

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOKSDOWN, ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017 COMMENCING AT 7:45PM

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Mahoney (Chairman)	✓		
Cllr Botten	✓		
Cllr Bound (Borough Councillor)	✓		
Cllr Brocklebank	✓		
Cllr Lovett (Vice Chairman)	✓		
Cllr Mason	✓		
Cllr Payne	✓		
Cllr Parkinson		✓	
Cllr Payne	✓		

Also present: County Councillor Stephen Reid, and Borough Councillor Simon Bound, & 7 members of the public

Welcome

Councillor Mahoney welcomed every-one to the meeting

To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Parkinson

To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held in 4th April 2016

The Chairman signed as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 4th April 2016

To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Paul Mahoney's report was **NOTED** and can be found as **Appendix A**

To receive a report from Borough Councillor Simon Bound

Cllr Simon Bound's verbal report was **NOTED**

To receive a report from County Councillor Reid

Cllr Stephen Reid's verbal report was **NOTED** and can be found as **Appendix B**

To receive a report from Rooksdown Community Association

The verbal report was **NOTED**

To receive a report from the Police

There was no report from the Police

To receive a report from PCSO

There was no report from PCSO

To receive the unaudited Financial statement of the Parish Council

Cllr Lovett updated the meeting on the Financial situation of the Parish Council on behalf of the interim Parish Clerk & RFO which was **NOTED**

The statement of Accounts & report can be found as **Appendix C**

To receive an update on the skate park

Cllr Jon Payne's verbal report was **NOTED**

Rooksdown Parish Council

Chairman Comments

Annual Parish Assembly Meeting April 24th 2017

Hi there - My name is **Paul Mahoney**, the Chairman – Rooksdown Parish Council

Good evening & welcome to the **10th Rooksdown Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting**.

You are all very welcome.

Many thanks for coming and giving up your evening to spend with us.

For those who don't know me I have been a member of Rooksdown Parish Council for the last 5 years & been the chairman of the Parish Council for the last 3 years.

For you information - As a Parish Council - we have a regular Parish Council meeting the fourth Monday of every month (except August & December) and we all do our best at representing the interests of Rooksdown residents.

Tonight, the Annual Meeting of the Parish is the meeting where the parish council report to you, its electorate, on what it has accomplished in the preceding year.

Electors, members of the public and the press are invited to hear reports from me, the Chairman, from the Borough Councillor & the County Councillor, community association.

So, what are we going to cover this evening?

So, first of all there were a few mandatory actions that we need to take to formally open the meeting.

As the Chairman of the Parish Council, I am then going to spend 30 minutes or so giving a presentation reviewing Parish Council activities during the past year from April 2016 – end of March 2017.

A couple of Councillors will support me to let you know the activities they have been leading on

Later, I will then be asking Cllr Jon Payne to spend a few minutes giving you an update on the Skate Park proposition which he has been leading on, on behalf of the Parish Council.

After that we will have a very short refreshment break before we come back for Stephen Reid, the County Councillor and Simon Bound, a Parish Councillor and the Borough Councillor who will both give us their annual report for the last 12 months.

And we then will have a representative from the Rooksdown Community Association who will give you an update on the last 12 months for them



ROOKSDOWN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

AGENDA

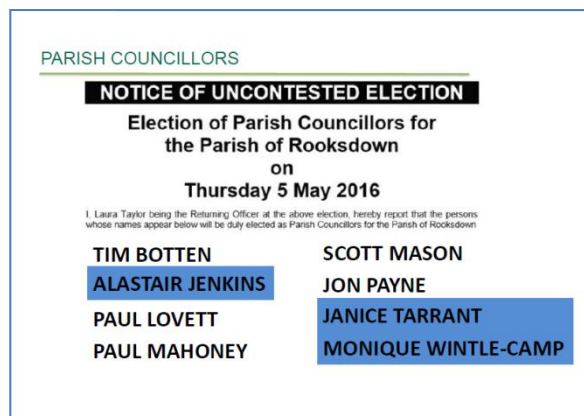
ITEM
1 Apologies
2 Minutes of the last Parish Assembly Meeting held on 4 April 2016 – to receive and approve
3 Annual Report of the Parish Council 2016 / 2017
BREAK
4 Annual Report of the Parish – County Councillor Stephen Reid
5 Annual Report of the Parish – Borough Councillor Simon Bound
6 Accounts of the Parish Council 2016/2017
7 Skate Park – update – Cllr Jon Payne
7 Public Forum - members of the public are invited to raise matters of interest or concern for discussion
FINISH

I'm conscious that we have quite a full agenda to get through ... we are all very happy to take questions and comments ... however, we would prefer if you could make a note of your questions and we will open the floor up at the end for a full q & a session for all members of the Parish Council to participate, the County & Borough Councillor, the RCA & the Police. If we take questions as we go through, then the whole evening could be derailed & we would like to ensure we cover all points.

Ok – so this is a look back on a year ...

You may remember that we had Parish Council elections back in May 2016 – an uncontested election.

