

**ROUSDON OWNERS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015**

Held at Peek Hall on Sunday, 28 June 2015 at 11am

Present: 36 Members of the Association as identified in the attendance record.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Members were welcomed by Neale Moss (NM), Chairman. Apologies for absence were received from Taylor Downing, Anne Fleming, Mary Blick, John and Ann Broome, Barry and Teresa Gilbey, Andrew Cook, Glenys and Graham O'Neill, Judith Ellard, Warwick Bergin, Michael Stride, Stuart and Susan Bosley, Adrienne Russell, John and Margaret Lloyd, Linda Williams.

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved by the meeting.

3. Introduction to the 2015-16 Committee

NM introduced the new Committee and their roles: NM – Chair, Roy Jones (RJ) – Vice-Chair, Josephine Cook (JC) – Secretary & Assistant Treasurer, Sylvia Stride (SS) – Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Nick Vaincourt-Strallen (NV-S) – Estate Matters and Liaison with Allhallows Ltd, Tony Cox (TC) & Glynis Preshaw (GP) & Ann Fleming (AF) – Environmental Issues, Mary Hansell (MH) - Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch.

The meeting also recorded a vote of thanks to Mary Hansell who had stepped down as Secretary for all her support over the years.

4. Officer's Reports

(i) Chair's Report. Since the last AGM, the transfer of the management of the Estate to Allhallows Ltd had been completed and we were all now in charge of our own destiny. Thanks to Judith, Barry and Robin for a smooth transition and for the progress being made with estate matters. Thanks were also due to Mary Hansell for her commitment to ensuring that the Estate water/sewage system was maintained and to Mike Hughes for all his work with the trees and woodland areas of the Estate. The new Allhallows website and the accounting system was making life easier for us all thanks to Warwick. The previous evening's ROAR Barbecue had been a terrific success and residents were very grateful to Warwick and Judith for making available the lakeside venue. A notable success during the year had been Roy's book on WW1 and the 4 August Commemoration day which had been attended by Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of General Staff and an Allhallows Boy. Roy's book had raised over £1000 for the British Legion.

(ii) Treasurer's Report. SS circulated copies of the 2015 ROAR accounts and 100 Club Accounts. The ROAR profit for the year amounted to £251.22 which included a £13 interest payment from RJ for the WW1 book after repaying the loan of £500 and a profit from the skittles evening following the cancellation. Expenditure included Christmas presents for the maintenance team, payment to Taylor Downing for the Rousdoner and flowers for residents who had been ill. The 100 Club continued to prosper with £2472 subscribed in membership tickets for the year. The Tree Plan had benefited to the tune of £173.50 and members indicated that they were content for funds from the 100 Club to be used for the Tree Plan. In response to a query from Mike Hughes, it was confirmed that the £90 admin noted in the ROAR accounts covered posters, laminates, circulars etc costs incurred by Jan Jones for the social/neighbourhood tasks.

(iii) Estate Matters. NV-S reported that prior to the transfer of the Estate Management a number of issues remained unaddressed. On 11 November 2014 NV-S had emailed Allhallows about these outstanding items and by 13 November 2014 had received a response detailing a timetable for action. Only two items remained outstanding and these were the gravelling of The Gardens which would not take place until the building work on no 7 was completed and the repointing of the Bridlepath flint wall which was being undertaken when funding was available. This November repairs to the top of the beachpath would be undertaken. No further requests for maintenance had been received.

(iv) The Environment. GP reported that she was working closely with Mike Hughes on the Tree Plan. Safety concerns involving dangerous, dead or dying trees have been addressed in liaison with the Council. The Estate now had a chipper which had enabled the felled trees to be used to reline the Estate paths. There have been two successful "laurel attacks" and rhododendron and laurel clearance in the platoon of trees on the main drive. On 25 July at 10am there would be a sycamore seedling and laurel removal on Lovers Walk West and volunteers to assist with this task would be most welcome. More tree stewards were also needed to help with surveying trees on the estate against the tree plans for future care and maintenance. In keeping with the tree plan, a number of Monterey pine seedlings have been planted near the Pavilion and more was planned from October/November using the tree money from the 100 Club. Everyone who had contributed so far was thanked for all their help and assistance which reflected in the amount of work already carried out.

