

PARISH OF ROWLANDS CASTLE

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on 24.04.17

Monday 24 April 2017 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), D Hooper, A Lee, E Longman, S Protheroe, D Symonds 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 12 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 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 1 resident.

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Rowlands Castle Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2016

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 although the Parish enjoyed a relatively low crime rate, it was still patrolled especially if consistent issues arose. There had been spates of a pre-Christmas property break-ins, many with inadequate security, and more recently vehicle break-ins, many of which were unsecured. She warned residents against complacency. The Team is aware of the continuing problem of off-road bikes in Havant Thicket and is working with the Havant Team because the 2 'beats' straddle Leigh Park. The Team is led by Sgt Shore and also includes PCSO Rodgers who often patrols on a bicycle.

AT invited questions from the floor and answered accordingly:

i) *Has there been any progress on a resident's report of an accident on the bridge a few weeks ago, and signage damage thereon?* I'm not aware of the incident so the report may have gone direct to Traffic Team. In future, report such matters direct to Traffic on 101.

ii) *What can be done about motorbike riders (many helmetless) speeding down Castle Rd?* Report such incidents to 999 if you've just seen them so Emergency Services can determine the importance of the situation. Otherwise, report it to 101. Photographic evidence is even more helpful.

iii) *Are you aware that during a recent theft in the Finchdean area, police were perceived as showing little interest in photographic evidence, although the VRN was not visible?* Photographic evidence is generally studied, even if a VRN is not visible, and the value of the evidence is prioritised thereon.

iv) *What can be done about traffic speeding on Bowes Hill, especially around 8am and 6pm, and why can't a patrol be stationed there?* Local Police Teams aren't generally involved with the policing of roads and limited resources mean the deployment of speed cameras has to be carefully prioritised. There is no suitable safe position from which a local Speedwatch Team could monitor traffic on Bowes Hill, and Speedwatch is very short of volunteers anyway. Cllr Harvey stated she was liaising with the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding the use of the speed gun bought jointly by the 3 South of Butser parishes some years ago. AT advised calling 101 to report all incidents of obvious speeding to 'flag up' the issue as a priority. She warned it is often local drivers who get caught out during speeding awareness campaigns.

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

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5. Current Work Projects – followed by a Q & A Session

The Chairman welcomed Sandy Hopkins (SH), Joint Chief Executive of East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Havant Borough Council (HBC). SH gave a presentation, the Clerk's Note of which will be kept with these Minutes, along with the slides SH later provided to the Parish Office. SH invited questions from the floor and answered accordingly:

- i) *Despite the likely increase in traffic volumes, there seems little 'joined up' thinking between planning proposals and the ramifications, especially upon traffic.* Local Plan forward planning is based on research, predictions etc. The biggest challenge is around behaviour ie use of cars vs public transport, cycling etc. Attempts are being made to influence developers' thinking in this respect and note the benefits of mixed communities. Havant Borough has the same per capita ratio but is a tenth of the size of East Hants District.
- ii) *Is part of your strategy to bring EHDC and HBC staff together, and if so, when?* It was but the politicians were not keen on this generally. If appropriate, some roles have been/will be combined eg we are aiming to amalgamate the 2 Heads of Planning into one role for efficiency.
- iii) *RC Flood Action Group has welcomed the experience of EHDC staff in the past so how would such support continue in future?* Succession planning is very important. We have responsibilities re flooding and our relationships with local PCs and C/D cllrs is very good. *Cllrs are no substitute for officers' knowledge.* We are training staff in negotiation and contract formulation skills.
- iv) *Do you have a policy for transferring assets?* No, but this is being reviewed and we have an open mind where asset transfer might work. If a PC were to come up with a plan, then EHDC would be prepared to be responsive.

The Chairman thanked SH for her informative presentation.

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'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 Village Fair
Rowlands Castle Royal Voluntary Service Lunch Club
Rowlands Castle Craft Fayres
Rowlands Castle Scouts incl Beavers and Cubs
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 read a copy of her report, a copy of which will be kept with these Minutes.

D Cllr Malcolm Johnson As a new councillor, he praised SH's dynamism and remarked on how different EHDC was from other authorities, with its aim to make itself viable in many ways, both financially and in other respects eg joint working. The importance of training cllrs was emphasised, particularly with regard to planning. As an example of the work of a district cllr, he attended a mtg re 'Oaklands II', which is currently at the reserve matters stage. He sees his role as being a conduit between EHDC and the Parish. EHDC provides its planning services to SDNPA for a sizeable fee. He understood the issues with planning, which keep changing with supplements to the National Planning Policy Framework, adopted in 2012. He praised EHDC officers, especially those in planning who had to deal with difficult issues eg the 2 local applications for developments off the Keyline driveway with differing proposals for the driveway. He stated he was glad he stood for election to the District Council.

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

7. 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.

Confirmed:



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