

ROWLANDS CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL 2nd March 2026

Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7pm

The Small Parish Hall, Rowlands Castle PO9 6AB

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Council at its next Meeting

PRESENT:

Cllr C Stanley (Chairman), Cllr F Ball, Cllr Y Haggard, Cllr B Wilson, Cllr M Harvey, Cllr Jackson; Cllr I Moore.

MINUTES:

Taken by Dominic Harland-Jones (Clerk)

THE CHAIRMAN'S SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE

1. Receive Formal Notice of the Resignation of Cllr Stuart Donald
Council NOTED the resignation of Cllr Stuart Donald and voiced their appreciation for his 5 and half years of service to Parish residents, particularly his involvement in flooding issues as the Chairman of the Flood Action Group. His pithy, to the point manner and wry sense of humour will be much missed.
2. **To Receive and Agree any Councillors' Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received and agreed from Cllr J Edwards
CCllr Marge Harvey also sent her apologies.
Cllr B Willson advised he would arrive late following his School Governors meeting.
3. **To Receive any Declarations of Interest**
None received.
4. **To Receive and Confirm the Accuracy of the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting on 12th January 2026, together with a Written Update on the Progress of Resolutions from Meetings**
The Minutes (circulated previously) were unanimously CONFIRMED as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman. The Clerk's Written Update (circulated previously) was NOTED and a copy will be kept with these Minutes.
5. **To Receive Reports from County & District Councillors, and other delegates, if appropriate:**
A Report was received from DCllr C Maines who apologised for her recent absence on the grounds of ill-health. She advised that she objected to EHDC's Council Tax rise by 4.99% citing the negative impact it would have on already stretched tax payers.
A decision is expected this week on the subject of Local Govt Reform in the Devolution Priority Programme Areas (DPP) which include Hampshire & IOW and she advised she would be able to share more information in April. DCllr Maines also stated that she had been allotted some funding for climate related projects.
6. **OPEN FORUM – Limited to 15 minutes in total and a max 3 mins for each individual speaker**
A resident on behalf of the U3A Nature Group advised the Council on a proposed programme of works to increased Biodiversity in the village through Rewilding projects. They wanted to obtain approval from the Parish Council to rewild the grass area adjacent to the main entrance to the recreation ground and along the verge that runs along the hedge in The Fairway up to The Peak. They also sought approvals for erecting notices on this land to advise residents of the wilding project, planting a variety of plants. Council advised that the land in question was owned by Hampshire Highways and not the Parish Council, however, it was supportive of the project in principle. Council RESOLVED unanimously to provide some funding for the signs/notices depending on the outcome of permission by Hampshire County Council.

A resident enquired as to when the RGWG Terms of Reference would be published on the RCPC website and was advised that it was already published. The Facilities Officer will send them the link. The resident also requested that they be advised when hedge cutting was due to take place along the south west edge of the Rec Ground owing to a chunk of their hedge being removed as a result of recent hedge work. The resident mentioned that they were the owners responsible for the hedge. The resident agreed to liaise further with the Parish Facilities Officer.
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To Consider and Agree Action on the following, if appropriate**

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NB: Council's full comments on these and all other relevant Applications can be read via EHDC's website: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-application-process/search-and-comment-planning-applications> or a similar page on SDNPA's website.

EHDC-26-0105-HSE	SINGLE STOREY WRAPAROUND EXTENSION AND SUMMER HOUSE 49 Castle Road, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, PO9 6AP (Cllr Frank Ball & Cllr Ben Jackson)
	Council reviewed this application and due to the response deadline falling before the council meeting date, Council RESOLVED offline to submit NO OBJECTION on the grounds that this relatively limited development of a property is small in scale, has no effect on the neighbours' properties and does not appear to be in breach of any planning regulations.
EHDC-25-0766-HSE	REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING REAR EXTENSION. FIRST FLOOR REAR EXTENSION WITH MATCHING PART HIP TO GABLE TO EXISTING. ENLARGEMENT OF EXISTING SIDE DORMER 14 The Drift, Rowlands Castle, PO9 6DG (Cllr Chris Stanley)
	Council reviewed the above application and RESOLVED unanimously to submit 'NO OBJECTION'. Council had offered 'No Objection' to the previous application for this address last August and considers the updated application to be a sensible and acceptable improvement to the property as a whole.
EHDC-26-0069-TPO	LIME TREE FELL 10 Oaklands Avenue, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, PO9 6BQ (Cllr Ben Jackson)
	Council reviewed this application to remove the tree on private land. The tree in question is a very large one that spans across 4 properties and is in poor condition; branches have falling in the past and could be a risk to residents. According to a survey carried out, the tree is also suffering with disease and most likely has root damage. Based on this information Council has RESOLVED unanimously to submit No OBJECTION to this application.

8. GENERAL MATTERS FOR DECISION: To Consider and Agree Action on the following:

a) Appointments to positions on Committees and Working Groups vacated by Cllr Donald's resignation.

