

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ROOKSDOWN PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE SAXON WOOD SCHOOL ROOKSDOWN ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2009 COMMENCING AT 19.30.

Present: Cllrs Adlam (DA), P Doving (PD), R Doving RD), Lewis-Grey(JLG), Miller (CM) (Chairman), Statham (CS), Parkinson)JP),. C.Cllr Reid, Mrs J Rowley (HCA), Mr J Rowley(JR) & Mr G Gurcha (GG) of the Homes & Communities Agency, (HCA). 3 members of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & APPOINTMENT OF SCRIBE

As Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Miller automatically took the chair. The Parish Clerk took the minutes.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr. Cavalier, Corder.

3. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2009.

4. REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The 2009/2010 report of Chairman of the Council and a financial statement prepared by the Clerk are attached as **Appendices A & B to these minutes.**

5. REPORTS & FEEDBACK: BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE.

Cllr Cherrett's report is at Appendix C to these Minutes.

Cllr Reid reported that (i) he had been pressing for adoption of road/lighting in the newer parts of Rooksdown (ii) he had supported the community via his community budget (iii) he had nothing to add re the proposed Community Centre except that the consultation exercise had resulted in improvements (iv) he had been pushing for action to rectify the flooding at the A339 entrance to Rooksdown and will continue to do so (v) Street lighting: a new initiative will mean that all street lighting will be on a central database, allowing more intelligent reactive management (vi) he felt that the Rooksdown reporter was one of the best community newsletters in the area, and greatly helped engender a community spirit.

PC Hoile's report is at Appendix D to these Minutes.

6. REPORTS & FEEDBACK: ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Debbie Adlam reported another busy year. The recent Woodland Walk had been a great success, as had been a young people's disco held in Saxon Wood School. A new member of the team – Rookie The Rabbit had been acquired as an aid to promoting community events. RCA look forward to the opening of the Community Centre, which will greatly assist in promoting community activities.

7. GENERAL QUESTIONS SESSION

Question: public spending cuts have been announced; how will this affect local projects.

Answer: (CM) the major planned project is the Community Centre, which will not be affected – since it will be financed from developer's contributions arising from the Rooksdown development. The provision of a new primary school may be in doubt, particularly since there is a general surplus of places in other schools in Basingstoke. In response to comments about "capping" of council spending, the clerk said that would require specific legislation, because there is currently no mechanism for capping Parish Councils.

Question: Concern expressed about funds for future needs such as roads, flooding at the A339 etc.

Answer: (C.Cllr SR) a great deal of money is being made available to rectify road damage arising from the severe winter weather. Work on the flooding should have started at the end of April SR will chase for action.

Question: improvements to public transport.

Answer: (C.Cllr SR): A review of public transport was undertaken, but there will be no improvements because the operators say that additional services would not be financially viable. When the Old Golf Site is populated, the situation may be different.

Question: What is the position on the provision of shops in Rooksdown.

Answer: (CS): progress is being made with developers; *[a further meeting on all issues is planned for Friday 28 May]*. One difficulty is identifying “an anchor tenant” – a major retailer such as Tesco, Sainsbury’s, which would make the site sustainable. JR said that HCA were trying to push forward the OGC development (planned for >750 homes) in a different way with new development partners; the consultation mechanism needs to be agreed with BDBC etc. JR said that the new housing on the OGC site would help in making the shops viable.

Question: When can improvement of roads within Rooksdown be expected.

Answer: There are plans to complete the surfacing of some areas of the new development where building is nearing completion, but the fundamental problem of the “main road” giving access between the A339/A340 remains an issue. The major problems are (i) that the developer is not required to surface this road until the development is complete and (ii) there is disagreement as to who is responsible for temporary improvements until then. Regrettably this is a private road. The Highways Authority has authority over it and will not have until is adopted. All that can be done is to continue to press for temporary repairs. JLG said that there is a real problem of public safety – a number of personal injuries have been reported due to inadequate lighting of unmade footways/roads *[to be raised at the meeting with developers on Friday 28 May]*. C Cllr SR undertook to follow this up; there is a need to simplify the process of determining who is responsible for what.

Question: What is being done about the problem of rat-running through Crondall Terrace/Moths Grace. This needs to be “pushed.”

Answer: Once the roads are resurfaced shortly, the situation will improve, because drivers will not feel the need to avoid the very high “speed bump” on Peggs Way. The problem is immediate however – to prevent accidents involving children. C Cllr SR said that some of the problem arises from the style of building design which involves children playing in car parks and on minor roads. Efforts are to be made to close off access through from Owen Way to Peggs Way via Crondall Terrace/Peggs Way or introduce some form of speed control such as a “sump buster”.

The meeting closed at 21:05.

Date.....

Chairman.....

Rooksdown Parish Council Chairman's Report 2010

First I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish meeting.

At the time of last annual meeting in 2009 there was a consultation in progress on the plans for the new community centre – I am happy to report that the plans have been approved by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and we hope to see development start later this year with the new centre opening for business next year. If you have not seen the plans for the new building they can be viewed on the Borough Council website [at <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community/comcentres/consultnewcc/Rooksdown.htm>.]

