

# PARISH of ROWLANDS CASTLE

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on 27.04.15

Monday 27 April 2015 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), M Johnson, E Longman, K Molloy, S Protheroe, D Symonds and B Wilson

County and District Councillor: M Harvey

Public: During the course of the meeting (both part and whole) there were 30 members of the public present who signed the Attendance Register and 1 member 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 any 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 Harpur, C/D Cllr Moon, Head Teacher of St John's Primary School, Chair of RCA, Chair of RC Tennis Club and 2 residents.

### 3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Rowlands Castle Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2014

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

### 4. Q & A with Police Sergeant Philip Shore

PS Shore introduced himself and his colleague, PCSO Almera Toogood, and spoke on the following:

- The new East Hants Police Area is aligned with East Hants District boundaries, and is led by Chief Insp Beth Pirie and Insp Louise Perkins,
- The Area comprises 3 separate teams, incl Butser (with 1 police officer and 3 PCSOs), working together if/when necessary, with many team members living in the Area,
- EHDC's recent decision to sponsor 3 PCSOs should equate to an extra one for the Butser Team,
- They are based in Petersfield Police Station until Oct 2016, when the plan is to move to EHDC's offices,
- They conduct patrols on foot and bicycle, by car and by train
- They aim to work closely with local councillors, Neighbourhood Watch, CTCG and Speedwatch volunteers, and hold regular 'surgeries' and provide support at local events when possible,
- More info is available on line and social media. Residents urged to sign up to new Hampshire Alerts system to stay up to date with local issues, and complete regular on-line police surveys to inform future police priorities; responses being easier to collate on line,
- He stressed the importance of reporting even minor matters

In response to questions/comments from those present, the following was noted:

- i) Off-road motor bikes in Havant Thicket is still an issue, though anti-social behaviour in the woods off Woodberry Lane is a matter for West Sussex Police,
- ii) Grapevine could be used to disseminate info on beat surgeries,
- iii) The Durrants Road Allotments can be included in patrols upon request,
- iv) PCSOs are willing to give advice on crime prevention.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their time in attending and answering questions.

### 5. Speedwatch Scheme in the Parish

Robin Peckham introduced himself and 2 other members of the local Scheme, and spoke on the following:

- Speeding is the most complained about issue after planning,
- The Scheme has run 4+ yrs and was instigated by Police and local councils, who wanted a system to involve local people in tackling speeding and educating them about this issue,
- It's run by volunteers like him, who are approved by Police, and operate in teams of 3 to monitor traffic,
- There are 11 volunteers in the SoB area, of which 9 are active, and 3 or 4 live in this Parish,

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- More volunteers are needed, it takes up 2 or 3 hrs per month, with hi-viz clothing and expenses provided,
- Speeding drivers are identified with a hand-held device, bought by the 3 South of Butser (SoB) parishes,
- They receive an initial warning letter, then a stronger one if identified again, and a Police visit if identified a third time,
- Whilst the Scheme has had a positive effect on several local roads, Durrants Rd still remains one of the top 5 roads for speeding issues in the SoB area,
- In the last 6 months, the Scheme has monitored 10,900 vehicles in SoB area, of which 1,169 were reported as speeding, and in this Parish the figures were 3,700 and 410 respectively,
- Leaflets on the Scheme are available and were supplied to the Meeting.

In response to questions/comments from those present, the following was noted:

- i) For their own safety, teams must operate from approved locations and be clearly visible,
- ii) Teams tend to avoid roads with many parked cars because they can adversely affect the device,
- iii) Each monitoring session lasts an hour and teams are limited in what can be achieved within that time,
- iv) A policy of zero tolerance on speeding would be very costly and therefore difficult to enforce,

The Chairman thanked Robin and the other Scheme members for their efforts and achievements.

*With the agreement of those present, the order of the Agenda was altered at this point*

## 8. Here to Listen Service

Carol Milford spoke on behalf of this Service. The following was noted:

- This is new initiative aiming to provide a confidential listening service for members of the community,
- It has been developed to give those of all ages, who may feel lonely, worried etc, someone to talk to,
- It is staffed by a rota of 21 fully trained volunteers, with a dedicated phoneline and email service 24/7,
- It is not designed to be a counselling service, but volunteers can refer with an individual's permission,
- Leaflets on the Service are available and were supplied to the Meeting.

The Chairman thanked Carol and her fellow volunteers for the initiative.

