

Rowhills Residents Association

Notes taken at the Annual General Meeting on 26 April 2023 held at Rowhill Nature Reserve Field Centre, Cranmore Lane

Ref	Item
1.0	Introductions
	Michael Chapman opened the meeting at 7.00pm
	The current committee of Michael Chapman, John Lewis, John Cleden and John Barnett were introduced together with Mark Hopkins who had previously stepped down from the committee. John Cleden was also stepping down at this meeting.
2.0	Reason for the Meeting
	Michael Chapman informed that the committee had decided a meeting was necessary to promote transparency as to how the £95.00 per annum subscription was being spent. It was also decided that Committee members rather than being co-opted, should be elected as a new Committee. A written Constitution had been prepared to allow members to understand the functions of the Association and duties of Committee Members. The meeting was to inform members as to recent, current and future planned activities.
3.0	Current and Recent Actions by the Association
	Michael Chapman informed of the recent discussions with both the Football Team representative who use the Recreation Ground and the Waverley Borough Council person responsible for the Recreation Ground, Matthew Lank, (Green Spaces). There had been ongoing discussions in an attempt to limit the disruption experienced on Saturday mornings during the football season. John Barnett informed of discussions with the local County Councillor Catherine Powell, where he was advised of Council proposals to add additional double yellow lines to Rowhills side of Upper Weybourne Lane to stretch from near Whitethorns flats down to the junction with Wellington Lane. This proposal is out for consultation this summer and if there are no amendments, will probably be implemented this year. Discussion took place as to the knock-on effects to Rowhills, if this was to take place.
	Michael Chapman introduced the situation with Toob, who are in the process of surveying and installing broadband to Farnham and Aldershot at present. Their surveyors had been identified in Rowhills and questioned by both Michael Chapman and John Barnett. As Toob have recently attempted to install overhead cables via posts in Copse Avenue, but had been stopped by residents, there exists a possibility Toob may attempt a similar scheme for Rowhills.

4.0	Road Repairs
	John Lewis provided an explanation of the road repairs recently undertaken. He explained that the contractors Tidey and Webb, who had been used for such works previously in Rowhills being a company who specialise in roads repairs to private roads, undertook the works. (None of the committee have any association or interest in the road repair company.) The contract arrangements utilised ensure that should there be problems arising from any works undertaken, they will return and correct at no charge. John Lewis explained that such works were only undertaken at intervals of approximately two years or as road conditions warrant. Problems with the road surface arise especially from vehicles exceeding the 15mph limit. Speed humps had been installed to reduce this problem but some drivers appear undeterred. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of painting diagonal lines on the speed humps. These had been added previously but had worn down.
5.0	Removal of Abandoned Vehicles
	John Barnett informed of actions taken by the Committee to remove three abandoned vehicles from the area of Rowhills adjacent to Hillcrest flats (two cars and a Barber's Shop van). It had been determined by the committee, from the information given in publications from the Private Road Group the committee had joined, that the status of Rowhills was that of a Public Highway, even though it is an unadopted road. This information was provided to Surrey County Council Highways and to Waverley Council, who are now in the process of updating their records, and which led to action then being taken by the Councils and DVLA in the removal of the vehicles. Since the date of the removals there appears a noticeable reduction in parking at that end of the road.
6.0	Jubilee and Coronation Parties
	John Barnett was of the opinion that the success of the Jubilee Party of June 5th 2022 was most probably due to the end of lockdowns and the willingness of many to come together to celebrate. Altogether 56 people attended this party. It was predicted at this party that a Coronation Party would probably follow soon after, and sadly this has proven to be the case. So far for the 30 people have returned their forms saying that they are intending to attend the Coronation Party on May 7th 2023. We are still awaiting return of a number of forms. Ros Croft, Judith Massey and Graham Williamson have offered loan of their marquees, also three gazebos have been offered by other residents. It is intended to erect these items on Friday May 5th to allow everyone to spend time on the following day for the actual Coronation ceremony and a full day of televised events.