Just before the election Cllr Cooke left the Parish Council as he had recently got married to Sarah, sold his property and relocated to Bristol with his new wife and has since had a young baby in February ... so a massive thanks to Stephen and best wishes to him, his wife Sarah and his baby son Elijah Derek.



Cllr Janice Tarrant left in September due to work commitment. She was very committed to her role as Parish Councillor but felt that she was no longer able to give the role the time and commitment that it deserves. We thank her for her time in supporting the Parish Council for a number of years.

Cllr (Mrs) Wintle-Camp and Cllr Jenkins left the Parish Council in May to use their time elsewhere. We wish them well (and I believe they joined the Community Association for a short period of time but have since left there too).

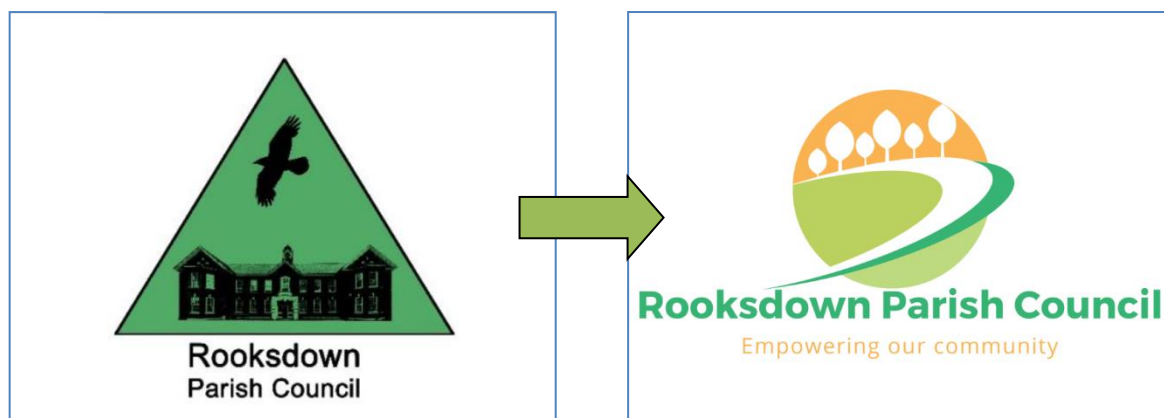
That means we have had a number of vacancies in the Parish Council and to that end - we welcome Duncan Parkinson & Simon Bound who were both co-opted as Parish Councillors in October 2016 and just last month, Jenneth Brocklebank was co-opted to the Parish Council in March 2017.

Thanks to all who have left us and to those who have joined & actually, we should thank all Parish Councillors.

It is probably worth highlighting for you that we all contribute (and have all contributed) to making Rooksdown a brilliant place to live and we all give freely of our time.

The first thing that we did as a Parish Council back in April 2016 was to '*move with the times*' and freshen up the way that we communicate with you, the residents.

At the last Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April last year, we launched our new, bright logo ... I hope you like it?



It is fresh and modern and I'm sure you agree it shows how the Parish Council have been working over the recent years to empower our community.

Thanks to **Cllr Paul Lovett** for leading on this new logo & for the Councillors for their support in choosing the most appropriate logo to represent the way we work in Rooksdown.

At the last Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April last year we also launched a new & improved Parish Council Website. **Cllr Tim Botten**, our Parish Council webmaster, worked tirelessly from Christmas 2015 to April to make sure it was ready for launch at the Parish Meeting last years.



Please go online and have a look ... it is refreshed with lots of new information on there:

As well as all the standard stuff like Agendas, Minutes, Council Notices & Rooksdown Reporter there are new sections

History of the Parish Council

Parish Councillors Biographies

Our Policies & procedures

Grant awards

*An Interactive Map ... which **Cllr Jon Payne** keeps up to date.*

The website also has links to the **Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council** website & **ReportIt** sections and the Parish Council would encourage all residents to make maximum use of this new resource for solving problems and finding local information and help, like Bin Collection Days ... or like 'How to report a street light not working', 'removal of dog poo' or 'reporting fly tipping' etc.

Any suggestions that you may have for what else you would like to be included on the website, please let us know.

When residents of Rooksdown have an issue - the Parish Council hopes that the Parish Council website will be the first port of call – at www.rooksdwn.org.uk

But it doesn't stop there we also launched a '**Twitter**', '**Instagram**' and a '**You Tube Channel**' in addition to our Rooksdown Parish Council Facebook page ... so ... you can see that we are definitely moving with technology ... however, we need to get better at using these media types.



So ... **many thanks to Cllr Tim Botten** ... and to the other members of the Parish Council for their ideas and support of what to include in the new Parish Council website & other Social Media.

I've got quite a lot to cover off for what we, the Parish Council have been involved in over the last 12 months and it's achievements.

