

PARISH of ROWLANDS CASTLE

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on 25.04.16

Monday 25 April 2016 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: D Symonds (Chairman – see Item 1), A Lee, E Longman, S Protheroe, C Stanley and B Wilson

County and District Councillors: D Cllr Johnson and M Harvey (who joined part-way through the Mtg)

Public: During the course of the meeting (both part and whole) there were 24 members of the public present who signed the Attendance Register and no 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 any written 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

As Vice Chairman of Rowlands Castle Parish Council, Cllr Symonds explained he would be chairing the Meeting in the absence of a Chairman of the Council. All other councillors present were introduced.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from C/D Cllr K Moon and 1 resident.

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Rowlands Castle Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 April 2015


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

4. Q & A with PCSOs Almy Toogood (AT) and Darryl Hook (DH) from East Hants Police Team

AT and DH introduced themselves. AT stated the Chief Inspector was very 'for' neighbourhood policing. There were 3 PCSOs covering the Rowlands Castle Area. Regular beat surgeries are held and officers are keen to get out and meet residents whenever and wherever possible. AT invited questions from the floor and answered accordingly:

- i) *Will the new Police & Crime Commissioner (due to be elected in May 2016) make any difference?* Declined to comment on individuals. Found PCCs to be generally supportive of neighbourhood policing.
- ii) *What's your reaction to reporting of "trivial" crimes?* No crime is trivial. The main issues in this area tend to be theft from non-residences and vehicles and anti-social behaviour in Havant Thicket. The local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator works hard. Residents are encouraged to complete the quarterly-monthly surveys which help police decide priorities for the next quarter.
- iii) *Is there a policy re visible presence on the beat?* Not as such, though officers aim to visit the RC area daily either on foot, bike or by car. In the past the ratio was c 80% on patrol and 20% admin though that may have altered. Residents are encouraged to report all crimes (Tel: 101 for non-emergencies). Police can react accordingly if a specific pattern is recognised.
- iv) *Do you visit schools?* Yes, and village fetes etc if possible if shift patterns allow.
- v) *The Hampshire Alert emails are very good – have any trends been noted?* Vehicle break-ins often increase around Christmas with presents possibly kept inside, and in summer with bags being left whilst occupants go dog-walking etc. Internet crime is also increasing.
- vi) *What's your perception of the criminals?* The majority are probably opportunists. The RC area is generally pretty safe but its comparative affluence means residents are encouraged to secure their property, including vehicles. Don't encourage criminals to visit because of residents' negligence because once crime increases its difficult to eradicate.
- vii) *What are your thoughts on rural crime?* This is a high priority for Hampshire and there is a Country Watch Team resourced to deal with this kind of crime against farmers and other rural residents. If you see something suspicious (eg vehicle movement) then call Police with details so it can be flagged. If you suspect poaching, call 999 and your call will be put through to a specialist response team.

Confirmed:



Date:

24/4/17

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viii) *What can be done about dog-walkers ignoring the request to keep dogs on leads at the Rec and elsewhere?* It depends where they are off-lead; near livestock, police can enforce this. Elsewhere, if the dog is genuinely frightening you, police can enforce this but in all other cases it's up to EHDC to enforce.

ix) *What way do you communicate with residents?* The on-line Hampshire Alert system has proved an efficient and effective method and everyone is encouraged to sign up to it. You can choose the areas on which you wish to receive information and you'll only be sent relevant items.

x) *Do Police spend time on fly-tipping?* If this behaviour is not addressed, it tends to increase. Look out for names or other significant documentation amongst the 'evidence'. If it happens on private land, the landowner is responsible. If on public land, then the local Highways Team deals with it. There have been successful prosecutions on other beats but it can be a long process.