7.0	Website, Newsletter and WhatsApp
	Michael Chapman explained that the Association now provided three means of communication with residents. The WhatsApp group was initially utilised during COVID but had become a normal means of communication in the road. The Website is still relatively new but now holds an increasing amount of information, including the History of Rowhills provided by Susan Barnett, and a list of trusted traders and contractors. Members are encouraged to add to this list to assist their neighbours in selecting tradesmen. These notes will be added to the Website. The newsletter produced by Susan and John Barnett and distributed in January was the first Newsletter for a while, but it is intended that this will be repeated at intervals when there is sufficient information to distribute.
8.0	Treasurer's Report
	John Cleden informed that the works carried out by the Committee on behalf of the residents is funded solely by the residents. The slides explained how the money is spent. The vast majority of expenditure is for the road repairs, with insurance, Private Road Group membership and Website fees forming only very small amounts. The current financial situation shows there is little left in the account once the Tidey and Webb invoice is cleared. John Cleden reminded members that the next annual payment of £95.00 per household is due 1st July 2023, commencing the rebuilding of funds for future works.
9.0	Adoption of the Constitution
	John Barnett reminded residents that a draft Constitution for the Rowhills Residents Association has been available on the Website for some time for viewing and comment by residents. A Vote was then undertaken and the Constitution was adopted unanimously on a show of hands.
10.0	Nomination and voting for new committee
	Mark Hopkins and John Cleden, committee members who were standing down, were thanked for their time and work whilst in the committee. New nominated Committee members Katrina Duddridge (Treasurer) and David Everitt (Committee Member), together with existing Committee Members Michael Chapman (Chair), John Lewis (Committee Member) and John Barnett (Secretary) were voted in unanimously on a show of hands. There still exists an outstanding Committee member position unfilled and a nomination of any resident is sought to fill this position
11.00	Any Other Business
11.1	Dean Harvey raised issue of seagulls in his garden and asked if others had experienced the same. This wasn't an issue experienced elsewhere in the road.

11.2	Patricia O'Brien questioned the status of the road. John Barnett informed that the road, although a Public Highway was unadopted and not maintained at the Council's expense. Patricia informed she had experienced vehicles leaving The Warren at high speed, not stopping or slowing at the junction with Rowhills. She suggested that painting white lines at the junction might cause some drivers to slow or stop at the junction. The Committee to look at this proposal and provide comment on action.
11.3	Shiraz Chowdhury was of the opinion that double yellow lines was an option that could restrict parking in Rowhills. Michael Chapman informed that the football teams should provide a Marshall to look after parking of their team's visitors. This is being taken forward by Waverley for the next football season. Dean Harvey believed that the inconvenience was minor, only two hours on a Saturday during the football season, and the new yellow lines probably wouldn't cause much more in the way of parking problems. Judith Massey thought even if double yellow lines were installed, drivers may ignore them. One resident asked "Is this an accident waiting to happen (on a football Saturday morning)?" John Barnett reminded the meeting that the use of the recreation ground by Junior sports groups should be encouraged and the Committee were dedicated to maintaining this usage, only looking at options to ensure safety of residents and other users were undertaken. There was a general consensus supporting sports in the Recreation Ground.
11.4	John Lewis asked the meeting if they believed the Committee were representing the resident's interests sufficiently. There was a general consensus that this was indeed the case.
11.5	Post meeting item.
	Michael Chapman reminded residents of the need to keep hedges bounding the road, to be kept clipped and not to allow them to extend so reducing road width.
12.0	Next Meeting
	Michael Chapman informed of the intention to convene the next Annual General Meeting of Rowhills Residents Association in November 2024. The exact date yet to be agreed.
13.0	The meeting closed at 8.00pm. Michael Chapman thanked everyone for their attendance.

Attendance list is a separate document showing the 27 people who attended.