Adoption of the core areas

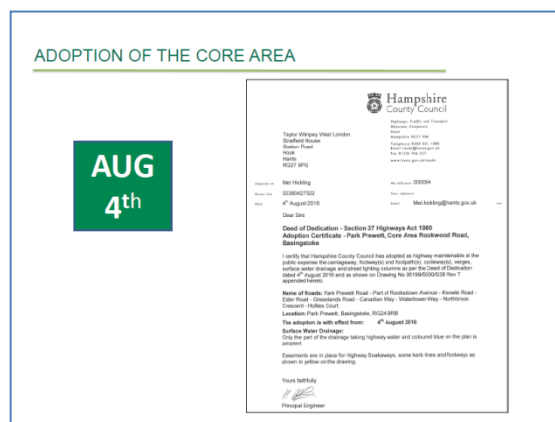
If I had to pick the one thing that stands out for me as Chairman and for the Parish Council as an achievement for 2016 – it would have to be August 4th 2016 – the date of Park Prewett – Core Area – Road Adoptions. This was the conclusion of many many years of continued discussion with HCA, TW & HCC by the Parish Council in conjunction with Borough Councillor & County Councillor.

Certification from HCC is showing ...

You could write a book about all the trials & tribulations in order to get the roads adopted ... now that they are then Hampshire is responsible for the roads, footpaths, lighting and open spaces in these areas.

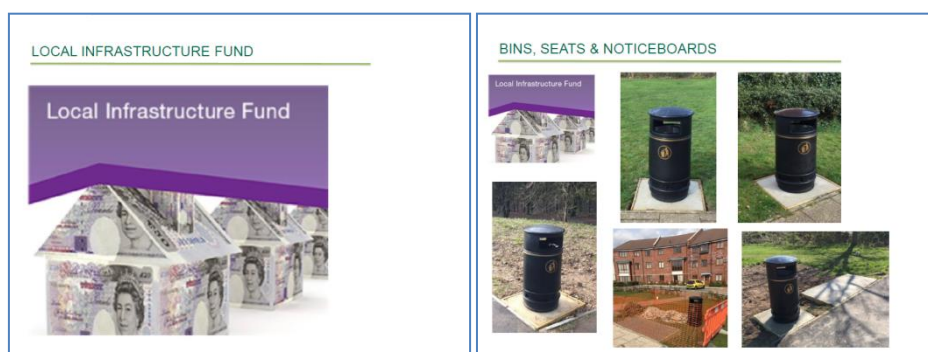
We have got a date in the diary for a meeting with HCC, HCA, TW, the County Councillor, Borough Councillor to discuss the work required to complete the adoption of the Southern Area ...

That was probably the most significant standout thing in 2016.



Street Furniture LIF

For me, the next important achievement in the last 12 months was for the role out & completion of the street furniture project, following a Local Infrastructure Fund application in 2015.



In the last Parish Assembly Meeting I reported that the Parish Council had submitted a Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) application for a grant for much needed street furniture for the Parish in the Southern Area of Rooksdown because the original planning agreement covering the Southern Area of the development lacked any provision.

The Parish Council firmly believes that this street furniture application seeks to rectify that really bad oversight.

We were successful in achieving a grant for circa £33,000 which has paid for the installation of 11 seats/benches, 32 bins and 4 Parish Noticeboards across the Southern part of the development and in other key locations in the older part of the parish.

In June last year the Parish Council made an application for a further £5000 to finish off the street furniture project for an additional 11 bins.

The whole project is completed now and great to see the benches being used and bins being used. **THERE WAS NO COST TO RESIDENTS FOR THIS PROJECT.**

On a separate and rather disappointing note – last summer there was much vandalism to the newly installed bins mostly in the Southern Area & the noticeboard on Peggs Way and vandalism to the benches / seats. New fittings have also been fixed to the existing bins that have been knocked off their bases by the wanton vandalism of some youths over the summer.



Just so you are aware - B&BDC will be responsible for repair to the bins whilst the Parish Council are liable for any remedial work to the noticeboards.

SpeedWatch

Most of you will know that back in mid June 2015 Rooksdown became subject to a 20 mph speed zone, as represented by the signs at the various entries to Rooksdown.

In the last Annual Parish Meeting back in 2016 I reported that a Community Speed Watch group had been set up in Rooksdown to help embed the 20 mph limit which came into force, for the safety & benefit of all Rooksdown residents.



The Parish Council resolved to purchase the Speed Indicator Display (SID) equipment at a cost of £2500 in December 2015 and an order for the equipment was placed at the beginning of 2016.

Just so you are aware – the Parish Council are always looking for funds for the benefit of Rooksdown. The Parish Council made an application to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire for £1000 towards the cost of the equipment and received that in April ... which is very helpful – but also highlights the importance that Hampshire Police put on speeding on Hampshire roads.

The Parish Council also made a grant application to our County Councillor, Stephen Reid, who very kindly approved the request for £1000 in April towards the cost of the equipment ... so thank you very much Stephen.



So, basically, **the equipment has cost the Parish Council just £500.**

How it works:

Details of any vehicle caught exceeding the 20 mph limit will be collected at the time of the alleged offence and then entered onto a police database. It kicks in at 24 mph.