One important part of the new centre will be the youth wing which, although connected to the main building, has its own entrance and other facilities. This will finally provide a place for our young people to meet and enable them to arrange the activities they want. The community centre has a main hall providing a flexible configuration, and will open onto what will be the largest open space in Rooksdown, providing scope for both indoor and outdoor activities. Once complete the centre will be handed over to the Rooksdown Community Association. Even without a building the association has been providing regular events for residents, the most visible of which are the annual Woodland Walk for children and their parents which was very successful this year, and the Summer Fayre which will take place on the green by Mill Road on the 10th July. We are very grateful to the Community Association for their work organising these events, and also to Basingstoke and Deane for their support for the association and for allowing us to use their land. The Community Association always needs more volunteers – if anyone would like to help in any way then contact details are on all the noticeboards (there are also committee members here tonight).

The parish council has been having regular meetings with Taylor Wimpey, the lead developer of the new parts of Rooksdown, and we have been able to pass on residents' concerns to them; these meetings have been helpful and, where possible, they have been able to make changes to the benefit of the residents of the areas still under development.

The council has also met with planning officers from the Borough to discuss the future development of the old golf course site – we will provide input to the process to ensure the best outcome for current residents and those who will eventually inhabit the new site.

You may have noticed that two seats have been installed on the green by the Mill Road roundabout; we intend to install further seats in other areas of the parish once suitable sites have been identified – typically these will be near the main footpaths; if anyone wishes to put forward a location for consideration, please do so. Parish councillors are also in discussions with the Borough Council and the developers to agree sites for the provision of litter bins in the unadopted parts of the parish.

The council are also investigating the provision of grit bins to enable us to alleviate a possible repeat of last winter's severe weather – these will be in place before next winter.

The parish council has a website, www.rooksdown.org.uk, which is regularly updated with the help of local resident Tim Botten. If you need information about the council, community association, local policing and forthcoming events, or even the history of Rooksdown, then the website is a good place to start.

The Parish Council meets approximately once a month and residents are always welcome to come to our meetings which include an open forum near the start of the meeting where any resident can ask questions of the council; the meetings have also been regularly attended by Borough Councillor Karen Cherrett and County Councillor Stephen Reid. I would like to thank them for their support in the past year.

Finally I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Ron Darley, for everything that he does for the Parish and for keeping the council running smoothly,.

Charles D P Miller (Chairman)

**Rooksdown Parish Council
Summary Income & Expenditure Account
For the Year Ending 31 March 2010**

Income	2009/2010 £	2008/2009 £
Precepts	13,500	13,000
BDBC Limited General Grant	1,100	1,070
Bank interest received	19	563
VAT	318	277
Miscellaneous	10	170
Total Income	<u>14,947</u>	<u>15,080</u>
 Revenue Expenditure		
S.137 expenditure	1,100	1,180
Salaries	3,482	3,528
Admin/Office expense	947	1,165
Training	0	196
Printing (Incl Newsletter)	790	658
Insurance	459	406
Audit	210	185
Subscriptions	313	323
Meetings costs	500	500
Grounds Maintenance	455	0
		0
Consultancy	0	1,856
VAT	212	318
	<u>8,468</u>	<u>10,315</u>
 Capital Expenditure		
Seats	906	0
Notice Boards		1,247
	<u>906</u>	<u>1,247</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>9,374</u>	<u>11,562</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)	<u><u>5,573</u></u>	<u><u>3,518</u></u>
 Cumulative Fund Balance		
Balance brought forward at 1 April	31,110	27,592
Add Total Income	14,947	15,080
Transfers from general fund	0	0
Less Total Expenditure	<u>9,374</u>	<u>11,562</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 March	36,683	31,110

Rooksdown Parish Council
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

	31.03.10 £	31.03.09 £
Current Assets		
Prepayments		
Cash in hand	0	0
Bank current account	171	617
Bank deposit account	36,512	30,493
	36,683	31,110
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors	0	0
Accruals	0	0
	0	0
NET ASSETS	36,683	31,110
REPRESENTED BY		
General Reserve	1,750	1,751
Earmarked Reserves		
Capital Projects	34,933	28,945
Clerk's Gratuity	0	414
TOTAL RESERVES	36,683	31,110

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Chairman

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Responsible Financial Officer

Date

Date

Update from Borough Cllr Karen Cherrett

Community Facility Progress

The tender process to appoint a contractor to undertake the Community Centre development is under way. I will keep you posted in respect of appointment and as soon as a more detailed design and build schedule is drawn up.

Community Trust

Discussions regarding the setting up of the Community Development Trust continue. I expect to hear soon of what has been agreed and of any feedback we have received following the communication with residents. It will be very important throughout the coming months to ensure our communication at Parish, Community Association and Borough level is joined up and the messages clear so that we can all respond to resident questions or concerns in a consistent and informative way. Clearly the developers and HCA have a large part to play in ensuring a smooth hand over and there is a need to work closely with all involved to achieve this and get the Trust off to a successful start.