Council unanimously AGREED to the following appointments:

Cllr Ian Moore will fill the 4th position on the Staffing & Remuneration Committee

Cllr Ben Jackson will represent the Council on the Flood Action Group and cover flooding matters in general on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Martin Harvey will join the Recreation Ground Working Group.

b) Should a webcam or similar technology be installed at the ford for reference by the public when flooding occurs.

Council discussed the issue of flooding in Woodberry Lane and how Council can help motorists to make the right decisions in driving through the ford. Previously, fixed barriers have been discussed but decided against due to maintenance costs and not owning the responsibility to decide on their opening and closing as this falls within Hampshire Highways remit.

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Council discussed the (previously circulated) proposal of a 24-hour live webcam which would be accessible to view via the Parish Council's website, which can inform motorists as to both the depth and speed of the water flow in advance. It will still be Hampshire Highways' responsibility to decide to close the road when they deem it necessary.

Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve in principle the implementation of a webcam subject to the necessary approvals and costs.

Action: Clerk to write to Stansted estate to request permission to erect web cam on their post next to the Ford.

Action: Cllr I Moore to obtain quotes.

19:50 Cllr B Wilson arrived at the meeting.

c) Finchdean Road speeding – review of residents' submissions and any further permitted Council initiatives including purchase of further ASW cameras

Council reviewed a paper by the Chairman (circulated previously) responding to some resident's criticism on the lack of achievements regarding Road Safety in the parish, particularly on Finchdean Road. The residents had requested the following be put in place by the Parish Council:

1. Speed calming on village entry of Finchdean Road.

Council's agreed response: it has done all it can to help reduce speeds with more 30mph reminders in the road and signs. There are no physical structures that can reduce speed as drivers can swerve around build-outs without reducing speed and road humps and platforms are not supported by HCC, especially outside urban centres.

2. Streetlights along Finchdean Road up to the boundary of SDNP

Council's agreed response: Previously when raised the residents of Finchdean road did not want street lights installed and now the SDNP has a Dark Skies policy it is very unlikely that HCC would implement such lighting.

3. Consistent maintenance of pathways and hedgerows so users are not forced onto the carriageway.

Council's agreed response: These pathways and hedges are the responsibility of a combination of Hampshire Highways together (where relevant) with landowners. The Parish Council draws the attention of HCC and landowners to these issues when it is informed about them.

4. Better road signage to indicate who is using the road.

Council's agreed response: Parish Council had previously contacted Hampshire Highways to request a deer sign be erected in Woodberry Lane to warn motorists to drive carefully. Hampshire Highways response was to advise that motorists ought to be aware of driving conditions on rural roads and adding signage causes desensitization to all road signs so is counter-productive. There is no prospect of additional signage being installed to warn drivers of a variety of road users.

5. An immediate reduction in the 60mph limit

Council's agreed response: This is a matter for HCC to consider but with no fatal accidents and no real enforcement opportunity changing the speed limit on the stretch of road between Dean Lane End and the start of the 30mph limit is very unlikely to be considered.

6. Dropped kerbs outside houses to enable disabled people to use the path.

Council's agreed response: Householders can apply for dropped curbs to allow vehicles to access a driveway but there is no other use for dropped curbs except when the pavement is continued on the other side of the road and there is a dropped curb for this in Finchdean Road. The existing pavement appears usable by people with limited mobility and using mobility scooters.

The PCSO present advised Council that speeding is a priority for Hampshire and PCC Donna Jones is an advocate of the SpeedWatch teams. They advised that they had monitored Finchdean Road on 3 separate occasions and did not witness any speeding motorists. They acknowledged this could be due to their high visibility but they are required for safety reasons to be visible to road users.

Council then discussed the proposal from another resident to procure an ASW camera for Finchdean Road.

Council RESOLVED unanimously to investigate in principle the acquisition of two ASWs in order to monitor both directions; one to be 'sponsored' by the resident if their offer was still open and the

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other paid for from Parish Council funds. There will be an annual fee for their use which the Council will pay, as with existing cameras on other roads. DCllr Maines supported the acquisition of the 2 cameras and offered potential funding.

Action: Clerk to approach resident with Council's proposal and gain sponsorship agreement.

d) Council response to consultation on the proposed new primary school at LEOH - Specifically to request a dropped kerb for drop offs/pickups.

NB The mention of dropped kerbs is erroneous. Council AGREED THAT the requirement for drop off and pick up spaces next to the proposed school was required. Cllr B Wilson requested approval from Council to represent its views on this topic to EHDC alongside his role as Chairman of the Board of Governors at St Johns School. Council unanimously APPROVED.

e) RGCG Consultation Outcome Report – Next Steps.

The feedback from 86 responses from the community consultation provided the RGWG and Council with the insight on how to proceed with the project.

It was AGREED unanimously by Council that any works to the Pavilion would be:

- Sports centred primarily, to give value to sports user groups
- A modest development
- A meeting space for sports users
- More accessible to all sports users.

Immediate works are required to fix a leaking roof and the Facilities Officer will obtain quotes for this.

Further works to be carried out to the Pavilion will be developed following a building survey. Following the outcome of the survey the Facilities Officer, aided by Cllr M Harvey, will provide a brief for the tender process.

f) Establish Council meeting dates for following year.