The registered owner of the vehicle will then be sent a letter telling them that their vehicle was seen exceeding the speed limit, how it affects the local community and asking them not to do so in the future. If the same registration number is logged again within 12 months the owner's details will be passed onto Roads Policing, who may take further action.

Irresponsible speeding around the Rooksdawn will no longer be tolerated.

Please be considerate to the Community Speed Watch volunteers - they are taking on this voluntary activity to positively contribute to the safety and quality of life of everyone in our Parish and they should be applauded for doing so.

If you want more details on how to support the Rooksdawn Community Speed Watch team then please let me know.

As a SpeedWatch group there are approximately 20 volunteers who will help to embed the 20 mph ... we have all done the training and have been out and about a couple of times across the development.

Whilst we were waiting for the Adoption of the core area we did a bit of covert analysis of speeding in Rooksdawn ... the camera was put in 4 different locations ... and this is what we found:

	Location 1 Park Prewett Road / Mill Road	Location 2 ark Prewett / Peggs Way	Location 3 Costa Coffee	Location 4 Doctor's Surgery
Total number of cars/week	7000	4000	5000	3800
21mph +	82%	70%	50%	47%
24 mph +	53%	37%	25%	19%
Worst recorded speed	42 mph	41 mph	55 mph	40 mph

Once the Core Area of Park Prewett were adopted the SpeedWatch group mobilised ... and we undertook a number of sessions over a 3 week period



#RooksdawnSpeedwatch

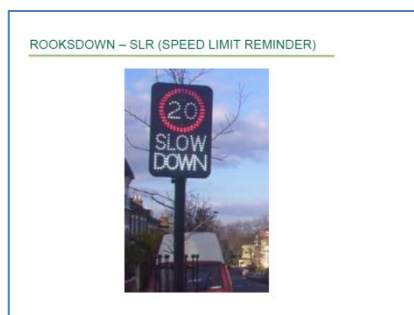
249 speeders recorded and reported to the local Police following 24 hours of SpeedWatch over 3 weeks period

16 cars recorded for the second time
207 cars recorded for the first time

It was great to see the reaction of residents (mainly on the Facebook pages) ... it was also interesting to see resident reaction to receiving a letter having been recorded as speeding in 24 mph or above in a 20mph zone.

SLR (Speed Limit Reminder)

Some of the feedback was that they didn't know it was a 20mph zone despite the signs at both main entrances to the estate.



Normally Speed limit repeater signs are not used within a zone as the combination of traffic calming and road layout are intended to control traffic speeds to stay below this maximum speed limit.

The Parish Council listened to the feedback from residents & agreed there was a need for signage to help remind residents & visitors to Rooksdown of the speed limit and the Parish Council is so committed to this they are even prepared to pay for it.

The Parish Council linked in with the Borough Council to rent one of their Speed Limit Reminder – at a cost of £160 for the month.

The results from the SLR are quite frankly alarming ... showing how many cars were travelling 24mph or more.

Week 1 - LC9 (nr Elder Rd) 2,752

Week 2 - LC9 (nr Mill Rd) 11,831

Week 3 – LC23 (nr shops) 3,032

Week 4 – LC23 (nr shops) on site

20 Mph speed signs

In December last year I had a very productive meeting HCC with regards to installing 20 mph repeater signs across the development. Thanks to the County Councillor for his support with this meeting.

I've already said that normally Speed limit repeater signs are not used within a zone as the combination of traffic calming and road layout are intended to control traffic speeds to stay below this maximum speed limit.



However, the Parish Council recognised the need for additional signage to help remind residents & visitors to Rooksdown of the speed limit and the Parish Council is so committed to this they are even prepared to pay for it.

I am very pleased to confirm that all the suggested signs have been approved and will be installed by the end of March with **no cost to the Parish Council** as HCC are funding it within the current financial year.

The road marking element will be included in the next financial year.

Hampshire County Council are happy to support the inclusion of an amendment in the TRO to correct the description for Rooksdown Avenue which will allow the 20mph gateway to be placed at the brick pillars, and include the residential area of Florence Way, Gillies Drive, Gander Drive and Barron Place in the 20 mph zone. This will be delivered later in the year as it is a bit more complicated & time consuming.

I will be mobilising the SpeedWatch Group again, now that that it is lighter in the mornings and later in to the evening - to undertake a number of SpeedWatch sessions to see if having the SLR camera up has had any impact on driver behaviour or not.

I have also spoken to the police to understand whether they would be willing to undertake an enforcement session in the early part of the year. I reckon this will be more likely if we have undertaken more SpeedWatch sessions and our results have not improved on what we saw at the back end of last year. Will update you when I have more details to report

The Avenue / Lodge Junction / A340 Traffic Calming

At the beginning of the Phase 3 works the Parish Council was mindful of the traffic chaos that it could cause & we requested

The Avenue works (Phase 3) completed 23/9/16 at 5.00pm as planned and both The Avenue and the Maternity Block access road opened at that time.

