

## ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL (RPC) HELD IN THE ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOKSDOWN on 27 January 2020 at 1930

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Paul Mahoney (Chairman)		✓	
Cllr Paul Lovett (Vice-chairman)	✓		
Cllr Tim Botten	✓		
Cllr Pujitha Jasti		✓	
Cllr Scott Mason	✓		
Cllr Norman Morris	✓		
Cllr Jon Payne	✓		
Cllr Doug How	✓		
Cllr Dan Harris		✓	

**Clerk:**

Martin Whittaker

**In attendance:**

Alex Whitfield, Chief Executive, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Elliot Nichols, Associate Director of Communications and Engagement, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Simon Bound, Borough Councillor and Manager of Rooksdown Community Association (RCA)  
9 members of the public.

**Action**

**20/1 To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Jasti (illness), Mahoney (holiday) and Harris (work commitments). In Cllr Mahoney's absence Cllr Lovett chaired the meeting.

**20/2 To receive and note any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation for items to be discussed**

None.

**20/3 To approve the minutes of the Rooksdown Parish Council meeting of 25 November**

The motion being proposed by Cllr Botten, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes.

**20/4 To discuss matters arising from the minutes**

All complete except:

- 18/182, 18/214, 19/169 Apply to BDBC for bus shelters – on agenda.
- 19/90 skatepark cleaning equipment – Clerk/Payne/Harris
  - Cllr Bound stated that he was still waiting to hear from the appropriate Director at BDBC and expects a response by the end of the week.
- 19/151 LIF fencing update – Clerk/Payne - on agenda.
- 19/152 car parks – Clerk
  - The Clerk stated that the transfer documents were currently in the hands of Homes England's solicitors.
- 19/173 Local Electricity Bill – Harris – carried over to next meeting.
- 19/176 Comment on BDBC budget Clerk/Mahoney – no comment made.

20/5 **To invite members of the public to address the meeting (up to 15 minutes in total)**

The following points were made:

- A number of commercial vehicles were being parked in the estate. Could anything be done about them?
- A parked car without tax or MoT had been reported but nothing had been done.

On invitation from the Chairman, Cllr Bound answered:

- The parking of commercial vehicles was in breach of the covenant signed by each householder (or landlord). Anybody could take civil action against the offender but the parish council could not intervene and target an individual.
- The car in question is on an unadopted road and therefore is the responsibility of the landowner - in most cases the developer – who should be contacted.

20/6 **To hear from Alex Whitfield - Chief Executive, and Elliot Nichols - Associate Director of Communications and Engagement, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on hospital parking, litter and related matters**

The Chairman welcomed Alex Whitfield, who made the following points:

**Parking:**

- The hospital was well aware of the parking issues and had hired consultants to suggest solutions. These include:
  - Demolishing the old laundry building to create 90 parking spaces
  - Organising lift shares
  - Encouraging working from home
  - Park and ride
  - Removing parking permits from all those living within half a mile of the site.
  - These measures are all being implemented at the moment.
- A multi-storey car park was also being considered but there were some obstacles:
  - The future of the hospital on this site was uncertain and it may not be wise to make a large investment at this stage
  - External funding would be required
  - It wasn't clear how parking would be accommodated during the build period.
- They were trying to stop inconsiderate parking in Rooksdown using staff communications, but this could not be enforced.

Members then asked parking-related questions and made relevant points:

- Do the efforts to stop inconsiderate parking apply to the Ark and the Candover Suite?
  - Yes.
- There is a broken panel on the south west corner of the lower car park that was being used for access by people parking in Rooksdown. Could this be blocked?
  - Yes, it would be looked into. The Clerk would provide a photograph.
  - (Note that there is a gap further along the fence line that is a designed for access by people walking from Winklebury. This cannot be closed.)
- The No Left and No Right Turns to/from Dunwoodie Drive on The Avenue were being ignored by a large number of vehicles. One of the main groups of offenders appeared to be hospital delivery drivers...
  - The hospital will look at ways of controlling this.
- ...and there have been a number of reports that attendees at The Ark and the Candover Suite were being advised to ignore the restrictions for the quickest way out:
  - The receptionists will be told not to do this.

