**MINUTES OF THE ROWLANDS CASTLE ASSOCIATION (RCA)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Monday 26th February, 2018 in the Small Parish Hall

**Apologies for absence**

Ben Brittain, Alan Eyres

Present: Committee Members: Fiona Charlesworth (Chair ), Martha Dombey(Treasurer), Sue Leonard (Secretary), Sue Morrison, , Gordon Charlesworth, , Joyce Jacobs, Rodney Duggua, Helen Penfold

 New member June Halford

President: Alan Drinkwater

Guest Speaker: Andrew Callender

Members: 21

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 2017**

These were read by those in attendance and were agreed as a true representation of the meeting. The Minutes were signed by the Chair, Fiona Charlesworth.

**Matters arising**

**None**

**Chairs report**

**RCA Chairman’s Report**

The aims of the RCA are: to conserve the character of Rowlands Castle, to provide a channel of communication on matters of local interest and to enhance the life of the village.

**Our first aim - to conserve the character of Rowlands Castle**

The RCA fully supports the Neighbourhood Plan initiative                                                           Having a Neighbourhood Plan in place for Rowlands Castle will ensure that improvements to the village can be implemented, with housing located in places that villagers consider appropriate and the character of Rowlands Castle can be preserved.

The RCA was involved in the nationwide Great British Spring Clean in Rowlands Castle and Finchdean last March. A number of villagers helped pick up large amounts of litter around Rowlands Castle and Finchdean. We will be organising another litter pick this year 2-4 March. We hope to implement a monthly litter pick after that.

The RCA have successfully supported Markwells Wood Watch by providing man power and finance to prevent UKOG drilling for oil in the South Downs National Park.

**Our second aim is to provide a channel of communication on matters of local interest**

We have continued to publish the Village Magazine under Kevin Connell’s editorship. Thank you Kevin for all your hard work providing us with such an excellent magazine over the years. Kevin has recently resigned from this roIe and we’re delighted to accept Kelvin Schafli as our new editor. Kelvin is a professional in this field and is putting forward a number of ideas for the magazine. We would like to thank the army of deliverers, without whom we would not get our magazine, organised by Gordon Charlesworth. Thank you also to Prue Amner who manages all the magazine advertisements.

We also have an RCA noticeboard outside the Londis shop, which advertises village events as well as RCA information, which all are welcome to use.  Please give notices to Sue Leonard or myself to put up.

My thanks to our webmaster, Gillian Lovegrove, who does a first rate job of managing the Rowlandscastle.com website and the Grapevine email list.  Grapevine is run on behalf of the Village by the RCA, for everyone to use. It is moderated by Martha Dombey.

The grapevine is continuing to grow and currently has over 400subscribers, which means about one-third of the homes in the Village are now reached by Grapevine messages.

**Our third aim is to enhance the life of the village.**

We enhance the life of the village through the events we organise.

**May Day Picnic on The Green:-**

This is held on the Monday bank holiday at the beginning of May to raise money for Rowan’s Hospice. (7th May this year)Everyone is invited to bring a picnic (or buy from our BBQ)Blendworth Brass Band entertain us with their music, Evolution twirlers, Jan Halliwell organises the interesting display of vintage cars and Pat Carter and Rita Sandy sell plants. Tea on the Green café sell drinks and cakes. Many thanks to all who donated to the Rowans Hospice during the picnic, enabling us to give Rowans £ £1000

**Fireworks:-**

For many years we have run the bonfire and fireworks display in November. I would like to thank all who make it possible, including Selstar for the fireworks, Bill Burnett for the fairground attractions, the Scouts and Guides for refreshments, St JohnsAmbulance and the Police for keeping us safe. I’d also like to thank all the village volunteers who get up early to clear up the morning after to make the pitches safe for the footballers. This year everyone was very keen to do this as Julia Maile kindly brought cakes and hot drinks.

The fireworks night was again a great success last November with a fantastic display from Selstar watched by a record crowd.This was the second year without a bonfire and had our highest support ever!

