

## ROWLAND'S CASTLE ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM IN THE PARISH HALL

**ATTENDEES:** Total 30

**Committee:** Chris Stinton (Chair), Caroline Hadley (Treasurer), Pete Rhymes (Vice Chair), Dave King (Committee member), Debbie Carpenter (Committee member), Seth Carpenter (Committee member), Martha Dombey (Committee member) Alan Evers (President).

**Residents:** Total 22

**Apologies:** Andrew Calender

**Minutes of previous AGM minutes:** These were available to read on the Tables before the meeting Approved and signed by the Chair.

**Any matters Arising:** None

**Chairman's Report:** Chris Stinton full report

Good-evening everybody, Thank-you for coming to support your Rowlands Castle Association AGM. The Association has been in existence for nearly fifty-four years. It's principal aims, "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" hold just as true today as they did when the Association was first formed. Our recently revamped website, our Facebook page, the Grapevine and the thrice yearly "Village and Valley" magazine all provide those channels of communication and the various events your Committee organises or supports over the course of the year are designed not only to enhance the life of the village but also to raise funds to support local voluntary organisations and causes.

Our current Committee numbers are slightly better than the previous year; seven rather than five, and in addition we are fortunate in our ex-officio members, our magazine editor Kitty Caruthers, our Webmaster Mark Dombey and our magazine delivery co-ordinator Emily Olson, who all fill essential roles. Nevertheless, with such a small team we do struggle to organise and manage events effectively and have found it increasingly difficult to recruit sufficient

volunteers to assist us with particular events. Finding 22 Stewards for the Fireworks this year was a case in point.

As a result, when we now solicit bids from other local groups for grants from the funds we raise we do now ask them when applying to commit to assisting us with particular events like the May Day Picnic, the Quiz Evening or the Fireworks. We hope that that will go some way towards meeting our need for volunteers for the staging of events but will not necessarily help in the planning or organisation of them. For that we really need more full Committee members or individuals prepared to serve on sub-committees tasked with organising particular events. Our Secretary will be addressing this matter in the next item on the agenda "Recruitment Drive".

Despite these concerns I believe we have had a very successful series of events over the past year. The traditional May Day Picnic, held on the 5th May on the Green, was blessed this year by fine weather and the Blendworth Brass Band, the Burnetts fairground rides, the vintage cars display, the "Wartime Cake" competition and, in the absence of the Scouts who were unavailable this year, the barbecued beef burgers and hotdogs prepared by the Committee, all contributed to a memorable and well attended event whilst also raising £1,030.00 for Rowans. On the 5th July we had a stall at the Village Fair to publicise what we do and on the 6th September Dave King organised an RCA litter pick throughout the village and 34 volunteers, including couples with their children and twelve staff and clients from Physio-Logical, collected over 25 sacks of litter. We have now purchased an additional 15 litter pickers and 10 bag rings to supplement those we already have and plan to organise another litter pick in March. The date and arrangements will be publicised on Grapevine shortly.

Our ever-popular Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper took place on Saturday 20th September; this year raising money for the Rowlands Castle Junior Footballers who provided two of the ten teams that took part, gave a brief presentation about their club and also

helped with the event by selling Raffle tickets. Just under £1,120.00 was raised for the group and we all had a wonderful time.

The Firework event in the Recreation Ground was held on Saturday 1st November. A full account of this event can be found in the Autumn /Winter 2025 "Village and Valley" magazine.

Whilst attendance was down somewhat over the previous year, unsurprising in view of the inclement weather prior to and on the day itself, nearly 1,750 people attended including 600 children and over 50 infants. We were fortunate that towards the evening the rain stopped and the wind dropped, allowing us all to fully enjoy the marvellous firework display and the other attractions, including the Scouts-run barbecue and the Burnetts fairground attractions. Our particular thanks go to Pete Rhymes our Event Manager, whose meticulous preparation so contributed to the success of this event, to Alpha Security, our volunteer stewards and all those who helped prepare the site or clear up after the event.

Finally, for the third successive year we contributed to the St John's Church "Carols on the Green" event on Sunday 21st December by sponsoring a group of Blendworth Brass Band musicians to accompany the carols, erecting two Gazebos to shelter both the musicians and the newly created Community Choir and publicising the event on the Grapevine. There was a splendid turnout and the event provided an

admirable opportunity for our Community to come together to celebrate Christmas.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Committee members, Peter Rhymes, Debbie Carpenter, Caroline Hadley, Martha Dombey, Dave King and Seth Carpenter for working so tirelessly over the past year to ensure that all these events were able to continue so successfully, I must also thank Kitty Caruthers, Mark Dombey and Emily Olson for their sterling efforts for the RCA and to all the volunteers who enable the various activities to go ahead.

Caroline Hadley, who joined the RCA Committee some seven years ago and who during that

time has served two years as Chair and two years as Treasurer has indicated a wish to retire from the Committee after presenting her final Treasurers Report this-evening. We will miss her and are very grateful for all that she has done for the RCA over those years.