**Clerk**

- Residents should report illegal parking to Basingstoke Council: if sufficient complaints are received an enforcement officer should be sent to the site.
- Trainee nurses are parking in Pumphouse Way and cutting across to their accommodation rather than parking in The Crescent. Is there sufficient parking on site for them?
  - Will look into it.
- Some of the hospital fencing along The Avenue is rotten and people are parking on grassy areas, making the pavement muddy and slippery. Some temporary barriers have been erected: are there any plans for permanent fencing?
  - Will investigate and report.
- How do residents report bad parking in Rooksdown by hospital staff?
  - Will investigate and report.

### **Litter**

Alex explained that the hospital was now smoke-free in line with NHS policy. Intensive efforts had been made to stop staff smoking but it was impossible to regulate visitors. She appreciated that this had led to litter issues in the Spinney.

Members then pointed out that regular litter picks were done by the Lands Trust and the RPC but it was impossible to clear all the debris. Could the hospital assist by clearing the area at the same time as the hospital grounds?

- Will investigate and report.

### **The Future**

The hospital is on a list of facilities to be replaced. This was scheduled to happen between 2025-30. The plans will be worked up during the next 5 years. Consultation will take place with stakeholders such as RPC.

### **Speeding**

Members asked whether rat-running and speeding by hospital staff could be deterred:

- Staff are told through the usual channels not to rat-run, but this couldn't be enforced.

The Chairman thanked Alex and Elliot for attending the meeting and providing so much useful information. The Clerk was asked to agree specific actions with Elliot.

**Clerk**

20/7

### **To receive reports from:**

1. Chairman of Rooksdown Parish Council – written report was circulated to members and is included as Appendix A to these minutes.
  - Cllr Mason asked if the Chairman could provide an update on speeding issues at the next meeting.
2. Clerk to the Parish Council:
  - The defibrillator had now been installed. When it had been registered with the local ambulance service the Clerk would make appropriate announcements.
  - Election timetable – Rooksdown will be holding parish council elections on May 7. The timetable is:
    - Notice of poll: by 31 March
    - Delivery of nomination papers – by 4pm 8 April
    - Papers will be available from [electoral.services@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@basingstoke.gov.uk) or 01256 845355.
  - Business management meeting – the Chairman (Cllr Mahoney) and the Clerk had agreed to hold council business management meetings before the agenda was issued each month. These would take place normally on the Friday afternoon before the agendas were issued but would be moved according to the Chairman's availability. All councillors were invited to attend and would be kept up to date with the time and location. Because of Cllr Mahoney's

**Mahoney**

absence due to holiday for the first part of February, Cllr Lovett would be holding the next one, provisionally on 17 February at 1900 in the RPC office.

- Website - the Working Group had concluded in December that a commercial site was unnecessarily expensive and that it would be better for the Clerk to convert the existing site from Joomla to WordPress and rebuild it with the "TownPress" theme. The Clerk reported that he had made some progress with this but was finding it more difficult and time consuming than expected. He had also run into technical problems which he was unable to resolve. As a result of this he was no longer convinced that the agreed approach was the most sensible or economic. He requested another meeting of the WG to resolve this. He was asked to arrange this.

Clerk

3. County Councillor - no report.
4. Borough Councillor – Cllr Bound updated members on matters of general interest
5. Rooksdown Community Association (RCA) – a Hawaiian theme had been chosen for Rooksdown Summer Fair on 5 July.
6. Police/PCSO/CSPO – PCSO Ryan Long had reported that there were still a number of thefts from cars in Rooksdown, almost exclusively from unlocked vehicles. Residents should make absolutely sure their cars were locked at night.