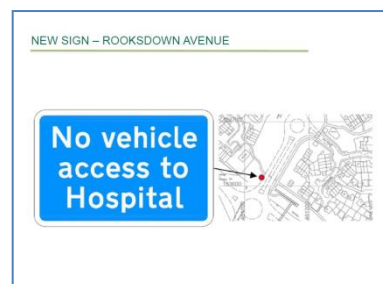


In my meeting with HCC regarding the 20 mph speed limit signs, I obviously shared the concern that has been raised by so many residents about the ease with which vehicles can turn left at the Dinwoodie Drive / Avenue junction. This is a work in progress and maybe Stephen will give an update in his presentation.

Great to see that double yellow lines have now been painted on the Avenue – paid by HCA. I know that Simon will give an update on this in his presentation shortly from a Borough Councillor perspective.

I also asked HCC to see what appropriate permanent signage Rooksdown could have at the entry to Rooksdown from the A339 now that the Phase 3 works are finished to alert visitors & staff to the hospital of the fact that they cannot get access to the hospital through Rooksdown.

The good news is that Hampshire County Council came back quite quickly having produced the sign design. HCC have also spoken with the HCA who have said that they will arrange for it to be installed by Hope and Clay as they now have completed their works.



Another result - No cost incurred to the Parish Council.

Planning Applications

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	
Month	Number
April	2
May	1
June	2
July	1
September	1
November	1
March	7



Over the last 12 months the Parish Council have been asked to consider & comment on 15 planning applications, as well as support the LIF application by the Lands Trust and the community use plans for the farm barn and retail units as proposed by Cllr Bound.

ROOKSDOWN TOGETHER

Pocket Parks & Green Spaces

On behalf of the Parish Council, I have had regular meetings with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council this year:

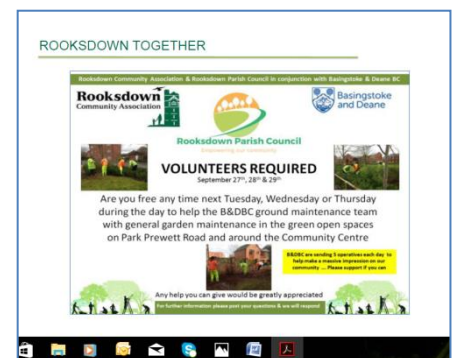
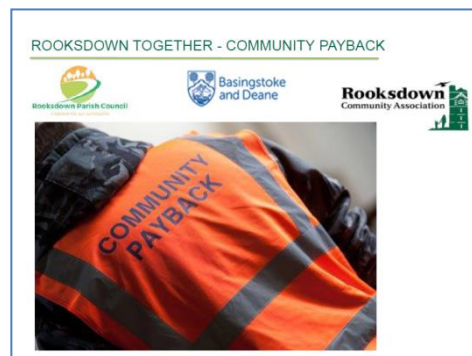
The first was a meeting set up following intervention by Simon Bound as Borough Councillor – to do with the emptying of the bins – it was a bit pointless to have 32 bins installed & not being emptied with me being seen emptying the bins at night and weekends ... given the length of time that B&DBC had taken to deliver on the Street Furniture project, Dave Perkins agreed to get the bins emptied by the street cleansing team from August. What a relief that was.

The Parish Council then had a number of meetings with B&DBC on site in Rooksdown with Dave Perkins & Gordon Wade – to discuss the green open spaces.

Dave Perkins stated that Rooksdown was the first Parish Council that he had had engagement with since taking over the job at the Council and he was impressed by the passion we showed about making it a great place to live.

We have built a great relationship with them that they agreed to do some additional work around the white bridge over the A339 and also the entrance to Rooksdown from the A339.

Gordon Wade confirmed that he was able to commit 5 operatives on 27/28/29 September as a ground maintenance team to undertake bespoke garden maintenance in the green open spaces on Park Prewett Road and around the Community Centre.



Community payback team on a Saturday morning - for as long as we need with a supervisor to use as test plan partner to work for – a dozen every weekend to do weeding, tidying etc.

Litter Grant – no more ... but B&DBC has allowed us a grant of just short of £3000 to employ a handyman in Rooksdown ... which is great news!

Testimony to the great working relationship that the Parish Council have built up over the years.

The Parish Council have also been involved in getting Taylor Wimpey to sort –

- Western Triangle – remedial works to the Highway verges on both sides of Rooksdown Avenue as you come in to the development from the A339
- The completion of the landscaping to the front and rear of the Western Triangle following the completion of this build in December 2015

Green Bridge & White Bridge over A339

We have received some complaints from residents about the state of the footbridges over the A339. I established that the two footbridges are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council's bridge section & arranged for the drainage system on both bridges to be cleared to stop the flooding of the area & removal of excessive amount of algae growth and general grime.