We are very fortunate that Lorraine Moriarty, who many of you know and who has audited our accounts for several years, has agreed to take over the role of Treasurer forthwith. I am pleased to announce also that the remainder of the Committee are willing, with your endorsement in due course, to continue to serve in their present capacities.

That concludes my report.

### **Treasurer's Report:** Caroline Hadley's

Hi everyone. Before I go into my report, if you would like a copy of the end of year financials and do not have a copy, please email [treasurer@Rowlandscastle.com](mailto:treasurer@Rowlandscastle.com). I would also like to make you aware that all the numbers on the slides have been rounded up or down to the nearest £100.

I am going to start with some headline figures to highlight the success the committee have had over 2025 and then go through a breakdown of financials for the main activities of the RCA.

Firstly the most important numbers....The RCA donated just under £4,600 to great causes in and around Rowlands Castle.

This works out at just under 3 times more than what was donated in 2024.

Just over half of the donation amount was given to a mix of the following good causes:  
1st responders, Scouts, Sailing Therapy, The Historical & Heritage Society, St Hubert's Poppy Appeal

These donations were all off the back of a successful and dry fireworks display back in 2024. The remaining donations were made from the various events throughout the year. More details to come.

Next is Expenditure. The RCA spent just over £13,800 to do all that it does, putting on the fantastic events, production of the Village and Valley and Communications around the village.

This is an increase of only 5% on 2024 which is in line with the Services inflation for the UK in 2025 (5.8%). There were some unexpected expenditures for this year such as £734 spent on repairing the notice board outside the Londis after a car crashed into it and Londis. These costs were later repaid by insurers.

Income totalled just over £23,100 for 2025

This was a 2% increase on 2024.

Here is a breakdown of the income and expenditure of the main actives for the RCA. Starting with the Magazine. The costs come in at £3,900 and advert revenue is at £5,400. At first glance it looks like £1,500 has been made on the magazine. This is not the case, the magazine financials span 2 financial years with some adverts paid in full for 3 issues in the summer, with the third issue to come out this spring. Indications are that the magazine is on target to cover its costs for this cycle of issues.

The costs for the RCA came in around £1,600. These are costs that enable the RCA to put on its events and provide communications for the village. This includes the initial expenditure for the notice board and things like insurance, website hosting and a stall at the village fair. The income of £900 includes the insurance pay out and a donation for using the RCA's marquee and a few pounds made at the village fair stall.

Next, the RCA's biggest event of the year, the fireworks. Expenditure came in around £6,600 with income coming in at around £12,700. The Income is a mix of taking from ticket sales and donations from the stalls. The success of the 2025 event is enabling the RCA to donate yet again in 2026 to worthy causes around the village.

Mayday picnic, This year the RCA committee manned the BBQ and with donations from other food stalls, raised £1,200. The cost of providing the BBQ came out at £500, enabling a total donation of £800 to be made to Rowans and the Blendworth Brass Band.

Finally the Quiz, the main expenditure for the quiz was the fish and chips coming in at £500 with total expenditure coming in around £700. Income is from a 50/50 split of ticket sales and raffle tickets. As before we had a designated charity for the event who received the total donation of just over £1,100. So all in all a successful year financially for the RCA.

## 6. Election of Officers

<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>		
<i>Chair: Chris Stinton</i>	<i>Martha Dombey</i>	<i>Pete Rhymes</i>	
<i>Vice Chair: Pete Rhymes</i>	<i>Debbie Carpenter</i>	<i>Seth Carpenter</i>	
<i>Secretary: Debbie Carpenter</i>	<i>Martha Dombey</i>	<i>Seth Carpenter</i>	
<i>Ads Coordinator: Pete Thymes</i>	<i>Chris Stinton</i>	<i>Dave King</i>	
<i>Treasurer: Lorraine Moriarty</i>	<i>Caroline Hadley</i>	<i>Marth Dombey</i>	
<i>Social Media/Grapevine:</i>	<i>Martha Dombey &amp; Debbie Carpenter</i>	<i>Dave King</i>	<i>Caroline Hadley</i>
<i>Committee: Dave King</i>	<i>Chris Stinton</i>	<i>Caroline Hadley</i>	
	<i>Seth Carpenter</i>	<i>Caroline Hadley</i>	<i>Pete Rhymes</i>
<i>Editor: Kitty Carruthers</i>			
<i>Webmaster: Mark Dombey</i>			

All Approved

Alan Eyer thanked the RCA committee for all their hard work

### AOB:

The RCA welcomes any comments and volunteers at any of the events we organise so please let us know if you are interested. May Day Picnic, RCA Quiz Night, Fireworks Night, supporting the Carols on the Green, Annual AGM, Village and Valley Magazine, Village Grapevine. Rowlands Castle Website and Rowlands Castle Facebook page.

**The meeting ended at 8pm.**

Thanks to Martha Dombey for the refreshments - excellent blinis made by Martha which were enjoyed along with wine.