllr Harvey's report included reference to:

- The Keydell Appeal and RCPC's contribution to the successful upholding of EHDC's refusal,
- Her election as County Councillor for Catherington Division in May 2013 and new activities thereon,
- Her involvement with various bodies/committees as District Councillor for Rowlands Castle,
- Her involvement with health-related matters, including the Oak Park Clinic, and local flooding issues,
- Her deployment of funding via the County and District Cllrs' Discretionary Grants Schemes.

She provided a copy of her written report which will be kept with these minutes.

C/D Cllr Moon's report included reference to:

- His recent election as County Councillor for Petersfield Butser Division, vacant after Cllr West's death, his thanks to those who voted for him,
- His promise to serve the Division, and willingness to meet with residents, PC Chairmen and Clerks,
- He thanked D Cllrs Harvey and Newberry for looking after Finchdean,
- More Govt funding has been made available to deal with potholes,
- Having got a feel for the issues, his intended action re flooding around Finchdean.

The Chairman thanked both Cllrs for their help and advice over the last year, and invited questions. Discussion on a resident's comments about over-development was deferred to Item 10.

There was then a planned break in proceedings, during which refreshments were served. The following Reports were available to view during the break, and copies will be kept with these Minutes.

Local Constabulary's Report on Incidents in Rowlands Castle

St John's Primary School

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Redhill Road

Rowlands Castle Parish Hall

Rowlands Castle Association

Rowlands Castle Womens Institute

Rowlands Castle RVS Lunch Club

Rowlands Castle Good Neighbours

Durrants Allotments Association

Rowlands Castle Historical Society

Rowlands Castle Painting Society

Castle United Football Club

Dept of Architects & Civic Design Cricket Club

Rowlands Castle Tennis Club

Rowlands Castle Badminton Club

Rowlands Castle Village Fair Committee

Rowlands Castle Girl Guiding

Rowlands Castle Craft Fairs

May Day Picnic on Bank Holiday Monday 4 May

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7. To Receive an Update Report on the Pavilion Project

Cllr Symonds gave a report on plans to extend the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground, the largest project RCPC had undertaken in years. The following was noted:

- The project will include construction of 2 publicly-accessible WCs for Rec users, a viewing area (part enclosed), an additional Officials' Changing Room, and further communal/storage space,
- A tender process had been followed, a contractor (Topmarx Ltd) appointed, and the project was due for completion by 20 June 2014.
- The project will be largely funded by developers' contributions, with further funding from EHDC, HCC and RCPC.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Symonds for leading the project and invited questions from the floor. In response to a resident's queries, Cllr Symonds confirmed the public WCs would have a timer lock to ensure they are open during daylight hours, and the newly-extended Pavilion would be accessible to approved Clubs, sports users etc. The gate to the Play Area would also be moved as part of the project. Another resident congratulated RCPC on progressing this long-awaited initiative.

8. To Receive Reports on Commemoration events in 2014, including:

- **Service of Commemoration marking Centenary of Outbreak of WWI** - The Clerk outlined the plans for a contemplative Vigil Service on 3 August 2014 at St John's Church, Rowlands Castle.

The Chairman also mentioned Christ Church, Portsdown's planned commemorations of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, given its connections with the event.

- **Research into those whose names appear on the War Memorial** – Cmdr Cowin outlined his findings to date into the lives of some of those whose names appear on the Memorial. He also spoke of his plans for future research into others, and the possible publication of his findings. For more information, please see the report kept with these Minutes.

- **Celebration of Centenary of the Parish Hall** – As Chairman of the Hall's Management Committee, Kath Molloy outlined the plans for a day of celebrations on 31 March, starting at 2pm and going on into the evening. The event would include singing, a tea dance and other entertainment. Tickets are available.

The Chairman thanked all the contributors for their reports.

9. To Receive a Report on the Activities of Rowlands Castle U3A

The Chairman of the RCA and leader of the U3A initiative, Kevin Connell, outlined the idea behind the U3A and the kinds of subjects one could learn about as part of the local branch, which has about 140 members to date. More information is available on www.rowlandscastle.com.

10. To Receive Residents' Comments and Questions on all Written and Oral Reports

The Chairman thanked those who had provided Reports to the Meeting, and invited questions/comments from those present. The following questions and/or points were raised, with relevant responses noted:

- **Affordable Housing (AF)** – *What is the requirement, where is the evidence for the 'need', as opposed to 'want', and how long will it remain 'affordable'?* The Govt recommends 50% of all new development be AF, split between rentable and shared ownership accommodation. EHDC specifies 40% but this is negotiable, eg Keyline is offering far less based on its viability study of the site. AF is offered to those on EHDC's Housing Register based on whether they have a connection to the area. If any shared ownership properties are bought out 100% and then sold, the revenue must be used to create more AF.
- **Housing** – *Whilst recognising the need for more new housing, the feeling is RC's target is too high, and the Govt aims to build its way out of recession. The system is undemocratic and against the spirit of Localism, with developers 'calling the shots' and local communities taking 'the hit'. What we really need is more retirement housing, given the number of elderly people in the Parish.* The Govt has decided to increase house building and EHDC must deliver, therefore the target is unlikely to be reduced. A Neighbourhood Plan may assist matters, as would enforcement of the existing 'gap' and creation of new ones between villages/towns.
- **South of Butser Study** – *What happened to it, why were PCs never consulted and what were its terms of reference? We need a more 'joined up' approach to development.* The Study was dropped when the new EHDC Leader was elected.
- **Horndean dominates the South of Butser parishes, in terms of representation at District level.** Agreed.
- **Development Design** – *Given RC is a 'gateway' to the SDNP, the design quality of Oaklands I is very disappointing, so will further development be any better?*
- **Parking** – *New development will put added pressure on parking in the village centre, and not everyone is able or inclined to walk.*

The Chairman thanked residents for their insightful questions and comments.

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11. To Receive Comments from the Public on any Relevant Local Issue

In response to the Chairman's question as to what else residents might like RCPC to undertake, no further requests were made.

There was praise for RCPC's plans to clean and conserve the War Memorial later in time for the Centenary (see Item 8 above).

The Chairman also mentioned plans for a mosaic on or near The Green to commemorate the Parish's celebrations of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The Chairman concluded by encouraging attendees to complete the feedback forms provided, to enable the Parish Council to gauge the effectiveness of the event.

The Meeting ended at 9.45pm.

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