

PARISH of ROWLANDS CASTLE

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on 23.04.18

Monday 23 April 2018 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: C Stanley (Chairman), P Cross, D Hooper, A Lee, E Longman, J Smart and B Wilson

County and District Councillors: C Cllr M Harvey and D Cllr M Johnson

Public: During the course of the meeting (both part and whole) there were 37 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

All councillors present were introduced.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from D Cllr N Wren and representatives of RC Women's Institute, RC Golf Club and Castle United Football Club.

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Rowlands Castle Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2017

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

4. Q & A with Local Neighbourhood Police Representatives:

PCSOs Almera Toogood (AT) and Patricia Gibbs (PG) from East Hants Police Team introduced themselves. AT stated that the local neighbourhood team's remit was to prioritise burglary, poaching and anti-social behaviour in open spaces. These priorities may change as a result of public consultation and she encouraged residents to join Hampshire Alert (<https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/>) and take part in the quarterly surveys and guide priorities. Thefts from vehicles have features in the crime data locally, often because they have been left unsecured and/or with valuables on display, thus encouraging opportunist thieves. She also advised parking in areas which were well-lit and/or covered by CCTV. She also referred to incidents of vehicle theft, particularly from vans, using a legitimate unlocking device.

AT invited questions from the floor and answered accordingly:

- i) *What is the nature of the car key and why is it available?* Locksmiths have them for legitimate reasons, sometimes supplied by car manufacturers. Tool theft is 'quick money' for thieves.
- ii) *How do you think criminals view the Parish?* It varies. Thieves tend to target one area before moving to the next. Some revisit the scene of a theft once items have been replaced under insurance policies. Record serial numbers, photograph belonging and immobilise removable items (eg bicycles). RC is perceived as an affluent area. One priority is to work with offenders to reduce risk and impact. Some arrests have been made and improvements in tackling the issues are apparent.
- iii) *What about your work with Country Watch and Neighbourhood Watch?* We use them to disseminate information and receive feedback. We are happy to meet residents and offer crime prevention advice. We offer talks on fraud and scams; generally, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Internet scams are quickly increasing and are often difficult to trace. Research firms before commissioning building works.
- iv) *Speeding is big issue in this area.* Volunteers are needed for the local the Speedwatch Scheme to help monitor the situation. Drivers recorded as speeding under the Scheme, receive a warning letter, may be visited by a police officer and could be taken to court. 95% of those caught speeding are local to the area. EHDC does not deal with speeding but Hants Highways can sanction traffic calming measures.
- v) *With all the new development, how will police respond to this growing population?* PCSOs spend c 20% of their time in the office and the rest on patrol. 3 such officers cover the South of Butser (SoB) Parishes with others on trial in the wider area. Patrols are intelligence-led and go where needed.
- vi) *Is there a policy on the visibility of patrols?* They are focussed where issues are eg Havant Thicket.

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

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5. How should we spend Developers' Contributions for Community Facilities?

The Clerk to the Parish Council gave a brief introduction and welcomed representatives from 4 of the 5 organisations bidding to receive the contributions: St John's Church, The Church on the Green, RC Heritage Centre, and the Friends of St Hubert's Church. (RC Scout Hut had been unable to send a representative.) Those representatives present then gave time-limited presentations on each project, with the Clerk reading a contribution from RC Scout Hut. Each organisation had been asked to focus its presentation around the following 3 questions: (copies of all presentations will be kept with these Minutes)

- How much funding is your organisation looking for and what do you intend to do with it?
- How could your project benefit from this funding and why should it do so?
- What evidence do you have to demonstrate the need for and viability of your project within the community?

The Clerk invited questions from the floor and she and the representatives answered accordingly:

- i) *If you don't get the funds, will St Hubert's have to close?* It will be a case of looking elsewhere rapidly. We have been successful in raising funds but need to hold some for matched funding purposes.
- ii) *How much do the Scouts want and to do what?* No answer was given to this question.
- iii) *What is St John's Church achieving in other fund-raising.* We have applied to parishioners for some money. *What amount of money would make a difference?* About £100K probably but we're still working with an architect. Any amount would help; it is not a glamorous project but the work is part of making the Church more appealing.
- iv) *When is the money coming forward and when will the business cases need to be submitted?* EHDC says most of the money is in. A form will be produced for applicants to complete in the next 6 months or so.
- v) *How often does the community use the facilities, how attractive are they to residents?* St Hubert's is open during daylight hours, and held a recent Dark Skies event. In 2017 we had 1500+ visitors and 9 events. The Church on the Green runs activities 5 days a week with 100+ coming through the doors, and not just Church members. We need to provide social and meeting places and there isn't enough space for all activities. The Heritage Centre is not open yet but we consider it to be a future centre for the community with displays from various organisations. Both St John's Church and Centre is used a lot.
- vi) *Will the contributions be used within the Parish?* S106 agreements are very clear about the application of funds to the Parish. The Parish Council will do all it can to ensure the money is well-spent.