**Children’s Christmas party**

We organise the children’s Christmas party each year. Many thanks to Anita King, who kindly arranges the party. Many thanks also to Jon Arnold for his appearance as Santa and Koko King for being such a lovely helper to Santa.

**RCA Quiz:-**For the last few years we have had a quiz night, which is now a regular part of the RCA calendar. Many thanks to Sue Connell for setting such excellent questions, KevinConnell for marking and Dave Richardson for acting as a superb quiz master. This year, we donated our quiz profit to the Scouts to help with major repair work of their Scout hut.

**Supporting other village groups**

We also enhance the life of the village by supporting village groups and making donations.

This year we have:-

❖Paid £479 for the Children’s Christmas Party

❖Donated £500 to Markwells Wood

❖Donated £250 to Castle United football Club for football kit.

❖Donated £1000 to Rowans Hospice

❖Donated £1000 to the URC Church

❖Donated £625 to St Johns School table tennis tables

❖Donated £177 towards St Johns School BBQ

❖Donated £1000 to Compton School

❖Donated £3000 to repair the Scout and Guide hut

❖Donated £2000 to repair St Huberts Church

❖Donated £1738.80 to buy a blood pressure monitor for Rowlands Castle surgery waiting room

**Closing remarks**

I’m happy to report that the RCA is in good shape both financially and in terms of the very able people who are currently running the Association on behalf of all of us. We would like to thank our President Alan Drinkwater and Vice President Alan Eyers for all their support throughout the year.

We have welcomed June Halford and Ben Brittain as new committee members during the year. We always need new members if you would like to join us.

**Treasurer’s report**

The RCA financial year ended on 31st December 2017

The accounts were audited by Mrs L White

Receipts for the year £17,383.81

Payments for the year £20,379.73

The Bank Account stood at £18,058.06 on 05.01.18

Cash in Hand £100

Suggestion made to list donations on the back of the accounts.

**Confirmation of President and Vice President**

The RCA Committee unanimously confirmed Alan Drinkwater as President and Alan Eyers as Vice President.

Alan Drinkwater has been President since 1999. Alan commented that he and Alan are free to attend committee meetings and they do. Committee members have a term of 3 years and if they stand for officer during this they will stay on the committee for another 3 years.The RCA has expanded its portfolio of events such as Quiz night, May Day picnic, litter-pick and a big achievement the spin off U3A . Progress has been made along the road. Alan thanked the committee for their work.

Alan thanked Deborah Richards and Geoff Jacobs who have stood down this year for their work on the committee.

**Election of officers**

This part of the AGM was also presented by Alan Drinkwater and the election went as follows:

Chair – Fiona Charlesworth voted as Chair, unanimous

Treasurer – Martha Dombey voted as Treasurer, unanimous

Secretary – Sue Leonard voted as Secretary, unanimous

 **Election of committee**

The remaining Committee members were announced by Alan Drinkwater, all of whom were also voted in unanimously –Sue Morrison, Joyce Jacobs, Helen Penfold, Gordon Charlesworth and Rodney Duggua.

June Halford and Ben Britain were voted in as new committee members. Kelvin Schafli will be the new Editor, and Gillian Lovegrove will continue as Webmaster.

Fiona Charlesworth closed this part of the proceedings and thanked Alan for his presentation.

 **Any other business**

**Chris Stanley asked if the RCA could make a short submission to emphasise Rowlands Castle identity re the East Hants District Boundary Review. This needs to be by the end of Monday 5th March .**

**Magazine needs articles by 18th March. Kelvin will advertise on Grapevine.**

Fiona Charlesworth introduced Andrew Callender who spoke about St Hubert’s Church, Idsworth. During his informative presentation Andrew thanked the RCA for their donations some of which is going towards pew cushions which will make sitting more comfortable during the many fundraising events.

Fiona thanked Andrew Callender for his very interesting talk on St Hubert’s Church, Idsworth.

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The meeting closed at 7.50 pm and was followed by nibbles and drinks.