## 20/8 To approve payments

The motion being proposed by Cllr Botten, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the payments as follows:

Date	Description	Supplier	Amount
28/12/2019	December pay	M Whittaker	767.18
28/01/2020	January Pay	M Whittaker	767.18
28/01/2020	December pay - balance	M Whittaker	86.77
28/01/2020	January pay - balance	M Whittaker	40.40
28/01/2020	Mileage Aug-Dec 2019	M Whittaker	90.20
28/01/2020	Xmas tree lighting	Gaudete Ltd	360.00
28/01/2020	Victim Support donation	Victim Care Service	100.00
27/11/2019	Phone bill	giffgaff	6.00
27/12/2019	Phone	giffgaff	6.00
25/11/2019	Supplies for meeting	Co-op	4.00
28/01/2020	Advent calendars	RCA (minute 19/155)	300.00
28/01/2020	Mtng room	RCA	18.00
28/01/2020	Office rent	RCA	15.00
28/01/2020	Handyman	RCA	720.00
28/01/2020	Hall hire	RCA	30.00
28/01/2020	Meeting room hire	RCA	18.00
28/01/2020	Office hire	RCA	15.00
28/01/2020	Handyman	RCA	740.00
28/01/2020	Xmas tree - socket and tree	Goslings Garden and Fencing	630.00
28/01/2020	Tax and NI	HMRC - payments	901.77
28/01/2020	Defibrillator	WEL medical	1,590.00
01/02/2020	Office 365 for Clerk	Microsoft	135.36
28/01/2020	Defibrillator installation	ETA Electrical Services	330.00

Cllr Payne was asked to authorise the payments.

## 20/9 To note bank reconciliations

The reconciliations, checked and signed by Cllr How, were duly noted.

## 20/10 Planning applications

1. [Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council \(Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Unloading and Parking Places \(Consolidation\) Order 2018\) \(Amendment No. 14\)](#)(Various Parishes, Basingstoke) Order 2019 - Park Prewett Road/Pumphouse Way, Rooksdown – No waiting at any time (see attached)

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to support the Amendment.

2. [17/00818/OUT | Residential development of approximately 3,200 homes \(up to a maximum of 3,520 homes\)...](#) (Manydown).

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Payne, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to welcome the removal of the No Right Turn into Rooksdown Avenue but confirm the objection to the plans for the Rooksdown Avenue/A339 junction on the following grounds:

- This number of lanes is unnecessary for the traffic flow
- It will take too much land and bring the traffic too close to the housing.

3. [T/00535/19/TPO Fairway House Homefield Way Basingstoke RG24 9SP: G1 - 4 Beech, 2 Pine and 1 Birch: Crown raise and pruning](#)

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to make no comment on this application.

4. [20/00088/LDPO 9 Vespasian Gardens Basingstoke RG24 9SH. Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed conversion of loft to living accommodation with rooflights to the front and rear elevation](#)

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Payne, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to make no comment.

5. Applications not on agenda

Application received between the date of this agenda and the meeting, for which the closing date is before the next meeting, are discussed under this heading.

[20/00133/HSE | Conversion of part of garage to living accommodation | 15 Keble Road Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9XH](#)

The motion being proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to offer no objection on the grounds that there was no net loss of parking from that originally approved.

## 20/11 To provide update on locations for bus shelters – Cllr Lovett

As Cllr Lovett had done most of the research for this item and wished to present conclusions to the members, he asked that another councillor take the chair for this item.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Payne, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr How should chair this item.

Cllr How asked Cllr Lovett to summarise the work so far:

- Having received requests for bus shelters in Rooksdown, members had visited every bus stop location. Not all were found suitable due to space, land ownership, proximity to housing.
- The cost would be ~£4500-7500 per shelter, plus ~£100 per year for maintenance.
- The stops that would appear to benefit most from a shelter were:
  - Darley Court (towards Basingstoke)
  - Park Prewett at Peggs Way (towards Basingstoke )
  - Rooksdown Avenue (southbound) to pick up students going to The Clere school.

- Taking these in turn:
  - Rooksdown Avenue:
    - Would be used once a day only
    - Of the typical 16 people waiting for the school bus, only about 5-8 would be able to use the shelter
    - Because of the falling away of the ground this would be the most expensive at ~£7500
    - It was likely to be removed when the junction was developed for Manydown.
  - Darley House:
    - This is on the same fare stage as the Peggs Way stop and separate usage figures are not available
    - Demand was unknown
    - There was not much space for installation.
  - Peggs Way
    - There was a known requirement here, despite no exact usage figures
    - There was plenty of space.

