

**ROUSDON OWNER'S AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2017 HELD AT PEEK HALL ON SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2017 AT 11AM**

Present: 42 members of the Association were present.

1 Welcome and Apologies:

Members were welcomed by Neale Moss (NM) Chairman.

Apologies were received from Sylvia Stride, Jill Tollafield, John Broome, Jeremy & Fe Powell-Tuck, Jan & Ralph Myers, Alan & Adrienne Russell, Nicky Collins, Andrew Cook, Glenys & Graham O'Neill, David Tate, Warwick Bergin, Judith Ellard, Stuart and Sue Bosley.

The Association held a Minutes Silence in remembrance of those killed and injured at Westminster, Manchester and London Bridge.

2 Minutes of the 2016 AGM:

The key points were highlighted by NM and the Association agreed the Minutes as correct.

3 Officers' Reports:

(a) Chair's Report. NM noted the installation of the Defibrillator last year and that on a positive note the equipment had not been used. The Awareness session had been extremely well attended and the Fire Service had offered to repeat the exercise when requested. A discussion ensued about the need to identify the site of the equipment more clearly and the meeting proposed that slate signage similar to those recently erected for the roads would be helpful. It was agreed to put this to AllHallows (AH). There was a request for a First Aid kit to be made publicly available but after some discussion it was concluded that only a minority were in favour of this idea, the practicalities of maintaining and securing the kit considered too difficult. NM invited a special vote of thanks to Mike Hughes and all the team for the remarkable work carried out during the year to improve the Estate parkland. It was also noted that the roads and potholes were being kept in good order.

(b) New Appointments. Josephine Cook (JC) noted that a ninth member for the Committee had been identified and Jill Tollafield from 4 The Gardens was proposed. The Committee had also identified a need for an ad hoc Committee Member to ensure a quorum at meetings and it was proposed that John Rose, a previous ROAR Chair, be nominated as an Hon Member. The meeting agreed these appointments.

(c) Change to the Constitution. The proposed change to Article 4 (vi) of the constitution circulated with the AGM Agenda was agreed by the meeting.

(ii) Treasurer's Report. NM reported on the accounts prepared by Sylvia Stride who was absent due to illness. These were approved. Particular mention was made of the profit made from the barbecue largely attributable to the efforts of Amanda and team for producing the meal in-house. Membership of The 100 Club had risen to 115. In response to a query about funds raised from the sale of logs, it was noted that this was separate to ROAR and 100 Club finances and contributed to the upkeep/maintenance of logging activities.

(iii) Estate Matters and Maintenance. Nicholas Vaincourt-Strallen (NV-S) reported that in the course of the year: repairs to the entrance gate were undertaken in-house with support from the Colliers; repairs were undertaken to the filtration plant fencing; gravelling to the car parks; new estate signage for roads/homes, pot holes filled and fencing repaired ; a new french drain was installed near North Lodge and repairs to the bridlepath continued.

(iv) Environment. NM reported on the problems encountered last year with removing the bags of rubbish collected during the beach clean. A new way to remove the bags needed to be found. It was proposed to hold this year's clean up on Saturday 24 June (stc) provided a means of disposing of the bags could be identified. It was proposed that the Council should be approached for help or advice from Natural England who lease the Undercliff, (Action: JC) as well as seeking suggestions about local boat owners who might assist. Suggestions about siting rubbish collection points and signage for the beach were considered impractical.

Glynis Preshaw raised a vote of thanks to Mike Hughes and all the team for their efforts to maintain the estate park during the year. Mike's article for the Rousdoner had prompted a suggestion about installing bat boxes to support the variety of bat species found on the estate.

Mike Hughes (MH) outlined the background to the Tree Management Plan for the Estate which in essence was aimed at the long term preservation of the woodlands through good management and planning for resilience beyond our lifetime. Thanks to Martin and volunteers, removal of the laurel enabled new planting and existing trees/plants to flourish. New planting included broadleaf and conifer varieties taking into account light, height, space and wind/salt exposure— over 130 trees planted so far and 200 new hedging. Bare root and native grown species were preferred because of the low cost and maintenance and to avoid importing any disease. All activity was undertaken under advice and approvals. Anyone interested in viewing the plan should approach Mike. It was agreed that a regular update in the Rousdoner would be useful. Tree sponsorship was suggested but at present there were sufficient funds to cover costs although species suggestions would be very welcome.

4 Social Activities. Jan Jones proposed a vote of thanks to the Social Activities Group for all their efforts during the year. Future events to note: The ROAR Barbeque would take place on Sunday 9 July between 12.30 and 5pm. The Christmas meal was scheduled for December 10th. A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the Syrian Appeal which raised over £700. Jan's full report is attached.

5 The Rousdoner. Taylor Downing thanked all the contributors for their regular features to the Rousdoner. This was his 7th year as editor which Members recognised in a vote of appreciation. New contributors were always welcome particularly on recent themes such as work history and photographs.

6 Neighbourhood watch. Mary Hansell provided a written report to the meeting (attached). During the year there had been two crimes reported on the Estate. The CSW had reported in excess of 3500 vehicles resulting in 91 warning letters where offenders were driving in excess of 46 mph. A special thanks to Sylvia and Mick Stride for supporting the CSW team. More volunteers were sought to increase the number of checks which could be undertaken. A resident raised concerns about drivers leaving the estate not indicating at the front gates causing a potential risk. It was agreed that a Letter in the Rousdoner would be a practical way to draw this to resident's attention.

7 Items of Interest to Members

(i) A number of concerns had been raised about the extensive weed spraying this year. MH undertook to address the issue for next time.

(ii) A proposal was received to locate/sponsor benches around the parkland in suitable locations where people could rest and appreciate the vistas. It was noted that a similar proposal had previously been rejected on the basis of not turning the Estate into a public park. However the meeting considered this could be addressed provided the benches were appropriate in style, location and easy maintenance. It was agreed to put this to AH.

(iii) Owners of The Garden House asked the Committee to canvas opinion on seeking private

contractors to collect rubbish from holiday lets in view of the new (reduced) 3 weekly Council rubbish collection. Holiday let owners present were in favour of looking into this but the meeting in general considered this to be a private matter for owners to pursue.

(iv) Referring back to the earlier discussion on Bat Boxes, Paul Williams noted that he would be able to provide foc kits to the estate if residents were interested. The Committee thanked him for this kind offer and agreed it would be raised with AH.

(v) Memorial Garden. NM noted that the Committee had discussed the proposal circulated by Warwick Bergin for a memorial garden and concluded that while generally in favour of the idea, a wide range of issues would need to be addressed and it would be important that the cost of the project was ring-fenced from AH and ROAR finances. The Membership agreed with this view.

(vi) Rousdon Archives. John Rose informed the meeting that the proposed Lottery Funding application was not being pursued because the terms of the grant in aid were considered too onerous/impractical. The option was being left open to return to it at a later stage if desired. Nicky Campbell and Graham Jones' documentation had been donated to the archives. Cataloguing of the content was a mammoth task being undertaken by Anne Fleming, David Laverack and David Tollafield. Any further documentation/photographs would be very welcome.

(vii) Residents from the Owl House reminded the membership that the track to the south of the Walled Garden was private and while there was no objection to residents using this, the gates would periodically be closed to avoid providing a prescriptive right of way.

There being no more business NM thanked attendees and the meeting closed at 12.40pm.