Monday 15 April 2019 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), F Ball, P Cross, A Lee, E Longman, J Moss, J Smart

 and B Wilson

RCPC Staff: L Walker (Clerk) and G Whatley (Admin Asst)

County and District Councillors: D Cllr M Johnson

Other Speakers: PCSO A Toogood, H Penfold (Chair of Rowlands Castle Association (RCA) and

 I Young (Chair of RC Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group)

Public: During the course of the meeting (both part and whole) there were 78 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.

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

 Apologies were received from C Cllr M Harvey, P Cllr D Hooper, G Jacobs and P Marshman.

1. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Rowlands Castle Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2018**

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

1. **Key Issues & Priorities from Local Neighbourhood Police Team with Q & A:**

PCSO Almera Toogood (AT) from East Hants Police Team introduced herself as covering the Rowlands Castle area. She spoke about the following issues:

* Speeding - residents are encouraged to join the local Speedwatch Volunteer Team;
* Unauthorised off-road bikes in Havant Thicket - working with other authorities to tackle this;
* Increase in shed break-ins – keep them locked and register items with a system such as <https://www.immobilise.com/login>;

 The need for an extension to the double-yellow lines towards the southern end of Redhill Road was acknowledged by D Cllr Johnson and was likely to be the subject of a further Traffic Regulation Order.

 AT invited questions from the floor and answered accordingly:

1. *Can the police help with pushy door-to-door salespeople selling household goods?* The police are aware of issues in the area though it is not illegal to sell door-to-door, even in No Cold Calling Zones, and some schemes are designed to rehabilitate young offenders. You are not obliged to answer the door. If you do, then ask for ID and/or request they leave. If you feel intimidated or threatened, phone 999.
2. *How can we reduce burglaries?* They have reduced but tend to increase during darker, winter months, though some shed break-ins happen in daylight. Advice is make sure you keep access to back gardens and sheds locked.
3. *What about the issue of cars being ‘keyed’ in The Fairway?* Sometimes this occurs when thieves are trying handles to see if they can get into cars for lose changes, valuables etc, other times it may be perpetrated by youngsters on bikes causing mischief. Advice is take avoidance measures eg install a dashcam or an external camera on the house where cars are parked.

 The Chairman thanked the officer for her time in attending and answering questions.

1. ***Consultation on Proposed 2nd Exit from Recreation Ground, for emergencies only***

The Chairman read an introductory statement on how discussion on this topic will be progressed. Then as members of the Working Group, Cllr Ball gave a presentation, supported by Cllr Moss. Attendees were then invited to comment and 12 speakers addressed the Meeting over the course of 35 mins, including H Penfold as Chair of the RCA which organises the annual Fireworks Display at the Ground.

The following is a collation of their comments, most largely either for or against the proposals, with some general comments as well:

Comments against proposals (3/4 speakers), most living close to proposed site of exit:

* Cost and safety issues, in particular children
* Environmental effects on oak trees, hedgerow, wildlife habitat as well as the peaceful environment
* Anticipated increase in users and parking
* Support for Fireworks Display on a modest scale but why the need for 2nd exit?
* Don’t want or need large scale events and fears that further such events are planned to recoup costs
* EHDC implies events with 2,000 attendees or less don’t require 2nd exit
* Covenants in 1924 Deed are still relevant
* Risk of exacerbation of water run-off from Recreation Ground
* Height differential between Rec and The Fairway present safety concerns
* Proposals represent a cheap and unrealistic solution

Comments in support of proposals (7/8 speakers):

* Safe, proportionate and aesthetically acceptable, given need to ensure safety of annual Fireworks Display
* Hedge is sparse and proximity of Play Area and highway means there is little wildlife in area
* Damage to oaks will be limited, given extensive root structure
* Concern over threatened litigation and urged to deal with the facts
* Exit is predominantly for Firework Display which is a fun, annual event raising funds for local causes
* Many residents and their relatives enjoy Display and days of small ones in back gardens are long gone
* Risk of emboldening others to object to annual events (eg Village Fair) if Fireworks Display is abandoned
* Many enjoy various activities on the Rec and those living around it chose to live there
* Support for annual Fireworks Display, without which the community would suffer
* No objection to those from outside Rowlands Castle attending events here
* Many are attracted to living in village because of number of community activities like Display
* Vociferous opposition to proposals may discourage people from volunteering in future for events

General comments:

* Working Group efforts commended for spending time to ensure people are properly informed
* Morale support and thanks for Working Group, the RCA and the Parish Council
* Need for patience and not rush decisions to safeguard future events, even if Display is cancelled for a yr
* Need for co-operation and maintaining community traditions
* Acknowledgement of the many hours volunteers have spent researching and developing the proposals

 *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.*

 *Rowlands Castle Parish Hall*

 *Rowlands Castle Association*

 *Rowlands Castle Women’s Institute*

 *Rowlands Castle Good Neighbours*

 *Rowlands Castle Historical Society*

 *Rowlands Castle Royal Voluntary Service Lunch Club*

 *Rowlands Castle U3A*

 *Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

 *1st Rowlands Castle Scout Group*

 *Rowlands Castle Golf Club*

 *Dept of Architects & Civic Design Cricket Club*

1. ***The Parish Council’s Current Priorities incl update on Havant Thicket Reservoir***

 Cllr Stanley gave a presentation and then invited questions from the floor though none were forthcoming.

1. ***Update on Progress of Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan***

 As Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Ian Young gave a presentation.

1. **To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors**

D Cllr Malcolm Johnson Cllr Johnson gave a report and referred to the following in addition to his written report:

* EHDC’s Safety Officer had declared the 2018 Fireworks Display a one-off which could not be repeated without the additional measures ie 2nd exit (see Item 5).

 He then invited questions from the floor, and answered accordingly:

1. *Is it true that infill development doesn’t count towards housing quotas?* Windfall sites don’t but that is frowned on nowadays. The is no suggestion that infilling is tolerated and EHDC is on course to meet its requirements across the District.
2. *What about ‘garden grabbing’?* That can count towards the quota but must be carefully examined according to the area. At present, EHDC’s Local Plan has targets for each settlement but this will not be the case in the new draft Plan, only District-wide targets.

 The Chairman noted the report supplied by C Cllr Harvey in her absence and thanked both councillors for their representation of the Parish at County and District level.

1. **To Receive Residents’ Comments and Questions on all Written and Oral Reports**

 The Chairman invited comments. The RC Heritage Centre stated the model railway of the centre of Rowlands Castle during WW2 is available to view at the Stansted Estate from Wednesday to Sunday from Easter to September 2019.

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

 The Flag Mistress, B Openshaw, stated the new finial on the flag-pole on The Green had been installed and the Union Flag would fly the following day.

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

*The Meeting ended at 9.15pm.*