Meeting dates for the following Council year were AGREED by Council and the Chairman advised that he would provide a further two dates to be added to the end of the year for April and May 2027 which he has since done.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR DECISION: To Consider and Agree Action on the following:

a) Report on Council's Bank Accounts as at 28th February 2026, for acceptance.

Council ACCEPTED the report on the Bank Accounts.

Account	Balance £
Lloyds Current Account	28,086.22
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	71,009.10
12-month Fixed Rate Bond	16,284.74
12-month Fixed Rate Bond	20,870.00
Of which:	
Restricted Reserves	
£4,000 – Tree Maintenance & Survey	
£4,500 – Flood Alleviation	
£14,129 – Works to Pavilion	
£13,500 – Traffic issues (CFI)	
£2,200 – Parish Wide enhancements sub fund	
£11,032 – Parish Hall Renovation Project	
Earmarked Reserves	
£2,700 – Elections provision	
£6,000 – Play Park Project retention fee	

b) February 2026 Schedule of Payments, for authorization

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Cllr Moore stated he had reviewed the schedule (circulated previously) and it was unanimously RESOLVED to AUTHORIZE the Schedule. The Schedule was then signed by 2 signatories at the meeting.

A list of payments and receipts is included below (incl VAT where appropriate, which is reclaimable by the Council)

February Payments £			
Expenditure item	Supplier	Payment (incl VAT)	VAT
Quarterly Litter and Dog Waste Bin Clearance	Quality Land Services Ltd	1,859.22	309.87
Education	Hampshire Association of Local Councils Ltd (HALC)	53.50	8.92
IT	WJPS Software Ltd t/a Active Council	267.60	44.60
Reimbursement of Sundries	Anita King	44.96	7.49
Hedge Cutting & Maintenance	Lawn Pro	1,630.00	
Consumables	Rowlands Home Hardware	10.79	1.80
Monthly Charge for SIM card for CCTV at Recreation Ground	Three Business	11.78	1.96
PAYE and NICs	HMRC	1,631.56	
Grass Cutting, Handyman & Lengthsman Services	Exterior Living Rooms Ltd	490.25	
Pension Administration Fee	Cushon Master Trust	24.00	4.00
Education	Dominic Harland-Jones	180.00	
Hall Hire for Council Mtg	Rowlands Castle United Reform Church	40.00	
Office Printing	ANGLOTECH (was MPP)	53.92	8.99
Mobile Phone - Office and Officers	T-Mobile (EE)	57.60	9.60
Fence Replacement	General Farming and Contracting GFC Ltd	3,900.00	650.00
Bank Service Charge	Lloyds TSB Bank	8.50	
MFD Provision and Maintenance	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Ltd	76.37	12.73
Telephone & Broadband	Focus Group	105.54	17.59
Parish Hall Renovation Project	Claire Newman	118.25	19.71
Parish Hall Renovation Project	Excel-Gas Ltd	14,804.40	2,467.40
Monthly Salary	Rowlands Castle Parish Council	5707.87	
Grant	Rowlands Castle Parish Council	250.00	
Total		31,326.11	3,564.66

February Receipts £			
Receipt item	Supplier		Credit
No receipts			

- c) **Provision of temporary gratis hiring of football pitch for Walking Football group.**
 Council reviewed the proposal put forward by the Walking Football representative and AGREED unanimously to provide gratis use of the 5 x 5 Pitch on Tuesday evenings for 3 months commencing from the date of this meeting to allow the WF group time to get established, After 3 months the Council will review the status and a possible charge for further use.

Cllr I Moore left the meeting 21.03

10. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

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a) Summary of Residents' Dealings Parish Office for January 2025.

Council NOTED the Summary (circulated previously) and discussed the topic of the emergency roadway between Kingfisher Close and Nightingale Close being used by a few drivers unlawfully and causing damage to the verge. Council discussed the potential for installing retractable bollards and requested that the Clerk contact HCC to gather further information.

The subject of pot holes was discussed and in particular the ones in urgent need of attention along the north side of The Green. The Clerk and Cllr Ball advised that they and other residents had reported this to HCC.

ACTION: Clerk to contact HCC regarding who owns the emergency roadway and what action can be taken.

11. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION:

a) Schedule of EHDC's and SDNPA's Planning Decisions up to 28th February 2026

Council NOTED that permission had been given to 2 applications for which the Council had submitted No Objection.

b) Forewarning of imminent submission of SW WT&WR Project for a Government Development Consent Order (DCO) and need to produce a robust objection once it is open for final consultation

Council was advised that this final consultation is the last chance for comments/objections to be made to Government before a proposal will be submitted by SW WT&WR in May. The Chairman noted that some MPs were against this project and that Water Matters had put forward a robust objection already. Residents will be advised when the final consultation on this project is open for residents to make submissions.

c) Proposed dates for Council meetings in June and July for planning purposes in advance of the Annual mtg in May when the full Council year meetings dates are agreed.

Duplication of item 8 f)

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13th April 2026 at Church on The Green, Rowlands Castle.

The Meeting ended at 21.15 hours

During the course of the meeting there were 8 members of the public present, as well as those listed at the beginning of these Minutes, and no members of the Press in attendance.