The Clerk thanked the representatives for their presentations and urged attendees to prioritise spending between the 5 projects by completing the provided slips during the break and after the Meeting. (The slips have since been collated and a copy of the results 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.

*St John the Baptist Parish Church
Rowlands Castle Association
Rowlands Castle Women's Institute
Rowlands Castle Good Neighbours
Rowlands Castle Historical Society
Rowlands Castle Heritage Centre
Rowlands Castle Royal Voluntary Service Lunch Club
Rowlands Castle U3A (received after the Meeting but held with Minutes)
Rowlands Castle Craft Fayres
Rowlands Castle Golf Club
Rowlands Castle Tennis Club
Castle United Football Club
Dept of Architects & Civic Design Cricket Club
Rowlands Castle Badminton Club*

6. To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors

C Cllr Marge Harvey In addition to her supplied report, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes, Cllr Harvey referred to the following:

- HCC's current guides: *Better Care & Support* and *Residential Care* (copies of which will be kept in the Parish Office. One on Autism is also in the pipeline.
- Information on 'extra care' opportunities in Petersfield and potentially nearer in Havant, dependant on developers.
- Her concern over the apparent (and so far unexplained) loss of the speedgun purchased by SoB parishes in 2010/11.

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D Cllr Malcolm Johnson Cllr Johnson gave an oral report and referred to the following:

- He complimented RCPC on its submission regarding the proposed boundary changes at district level and gave details of the conclusions to date,
 - The current review of EHDC's Local Plan will focus solely on the portion of the District outside SDNP,
 - Proposals to build 10 'retirement' bungalows with a pedestrian link to the Oaklands Avenue,
 - With regard to the development of Land East of Horndean, Bloor Homes and Highwood are on board, a Reserved Matters Application is anticipated for this summer with works to start towards the end of 2018 and building in phases over 8/9 years,
 - Building on the Bellway Homes site is slowing down,
 - Plans for the Havant Thicket Reservoir are back on track,
 - District Cllr Community Grants are available with each cllr having £4.5K to allocate to worthy causes within his/her Ward.
 - The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be coming on board soon.
- The Chairman thanked both councillors for their representation of the Parish at County and District level.

7. What next for the Parish Council?

Cllr Stanley gave a presentation, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes. He then invited questions from the floor, and answered accordingly:

- i) A resident of Oaklands Avenue, asked why the proposals for 10 bungalows nearby included a link to the Avenue. It will allow residents of the bungalows easier non-vehicular access to Redhill Rd and the village centre. The vast majority of the Montague Green development were not expected to use such an access because other routes would be shorter for them. RCPC was also pushing for the promised link from the Avenue to B'way 24 to be instated.
- ii) A resident expressed concern at the ramifications of the proposed development in Emsworth and urged RCPC to object to it, appeal to MPs etc. C Cllr Harvey stated she was in discussion with HCC officers and had requested a site visit to assess the impact of such development on roads within the Parish. It was noted that neither she nor RCPC feel 'listened to' by higher authorities on such matters.

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

The Chairman thanked those who had provided Reports to the Meeting. He invited questions/comments:

- i) A resident of another parish asked whether Dorset's initiative of licensing residents to repair potholes might be adopted by Hampshire. Cllr Harvey stated HCC would not allow it but new machinery would ease the problem of potholes.
- iii) A resident commented that new development would lead to additional traffic and that officers appeared to be living in a different world in allowing some development, leading to accidents waiting to happen.
- iv) A resident queried the difference between the percentage increase in precept stated by RCPC and the higher percentage on Council Tax bills, especially given the increase in number of properties in the area. Cllr Stanley stated that in terms of overall precept, RCPC's figure is correct however EHDC had withdrawn its grant funding for parish councils from this year on so more has to be raised from residents. The moderate increase in RCPC's precept was targeted for specific causes, where funds are needed to make an impact, and would be spent carefully and wisely within the Parish.
- v) A resident urged a holistic approach to development eg in terms of medical support to a pressurised system locally and commented a care home can be a big draw. Cllr Harvey commented RC Surgery had been consulted and patients were able to get 'same day' appointments at present.
- vi) A resident asked about EHDC's investment policy. D Cllr Johnson gave assurances the policy was sound and had passed due diligence. He stated EHDC's financial policies and advice were sound and delivering income to the Council with no reduction in services.

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

On the occasion of his imminent retirement, Rev Trevor Filtness thanked all councillors (County, District and Parish - past and present) for their support during the years he had served as vicar at St John's Church, and expressed gratitude to residents for their kindness and gentleness.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all those present for attending the event.

The Meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Confirmed: C. Stanley Date: 15-4-19