After further discussion the chairman called for any resulting motions.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Payne, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to install a bus shelter on the north side of Park Prewett Rd at the junction with Peggs Way with a budget of £6000.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Morris, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to investigate provision of a bus stop on Rooksdown Avenue, and in particular:

- The cost of a bigger shelter
- How long it is likely to be before the junction would be redeveloped?
- Whether, if the shelter were to be compromised by the changes, the developers would be willing to move it to a more suitable location and the likely cost.

Clerk

#### 20/12 **LIF fencing update and provisional agreement of sites – Cllr Payne/Clerk**

Cllr Payne summarised the work he and other councillors had done on this item and the conclusions as described in the briefing paper. The total length of fencing required for high, medium and low priority areas was 1574m, compared with the original bid for 1066m. However, Gordon Wade of BDBC had indicated that it may be possible to obtain the full amount within the budget, depending on the type of rail chosen.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to install fencing in the locations and according to the priorities identified in the briefing paper.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to add approximately 40m of fencing to the north of the kickabout area at the end of Nightingale Gardens as priority A.

The Clerk then showed the sample of the type of rail that members had previously indicated they would prefer. The motion being proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to install this type of fencing, subject to it being the cheaper of the two options that had been considered and agreement on installation height.

The Clerk would bring updated costings to the next meeting.

Clerk

#### 20/13 **To receive a budget report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and agree a budget and precept for 2020/21**

The Clerk presented the financial report for the third quarter as per the briefing paper. The finances were broadly within limits, with the exceptions identified.

The Clerk then presented the budget for 2020/21.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the budget as presented.

The budget would require a precept of £33,755. However, holding the Band D council tax figure the same at £18.20 would result in a precept of £33,943.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Morris, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to request BDBC to collect a precept of £33,943 for the financial year 2020/21 on behalf of RPC.

**20/14 To organise delivery of the Rooksdown Reporter**

Cllr Lovett asked for volunteers to deliver copies of the latest Rooksdown Reporter. These were expected later in the week and would be placed on the table in the Meeting Room. All members were asked to deliver as many as they could.

**20/15 To approve grievance and disciplinary policies, revised in the light of advice from the National Association of Local Councils**

Deferred to next meeting.

**20/16 To approve revised councillor co-option application form**

Deferred to next meeting.

**20/17 Review of Xmas arrangements and suggest changes for next Xmas**

Deferred to next meeting.

**20/18 Chairman's correspondence**

The Chairman had received an email from the Chairman of the RCA pointing out that the Main Hall may be ready soon. The RCA and RPC needed to decide how the building would be commissioned and managed.

The Chairman suggested that this should be discussed as a closed item at the next meeting and asked members to prepare to talk about it then. It was then likely that a Working Group would be set up to produce recommendations to a later meeting.

**20/19 Clerk's correspondence**

None.

**20/20 Chairman to close meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2210.

## **Chairman's Report for Rooksdown Parish Council meeting – January 2020**

Welcome back after the Christmas & New Year festivities.

Thanks to Cllr Lovett for agreeing to chair the Parish Council meeting in January whilst I am on holiday, abroad.

### **My action from last Parish Council meeting:**

- 19/176 Consider BDBC budget .... to delegate the Clerk in conjunction with Chairman to comment on the budget proposals as they are likely to affect parish council elections. No comments were made at this stage.
- 19/177 To discuss the content, publication and distribution of the Rooksdown Reporter – See appendix 1

[superseded by published copy]

### **Since the last Parish Council meeting - attended the following meetings:**

- Website Replatforming meeting (Chair, Vice Chair, Cllrs Payne & Botten & Clerk) 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019:
  - To discuss options for Rooksdown Parish Council website.*Clerk will provide a progress update in tonight's meeting*
- RPC Finance Working Group Meeting (Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr How & Clerk) 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019:
  - Precept calculation for next financial year*Clerk's report is circulated as part of the agenda for tonight's meeting.*
- Parish Clerk – End of Year Review & Priorities for 2020 (Chair, Cllr How & Clerk) 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020:
- RPC Management Meeting (Chair, Cllr How & Clerk) 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020:
  - Review of agenda items for the Parish Council meeting
  - Priorities for the next few weeks / month / quarter

*If any Councillor wants to join future meetings, please let Clerk know.*

### **Christmas Tree**

Thanks to the Clerk for making the arrangements for the installation of the Christmas tree & for seeking resident feedback via Social Media.