The Barn Area – for the landscaping work to the grounds surrounding the Barn Area – following the completion of that build in December 2015

Peggs Way Car park – being rebuilt

PEGGS WAY – CAR PARK WALL



PEGGS WAY – CAR PARK WALL



TRENCHMEAD GARDENS

I have spent much time trying to establish who is responsible for the area in Trenchmead Gardens – running parallel with Peggs Way where the fencing & bird mouth fencing has been damaged.

TW are actually responsible & they are just looking to see whether they passed the responsibility for maintenance to Sentinel.

B&DBC confirm that they are working with Taylor Wimpey at the moment to get the open spaces in the Trenchmead Gardens area (between Mill Road & Peggs Way) up to spec prior to adoption. They are pushing the developer for a May 2017 transfer.

I spoke to B&DBC about the specific area that runs parallel to Peggs Way where we recently had fencing fixed by approaching Taylor Wimpey direct (12 months ago). A small amount of work has been carried out following the intervention.

TRENCHMEAD GARDENS

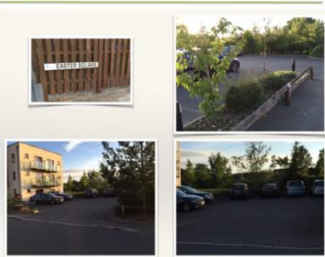


TRENCHMEAD GARDENS



Parking Spaces – on Peggs Way

CAR PARKS ON PEGGS WAY

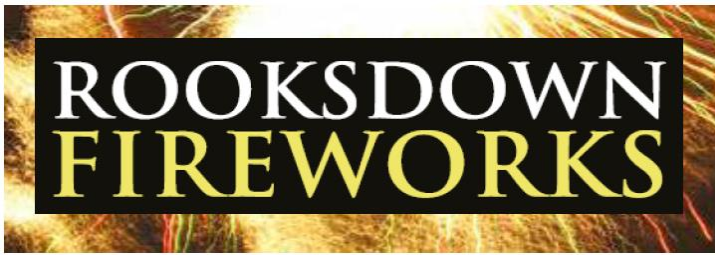


We are currently involved in the legal work that will allow the Parish Council to purchase the Car Parks at the top end of Peggs Way opposite the old TW show home (opposite Moth's Grace) and also the old Carey's Show home area at Easter Square –this will provide some much needed additional parking for the residents at both the top end and the bottom end of Peggs Way which we hope you will find useful. This will only cost the Parish Council £1 – *another example of the way that the Parish Council are always looking for things which benefit the residents of Rooksdown.*

There is some work that needs doing by Taylor Wimpey before the transfer – removal of knee rails alongside Peggs Way, removing bollard lighting, cutting back the planting & amending the actual transfer plan etc.

The transfer of the car parks is likely to take place at the same time as the adoption of the Southern Area.

The annual Firework display



In 2016 it was with great sadness that the Parish Council made the difficult decision not to hold the fireworks event again. When we agreed to cancel the 2015 event, the Parish Council committed to holding a Firework event in Rooksdown in 2016.

However, putting on such a popular event brings with it significant organisational & logistical challenges ... particularly, how to get residents and visitors in and out of Rooksdown safely. There was also a distinct lack of any volunteers from the community to help make this a safe and enjoyable event for all. We had advertised for residents to help organise the event on various social media and in the Rooksdown Reporter, and to support on the night – but unfortunately received not a single offer of support. That is quite disappointing and also makes it very difficult to plan for a safe & successful event.

The Parish Council had spent considerable time trying to organise the event. Planning for the event started well before Christmas 2015 – we had come up with a great plan to run an event (primarily a light show event) to ensure that it would be an event just for Rooksdown residents and had invested a lot of time to ensure the personal safety of all that came.

The Parish Council knows that this was a huge disappointment to residents but would like to thank residents for their continued support.

Precept

The parish council are conscious of trying to be as cost effective as possible in our November & January meetings we considered the budget for 2017 / 2018 and it was resolved that the Parish Council would construct the budget in such a way as to achieve a zero increase for the residents. A number of us met a couple of times over a number of weekends mainly to work on the budget – a budget that better & more accurately reflected the projected spend to be undertaken by the Parish Council over the next year & actually projecting to the next 3 years. We have also built in a plan to allocate Parish Council reserves.

From a precept perspective – the precept which is paid by all households – paid along with their council tax – it covers the costs of the Parish Council. In January the Parish Council resolved to maintain the precept the same for Rooksdown households as in the previous financial year i.e. for households to pay the same amount as in 2016/17.

GRANTS

Rooksdown Parish Council has a budget for the award of grants. The Parish Council can only award grants for specific activities or projects which will be of benefit to Rooksdown and its residents e.g. grants to a sport club or towards community celebrations of special events

You can review the website for further details ... and please do. All applications must be accompanied by appropriate accounts or supporting financial information. Forms and the supporting information must be sent to the Parish Council via the Clerk.