*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.*

*C/D Cllr Ken Moon's Annual Report to Parish Councils 2014/15*

*RCPCllr Wilson's Diagrams illustrating Housing and Population Growth*

*St John's Primary School*

*Rowlands Castle Parish Hall*

*Rowlands Castle Association*

*Rowlands Castle RVS Lunch Club*

*Rowlands Castle Good Neighbours*

*Durrants Allotments Association*

*Rowlands Castle Historical Society*

*Rowlands Castle Painting Society*

*Castle United Youth Football Club*

*Dept of Architects & Civic Design Cricket Club*

*Rowlands Castle Tennis Club*

*Rowlands Castle Badminton Club*

*Rowlands Castle Girl Guiding*

*Rowlands Castle Craft Fairs*

*Rowlands Castle Photography Group*

*(A report from Rowlands Castle WI was apparently written but was not received by the Parish Office).*

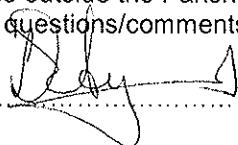
## 6. To Receive Oral Reports from County and District Councillors

C/D Cllr Harvey read her report (a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes), including reference to:

- Her remaining as County Cllr for 2 more years, but standing down as District Cllr, and her appreciation of residents' kind words,
- Support for a local Neighbourhood Plan, even though the Parish is likely to reach its target of 150 dwellings (reduced from 250 at her request) by 2026 if the application for 'Oaklands II' is permitted,
- Hope that her successor keeps pressure on to maintain a gap between Havant and Rowlands Castle,
- At her request, various Parish roads have been resurfaced, re-lined, pot-holes filled,
- She has put Bowes Hill then Finchdean Rd forward for traffic calming measures (probably build-outs) in 2015/16, subject to consultation,
- Parking issues outside the Parish Hall have been resolved, with bollards installed and bays reinstated,

In response to questions/comments from those present, the following was noted:

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- i) If required, the Hall rather than Hants Highways will have to re-line its parking bays.  
The Chairman thanked Cllr Harvey for her help and advice over the last year.

## 7. To Receive a Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, John Pickering

Cllr Pickering read his report (a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes), including reference to:

- The workload of the Council with particular issues of planning, Pavilion Extension, litigation etc being progressed in RCPC's favour, thus protecting funds for spending on identified key priorities,
- Clarification of the charitable status of the Parish Hall and Recreation Ground, and the creation of a Management Committee for the latter,
- Acknowledgement of the work of Council's staff, and welcoming of its new Administrative Assistant,
- Tribute by Mutiny Festivals to Council's balanced approach to the possibility of a festival nearby, and the need for a similar approach to other issues eg fracking
- The hard work of the Flood Action Group in readying the Parish for Winter 2014/15 – 3 members of the Group will shortly receive HCC Good Neighbours Awards,
- The near completion of the Pavilion Extension, including 2 publicly-accessible WCs, despite the contractor's poor planning and scheduling, and thanks to those cllrs and advisors involved in the project,
- Planning matters such as Mays Coppice Farm, Keyline, the Old Brickworks, Oaklands I and II and Hazelton Farm, and thanks to 2 particular cllrs for their extensive research on these matters,
- The unopposed RCPC elections, retiring and newly-elected cllrs, and the remaining 2 vacancies,
- The positive contribution the local businesses, schools, organisations, churches make to the life of the Parish, with particular congratulations to RC Good Neighbours, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## 9. 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 were raised, with relevant responses noted:

- *Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) – This is a running topic, requiring substantial resources in terms of finances, volunteer time etc. Would having an NP influence housing needs in the Parish?* It is unlikely, given the non-SDNP part of the Parish would still need to provide 150 new houses, and there appear to be no feasible alternatives to those locations already identified.

There is an issue with Hazelton Farm, where c 210 of the 700 houses planned for the whole Land East of Horndean site (LEoH), will be built within this Parish. EHDC has decided these houses will not contribute to this Parish's housing target, though it has assured RCPC the Parish will receive all relevant Council Tax income, together with an appropriate share of relevant developers' contributions or CIL.

There are major concerns about the traffic implications of such large-scale development in the area eg the capacity of the mini-roundabouts at the top of Redhill Road, travel to/from and parking around the station etc. HCC officers do not appear to be sufficiently examining and/or challenging the LEoH developers' Traffic Assessments.

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

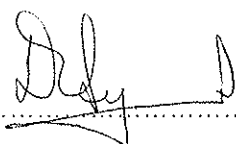
One resident requested the planned plaque for the Diamond Jubilee Mosaic be commissioned and installed as soon as possible – in hand.

An officer of a local youth football team praised the new facilities at the Pavilion

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 8.55pm.*

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