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

5. **Working with our Communities: A Perspective from Claire Hughes (CH) , East Hants District Council's (EHDC) Head of Communication & Community Engagement**

CH introduced herself and paid tribute to the Pavilion Extension project. She focussed on the community development element of her role, which "was not easy to pigeon-hole". The team involved:

- Provides/facilitates activities and interest for those within the East Hants community, including events such as Butserfest, courses for young and older drivers and children's holiday schemes.
- Organises the various community forums across the District. Whilst not always successful and/or well-attended, the fora do give residents a voice and opportunities for exchange of information, views etc.
- Commissions leisure services (eg Taro, Horizon Leisure) and provide funding to allow school children and local residents to access such facilities, though it has no control over membership fees,
- Advises on grant schemes eg £4.5K pa devolved to each district councillor, Cabinet grants for capital projects (up to £25K), Approved by You, though many require matched funding from other sources,
- Via its support officers, assists in the sourcing of additional funds for projects, and/or liaises with PCs and other bodies to ensure developers' contributions are spent on appropriate community facilities,
- Liaises with and gives funding to Community First, Citizens' Advice Bureau and Community Rail Partnership etc

CH stated EHDC's Leader is determined to make EHDC independent from Govt grants, to continue to reduce Council Tax to nil by mid-2020s by generating income from property and commissioning services.

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

Funding may be available for the proposed RC Heritage Centre and officers are able to help,

i) Broadband coverage is acknowledged as an ongoing issue and CH will ask for an update.

The Chairman thanked CH for her informative presentation.

6. **Devolution Bids for Hampshire: an Update from P Cllr Chris Stanley**

Cllr Stanley gave an update on devolution, and the various bids being developed within Hampshire, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes.

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 Cllr Ken Moon

RCPCllr Wilson's Diagrams illustrating Housing and Population Growth

St John's Primary School

St John the Baptist Parish Church

Rowlands Castle Parish Hall

Rowlands Castle Association

Rowlands Castle Women's Institute

Rowlands Castle Good Neighbours

Rowlands Castle Historical Society

Rowlands Castle Heritage Centre

Rowlands Castle U3A

Castle United Football Club

Castle United Youth Football Club

Dept of Architects & Civic Design Cricket Club

Rowlands Castle Tennis Club

Rowlands Castle Badminton Club

Rowlands Castle Craft Fayres

Rowlands Castle Village Fair

Confirmed: *C Stanley* Date: *24/4/17*

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7. To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors

C Cllr Marge Harvey read a copy of her report, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes.

D Cllr Malcolm Johnson read a copy of his report, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes.

The Chairman thanked both councillors for their representation of the Parish at County and District level.

8. To Receive a Report on the Activities of the Parish Council during the past year

Cllr Stanley gave a presentation, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes.

NB: Items 9 and 10 become conflated due to the nature of the questions posed and answered

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. In response, the following was noted:

- i) EHDC's Local Plan Pt 1 sets out development, but will not necessarily prevent further development if a developer takes the matter to the Planning Inspectorate which may allow it,
- ii) Cycle racks near the garage may be worth investigating
- iii) Parking on the kerb of Finchdean Road may present a danger however Stansted Estate has, in the past, been reluctant to allow its land opposite the Castle Inn to become a formalised parking area.
- iv) There is concern at the potential 'annexation' of the part of the Parish included within the Land East of Horndean (LEoH) proposed development, especially as the housing planned for this land will not count towards RC Parish's housing targets but go instead to Horndean. This is because planners tend to think in terms of 'settlements' rather than parishes, and legal advice indicates this approach is lawful. However, RC Parish should benefit from the developers' contributions due for this portion of land.
- v) The prospect of the LEoH development makes the formalising of the 'gaps' between settlements even more important.

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

Earlier in the proceedings, Cllr Wilson had reminded attendees about the forthcoming rededication of the memorial to an RCAF officer on the Stansted Estate on 6 May 2016 at Noon. Representatives from the Canadian Embassy and officer's family would be attending.

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 9.15pm.

Confirmed:  Date: 24/4/17