Litter Bins for Limes Park

The Borough Council has agreed to investigate the siting and placement of litter bins in Limes Park prior to adoption of the roads and footpaths. I have arranged for the lead officer to do a walk through with a representative of the Parish Council and understand that there will be a viewing of the area and discussion of the locations for bins this coming week.

Graffiti and nuisance

As a result of the reported nuisance and graffiti our community support officer has been walking the area and has successfully traced some of the culprits. They have been handed "yellow cards" – a letter to parents – as a first step in dealing with this behaviour.

The combined efforts of members of the Community Association and BDBC response team ensured the graffiti was removed within 24hrs of it being reported.

Our community support officer has also been visiting and talking to residents in Moths Grace and Crondall Terrace to introduce herself and get to know residents. She is working with the residents, local landlord (the Home Group) and BDBC Community Development team to look at what can be done to improve neighbour relations in this area. The aim is to provide diversionary activities for the younger children as well as some education for the older ones to avoid a repeat of recent damage to cars following football and other games in the street.

Bus stops Rooksdown Avenue

As a result of our request last year to provide a proper walkway to the bus stops on Rooksdown Avenue (currently accessed via the grass verge only) the planning and highways engineers have begun consultation on their proposals to replace some of the grass verge with tarmac pavement. This will make it much easier and safer for users of the stop to walk from the paths to the bus stops without having to walk in the road or along the grass.

The proposals put forward include moving one bus stop closer to Winklebury roundabout. I have provided feedback that this does not seem a safe or sensible approach and would rather see a longer stretch of footpath to the existing bus stop. I have also made the point that if this work is to be undertaken this year (as I hope it will) can it be timed to coincide with the work on the drainage and soakaway which causes the road to flood.

I am waiting to hear the results of consultation and see the final proposals but have had acknowledgement of the points raised.

Opening roads and paths

It is fully expected that the southern area works will commence this summer. This will necessitate shutting the existing site access road and opening up the road through Highpath Way and Spoonwood Close connecting with Peggs Way.

This will also mean opening the footpath from the footbridge at English Wood enabling residents to use the path which cuts through Highpath Way, around Trenchmead Gardens and onto Peggs Way. These will be significant changes to areas previously not open to through traffic and road users and pedestrians will need to take care on this road and footpath as priorities change and foot, cycle and road traffic starts to use the new access routes.

Rooksdown Primary school Whilst the County Council announced four new primary schools for the Borough this month, they remain non-committal on Rooksdown. A school always has been planned for the development but the pace of development has been much slower than expected meaning that demand for primary places can be met by existing schools in neighbouring Parishes.

The County Council does not rule-out the possibility for future years but any decision will be subject to demonstrating a need and demand for places in locations that cannot be served by existing schools with surplus places. The planned developments at the southern area and the old golf course may assist with this demand but are some years off completion. The Borough Council is currently working with the County education team as it works through a whole Hampshire review of education provision and we are providing information to determine local need.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The consultation on the LDF for the Borough – the document which shapes the plans for the borough in terms of what is needed where over the period of the next 10-15 years – is complete but the results of the consultation have not yet been released. Early signs are that public feedback in terms of the growth plans for the Borough are positive but recognise a need to re-dress the balance of where existing housing, employment land and infrastructure exists now compared to where it might be needed in the future. This is an important document and updates will be provided as information is released.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

This is another important document still in consultation. The council has a duty to look at all available land in its area from time to time and assess the viability of available land for development of housing to provide for local need. This document contains the listing of available land and an assessment of whether it is considered fit for housing development. Inclusion of an area in the document does not mean that it will be built upon, simply that there is a view that it could be built upon for housing. Whilst this is not immediately relevant to Rooksdown, areas of neighbouring land such as Manydown and the fields around Sherbourne St John and Popley are areas of interest where significant building would affect access to and greenspace around Rooksdown. As Borough and County Councillors, Stephen Reid and I will continue to watch out for any movement in these areas so that we can keep up to speed with advance plans.

**Appendix D to to mpm24052010
Dated 24 May 2010**

Police Report: APM/RPC 24 MAY 2010

Since the last RPC Meeting there have 40 Occurrences reported in Rooksdown. Of these Occurrences, 9 were regarding Anti-Social Behaviour. The prevelant areas reported were Norrie Court and Canadian Way. As a result of this I have been liaising with Homegroup who own Norrie Court and conducting Patrols in the area. The other incident of note was that an oven hob was stolen from a property under construction in Highpath Mews.

I have in the past few weeks had a meeting with Julie Williams from Sentinel Housing. Julie is trying to organise a meeting of all the Housing Associations that have properties in Rooksdown. It is hoped that if the meeting is successful then the core group could be expanded to include other "stake holders" from Rooksdown with a view to setting up a Neighbourhood Panel. This panel would meet every quarter with input from residents to discuss the issues that affect Rooksdown. The top three issues would become the priorities for the various agencies, i.e. Police, B&D Council, Housing Associations, Highways etc. Once the first meeting has been held I will report back to the RPC with an update.

Regards

IAN HOILE
PC 2521
Rooksdown/N.H.H. Beat Officer
0845 - 0454545