In 2016/17 Rooksdown Parish Council awarded the following grants –

GRANTS PAID IN 2016 / 2017



Rooksdown Community Association /
Rooksdown Youth

£2,500 £2,106



It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would, under its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, grant £2,500 from Rooksdown Community Association for Youth work.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would, under its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, grant £2,106 for 1 year from Rooksdown Community Association for Youth work with payment withheld until July 2016..

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council under its Powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 would grant Rooksdown Youth Football club up to £3,300.

GRANTS PAID IN 2016 / 2017

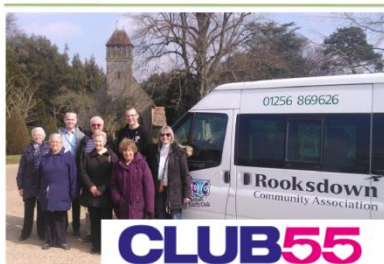


Rooksdown Football Club

£3,300



GRANTS PAID IN 2016 / 2017



£990



It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council under its Powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 would grant Rooksdown Over 55s Club a payment of £990

GRANTS FOR DIFFERENT AGE PERSPECTIVES TO THE BENEFIT OF RESIDENTS IN ROOKSDOWN

Priorities for 2017/2018 in no particular order

- *Manydown feedback*
- *David Wilson Homes development regular liaison meetings*
- *Other building development of old golf course – liaison meetings*
- *Bovis Homes – liaison meetings*
- *Trumpet Junction – liaison meetings*
- *Taylor Wimpey – adoption of the ‘Southern Area’*
- *Allotments*
- *Open Green Spaces*
- *LIF funding*
- *Skate Park*
- *Car Parks on Peggs Way*
- *Barn*
- *Shops*
- *Parking*
- *Handyman*
- *SpeedWatch*
- *No left turn at Dinwoodie Drive*
- *Volunteers*
- *Planning Applications*
- *Community Payback*

I just wanted to finish by saying a massive thank you to the Parish Council members – those here tonight and those who have been Parish Councillors in the past They all contribute (and have all contributed) to making Rooksdown a brilliant place to live and give freely of their time.

If you think you might like to consider becoming a Parish Councillor, which does not take up a great deal of your time and is a very worthwhile & rewarding community service, and you would like to know more about what is involved or any other information, then please speak to me or any of the Parish Councillors at the end of this session.

From time to time there are vacancies for the role of Parish Councillor on the Rooksdown Parish Council These vacancies are advertised on both the Parish Council noticeboards and the Parish Council Website.

I hope you have enjoyed this evening?

I hope you have learnt about what the Parish Council has done for the benefit of all its residents over the last 12 months and you can see what the priorities of the next 12 months are ...

Are there any questions?

Many thanks for coming tonight and giving up your evening to spend here.

PAUL MAHONEY

24.4.17

APPENDIX B

Report from Stephen Reid for Rooksdown Parish Council April 2017

As an exercise, and to help compile this annual report, I went back to the one I delivered a year ago.

Wellington Terrace

The traffic order that I predicted last year has not yet been made. Apparently there were a lot of objections and they have to be addressed. I fear that road plans for Manydown will supersede this initiative now.

Traffic calming / Lodge Junction / The Avenue

The Lodge junction works were completed this year followed by the junction changes to manage traffic in and out of the hospital.

We observe people flouting the new disciplines but I believe they have served to reduce traffic through Rooksdown, as should ...

20 mph limits

... the new 20 mph limits that have been put in place. Again, some drivers are flouting the new disciplines, but if enough people obey them, the effect will be positive overall.

Aldermaston Road Triangle

The planning application had been submitted this time last year. Work has started in earnest now.

Rooksdown School

This time last year I reported that the case for two-form entry had been agreed from September. I am waiting to see plans for the proposed extension (target completion summer 2019).

And we must not forget the drop-off point – there are those who hope we will, I fear!

Road Adoptions

It took a lot of pressure but the core area roads were adopted this year. This opened the way to the speed restrictions and resolution of niggling problems.

Superfast Broadband

Following the upgrades to cabinets, many more Rooksdown residents have access to superfast broadband (or basic requirements in 2017).

Build quality

This continues to be an issue in Rooksdown. Cllr Bound and I have continued to meet with residents, some of whom have (in my opinion) been treated appallingly.

Councillor grants

I have been pleased to contribute some of Councillor Grant to Rooksdown good causes, including the local football club who were also supported by the Parish Council, and the Youth Club.

Parking

Cllr Bound and I have continued scheduled meetings with Paul Bond from the hospital to discuss traffic and parking issues. The hospital is planning new equipment to control the car parks~: no more spaces but hopefully a reduction in people illicitly using staff spaces.

The principle of establishing parking restrictions on Rooksdown's roads has been agreed: such restrictions will defend the rights of residents to park but make it potentially expensive for non-residents to leave their cars all day outside someone else's property.

Doctors' Surgery

This time last year the building of the new surgery had stalled. Cllr Bound, residents and I attended a '3-year anniversary celebration' at which we held up a cake with a big '3' on it. Whether the resultant press coverage had the desired effect or whether it would have happened anyway, work started on the new surgery and it is due to open next month.