We have a separate item on the agenda this evening to discuss feedback on Christmas 2020.

### **Christmas & New Year messages**

Posted on Social Media sites over the festive period:





### **Taylor Wimpey**

- After 8 months of regular chasing, Taylor Wimpey have finally had the lights fixed on the walkway adjacent to Sheepwash Court. The effort required to ensure Taylor Wimpey carried out the repair was very disappointing.



- Requested the Avenue to be swept of leaves and mud at the beginning of December, but todate no action has been taken – which is, yet again, disappointing.

### **Lavender Copse / Persimmon homes area**

- Worked with Mark Glendenning (Homes England) to have 4 lamps fixed that had not been working for several months in the Lavender Copse / Persimmon homes area.
- Mark Glendenning has also requested the snag list for the programme of remedial works which will form part of the work required by Hampshire County Council to get the Highway adopted. The timeline for this is hoped to happen in summer 2020 at the same time as remedial works are completed on The Avenue (the road north of the Hospital) and to the roundabout at the top of Pumphouse Way (legacy Taylor Wimpey work).

### **Dinwoodie Drive – Verge / no left turn sign**

- As this road is not yet adopted by HCC, this issue will need to be rectified by Taylor Wimpey.
- Have advised Homes England to deal direct with Taylor Wimpey to ensure a swift resolution to this damaged verge / signage



## News

7th January

## Plans to ban right turns into Rooksdown Lane abolished after residents complaints

By Ryan Evans | @RyanBasGazette

Reporter



Relieved: Residents were concerned about the effects of banning right turns into Rooksdown Lane

**A CONTROVERSIAL plan that could have seen heavy goods vehicles turning down narrow residential streets in Rooksdown has been scrapped.**

Initial plans as part of the **Manydown** housing development would have seen vehicles banned from turning right into Rooksdown Lane from the Newbury-bound A339.

Data analysis by the developers found that there would be an increased safety risk at the junction as a result of the increased traffic flowing on the A339.

This could have resulted in vehicles trying to access Weybrook Golf Club diverted through residential streets such as Gillies Drive, with many locals complaining about the plan.

However, in updated proposals that were submitted last month, developers have scrapped proposals that would have seen this right turn prohibition.

Speaking to the **Gazette**, Councillor Simon Bound, ward member on Basingstoke Council for Rooksdown, said he was pleased that the developers had listened to residents.

"I think it's good news. Everybody thought that the proposals were completely unworkable, there wasn't an alternative given to residents and now we seem to have a sensible way forward.

"From speaking to residents and the parish council, I believe the concerns have now been resolved. It's a positive start to the new year."

Right turns would instead be prohibited from the Basingstoke-bound lane into Ibworth Lane, which eased the concerns after three crashes in five years at the junction because of its design.

**Cllr Paul Mahoney, Chairman of Rooksdown Parish Council**, who held a meeting with the project team to discuss their concerns, said: "We are very grateful to all of those who contacted the Basingstoke planners about the planned no right turn into Rooksdown Lane.

"Of the 215 people who responded to the consultation, 192 were from Rooksdown.

"This has resulted in changes to the junction design to allow traffic to turn right into Rooksdown Lane - just as we all wanted.

"It proves that sustained, sensible pressure from the public can cause changes to happen."

The updated plan says: "Therefore, traffic accessing Rooksdown Lane would not need to route through the local residential roads to the north of the A339, which has been raised as a significant concern by the local Parish Council and local residents."

Many junctions will be improved as part of the project, including the A339/A340 Trumpet roundabout.

*Paul Mahoney – January 2020*