TC reported on the beach clean up last year which had been very successful. The collected rubbish had been picked up by the harbourmaster and taken to landfill at no cost to the estate. This year a beach clean up would take place during the week 11 July to 18 July. Black bags would be made available at specific points along the beach but volunteers were asked to also bring their own. This event would coincide with Lifeboat week – the harbourmaster used the visit to Charton Beach as part of their exercises. TC informed the meeting that Nick Collier had reported sickness in the cattle using the field on the left of the main drive. St John's Wort was suspected and TC planned to inspect the edges of the field for any signs of the plant. Volunteers were requested to help with this task and a photograph of the suspect plant would be made available on the Allhallows website and on the estate noticeboard (**action Jan Jones**). Any sightings should be reported to TC, or Nick and Anne Collier. It was also reported that adders had been spotted on the estate beach path and care should be taken.

(v) Social Activities. Jan Jones reported (attached) on the barbecue the previous evening and thanked Judith and Warwick for the use of the venue and Nick and Anne Collier for all their support and everyone else who contributed to making the event so successful. It was acknowledged that there had been a problem with serving and a review would take place to improve this for next year. Sadly there had been one emergency and an ambulance had attended. A card was being sent to the resident. Last year's Xmas meal had been attended by 28 people at the Dower House and this year the event would take place on 12 December. The carol concert had also gone very well although the presence of more children would be very welcome. Thanks were expressed to Per and Ulla Britt for the venue and to Patrick for the music which helped make the evening so special. Thanks were also expressed to Christine for making available her kitchen. Coffee mornings at the village bakery were increasingly attractive to residents and villagers. There had been two coffee mornings at Dower House but attendance had been varied. Feedback on all of these events and how they might be improved would be welcome. A Ladies Lunchclub had been started by Jane Healey and around 20 had attended the first session in Sidmouth.

(vi) The Rousdoner. Taylor Downing had sent his apologies and sent the meeting a report (attached). This year features had included the Coast watch, History of the Estate, the Great War Commemoration and the Birds and Flowers supplement. The photo competition was being extended until 15 July and young people were encouraged to take part. A vote of thanks was recorded by the meeting for Taylor's continued contribution and commitment. He had requested that anyone interested in acting as guest editor should contact him for more information. Thanks were recorded to those who had contributed articles in the past. New contributors were always welcome. It was confirmed that the advertising covered the costs of publication

(vii) Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch. A report from Mary Hansell (attached) was read. There had been no crime on the estate in the last year and only 4 crimes reported in Rousdon and Combyne. PC Steve Speariett, our neighbourhood beat manager, had just retired and would be sorely missed. A vote of thanks was recorded for Steve's contribution to the neighbourhood and to wish him well in his retirement. We await news about his replacement.

The speedwatch was now 5 years old and in that time over 360 warning letters had been sent to errant motorists - in some instances speeds of over 50mph had been recorded. New members were always welcome and anyone interested should approach Mary Hansell, Roy Jones, Graham Jones, Robert Astin, Josephine Cook or Linda Rose.

5 Any Other Business.

- (1) Mike Hansell reported that the quiz evening in support of Devon Air Ambulance would take place on Easter Saturday. Last year's event had raised £800. He also encouraged participation in the Rousdon Produce Show taking place on 22 August.
- (2) There was also a discussion about keeping the area designated for grass cuttings etc tidy. Cuttings were overflowing outside of the bin areas which should be filled from the back not the front. New signs would be put in place.
- (3) Alex Preshaw informed the meeting that the path to the west side of the Walled Garden would be tidied and tarmaced in the next 2-3 weeks. Residents were asked to avoid walking on the wet tarmac. The meeting was also advised of a party in the Walled Garden on 1 August and apologies for any inconvenience this might cause residents. The meeting was also reminded that there was no right of way at the southern side of the Walled Garden and from time to time the gates would be closed to ensure title. Outside of these times residents were welcome to use the path.
- (4) NM reported on a letter he had received this am from a resident regarding dogs not on their leash on the estate and the proliferation of dog poo. The meeting acknowledged that the latter was very poor behaviour on behalf of the pet owner and suspects included holidaymakers and rambles. NM undertook to respond to the letter (attached).
- (5) Mike Hughes reminded the meeting that the Tree Stewardship Programme was underway and volunteers to help oversee the estate trees would be appreciated. Volunteers should contact Mike or Glynis.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm.

Attachments: Rousdoner Report, Neighbourhood watch report, Social Activities Report, Reply to a resident.