New Hospital

A joint review has been set up between the hospital trust and the CCGs regarding the proposed Critical Treatment Hospital. As it is taking a long time to report, I hope that the matter is being seriously considered.

I make the point that Fire Service wanted a new Fire Station and they're getting it, The Police wanted a new Police Station and they've just opened it. We could have a new hospital: the only people stopping it are employed by the NHS.

Old Hall

Cllr Bound can give more detail on the Old Hall conversion. Suffice to say (from me) that the plans are now to use the Old Hall for residential and the Barn for community.

Secondary School

An issue that arose this year was the proposed amalgamation of teaching Fort Hill and Cranbourne pupils on the Cranbourne site. This aroused significant public interest.

The issue was precipitated when it was learnt that only 39 out of 220 potential pupils had been registered with Fort Hill for next September. In effect, parents had voted with their children's feet.

The Parish Council organised a discussion, which I observed and found informative. The decision was subsequently made to proceed with the amalgamation.

Looking forward, I think this must have knock-on effects regarding the timing of the proposed secondary school on Manydown.

David Wilson Homes

Building work has started and I note a disappointing degree of soiling on Rooksdown's roads. I hope that DWH will live up to their consultation promises of being a good neighbour.

Manydown

I have registered detailed objections to the Manydown planning application, identifying areas where I believe improvements could be made. These include the junction of the Manydown spine road with the A339 (I favour the double-T-junction approach). I also have misgivings about the failure to consider a western by-pass and the absence of guidance regarding the location of a potential site for travellers.

The Year Ahead

At the coming County Council elections I am standing again but in the Basingstoke South West division, where I live. That means this is my last meeting as your County Councillor after twelve years, and I am sad about that.

I admire the work of the Parish Council: I have witnessed you sort many problems. You have made a real difference in an area of rapid development where there have been many legacy issues. I thank you for your unfailing courtesy in welcoming me to your meetings and I wish you (and my successor) the very best.

Stephen Reid, April 2017

Appendix C

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL							
ANNUAL RETURN: Year ending 31st MARCH 2017							
(Figures shown net of VAT)							
Prev Yr						% diff	£ diff
£	Box No.	RECEIPTS				on prev yr	on prev yr
27,330.00	2	Precept			27,330	100%	0.00
26.18		Bank Interest			29		
5,595.42		Other receipts			4,108		
5,621.60	3	Total other receipts			4,137	74%	-1,484.64
12,191.26		Net Salaries & Allowances (inc. Chairman's)			10,348		
428.99		HCC - Pension Contributions			168		
20.08		Administration/Clerk's Expenses			214		
12,640.33	4	Staff costs			10,729.75	85%	-1,910.58
325.00		Audit Fees			465		
125.00		Training			365		
700.50		Hall Hire			204		
1,096.41		Subscriptions			1,289		
		Publications			-		
487.34		Insurance			522		
2,673.95		Administration			952		
64.25		Repairs & Maintenance			80		
3,245.00		Grants & Donations			-		
900.00		Section 137 Payments			6,373		
		Other A			-		
		Other B			-		
5,231.10		Misc			425		
888.63		VAT on payments			555		
15,737.18	6	Total Other Payments			11,229.09	71%	-4,508.09
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY							
49,824.11		Balance brought forward 1/4/2016			54,398		
32,951.60		Add Total Receipts (as above)			31,467		
28,377.23		Less Total Payments (as above)			21,959		
54,398.48	8	Balance carried forward 31/3/2017			63,907	117%	9,508.12
Significant Variances (differences of over 15%)							
(Detail here reasons for variances under appropriate headings)							
Box 3		Total other receipts down around £1,000 (25%) due to drop in VAT refund as less money has been spent					
Box 4		Down by approximately £1,900 as although Clerk is working more hours than previously, the year before included a period where two Clerks were employed for training and handover purposes					
Box 6		Previous year included one off payment of £1,400 to staff member, as well as almost £300 in legal fees, £500 in consultancy fees to HALC and the purchase of a road speed indicator at £2,249 + VAT					
Box 8		Although total receipts were down, spending dropped more significantly following a number of significant, one off, items in the year 2015/16, and not holding the annual fireworks event					

RFO report (RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER)

The RFO is required to report on the last audited figures as presented by the Council. The last audit of the Council covered the accounts for the year ending March 31st 2016.

As part of the audit process, any significant changes from year to year have to be explained.

The Precept was raised for 2015-16 to begin preparing the Council for the increased costs and challenges it will be facing over the coming years, as its responsibilities and the population grow.

Staff costs increased due to the increased hours being worked by the Clerk in comparison to the previous year.

However, other costs decreased as fewer grants were requested from the Council, training costs decreased, and the annual fireworks display did not run

Going forward, the Council is shortly to take on running allotments for the first time, and is looking forward to various projects including the running of the Barn, and I believe the finances are on a sound footing to ensure all of the responsibilities of the Council, plus the new ones being taken on, can be discharged satisfactorily.