

ROUSDON OWNERS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Committee on Tuesday 10 September 2019.

MINUTES

Present: Roy Jones (chair), John Broome, John Rose, Anne Fleming, Sylvia Stride, Freda Tate, Neil Wilkins, Jill Tollafield, Jeremy Powell-Tuck. Apologies: Glynis Preshaw, Judith Ellard.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2019 and the two meetings held on 30 June 2019 were all approved.

2. Matters arising from the 2019 AGM and committee meetings

(i) Jeremy reported that the defibrillator is being maintained by Mary Blick. Sylvia keeps its auxiliary equipment. Jeremy holds its insurance. He will arrange a training session next year.

(ii) Jeremy and Neil will organize an autumn clean-up of the beach, and the rubbish will be brought up the beach path. Jeremy will continue to pursue the idea of erecting a notice asking people not to litter the beach.

(iii) Roy has prepared an updated welcome pack, which Allhallows will send to new arrivals on the estate. He will add to it a note reminding them not to litter the beach.

(iv) The committee expressed their thanks to Mick Stride, Mike Hansell and Barry Moore for our new notice board. The lettering should be in gold. ROAR will pay the expenses.

(v) Mr Gay, the farmer who damaged the estate's trees, has paid compensation to Allhallows.

(vi) John R will look further into the costs and benefits of painting the railings beside the main drive.

(vii) John R reported on developments over the proposed closing of Colyton Fire Station. The consultation period will close on 22 September. He recommended everyone on the estate to have smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers.

3. It was agreed to continue to maintain the ROAR website for a period at least, and add e-copies of the Rousdoner to it. Roy will contact a potential webmaster.

4. The AGM had agreed that the ROAR constitution should be amended to clarify the process of election. Consequently, the committee agreed to make the following amendment. Replace

The committee shall be elected annually by members voting at the AGM.

with

It will be the policy of ROAR to encourage inclusivity and participation on its committee and where, in the case of more people wishing to be committee members than places available, opportunities for co-option etc shall always be considered. On the rare occasions where a ballot for membership of the committee is required, a postal and/or e mail vote will be completed at least ten days prior to the AGM, the votes to be counted by

two independent tellers. The committee designate will meet immediately prior to the AGM for the sole purpose of appointing officers, and the new committee will be ratified at the AGM.

5. John B proposed that Allhallows should be asked to consider a small reduction in its programme of mowing. Specifically, he proposed that the verge of the main drive where it passes through woodland should not be mown until late July or August, except for a strip a few feet wide on either side of the road. The aim is to reduce costs, encourage wildflowers to grow and promote other wildlife. It was agreed that John B would draft a proposal to put to Allhallows, and that ROAR would be willing to fund the sowing or planting of wildflowers.

6. Jeremy reported that the maintenance of the estate by generous volunteer labour continues to be quick and effective. He reported that Mike Hughes is retiring from the Allhallows board. It will be hard to find a replacement who will continue to manage our trees so well.

7. Sylvia reported that the 100 Club account has a balance of £2346, the current account £88 and the savings account £7631.

8. Jill reported recent successful social activities: a cream tea at North Lodge, the annual barbecue at Middle House attended by 80 people and a coffee morning at the Village Bakery attended by 14 people.

Forthcoming events are: a visit to the Norman Lockyer Observatory on 17 September; a skittles evening on 12 October; Christmas dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth, on 8 December; carol singing in the Mansion Courtyard on 23 December; and a talk by Sir Denis O'Connor – retired Chief Inspector of Constabulary – on a date to be arranged.

Next year the Archive Group will organize an estate exhibition, subsidized by ROAR.

9. Glynis sent a written report on environmental matters, which was read out. She expressed great regret about Mike Hughes's retirement from managing the estate's trees and woodland. He has made an immense contribution. The committee agreed that ROAR should send him a token of our gratitude.

Ash dieback appears to have reached the estate: the ash trees beside the road to West Lodge seem sick. However, their disease may yet turn out not to be ash dieback.

Martin Healy's trail camera reveals a big population of small rodents. The badger population appears to be healthy. There has been an explosion of grey squirrels, which harm trees and nesting birds, and some have been culled. The rabbit population is regrowing after plummeting in recent decades.

Laurels are being cleared from the NE corner of the estate in preparation for tree planting.

Glynis passed on a request from Martin Healy that residents should pick up litter on the estate, and challenge people who do not clean up after their dogs.

It was noted that rented properties on the estate seem sometimes to be used for parking commercial vehicles. Owners will be reminded of their responsibilities.

10. It was reported that the photo competition organized by the Rousdoner and the Archive Group has received few entries. The committee decided not to extend the deadline of 30 September, but to give the competition fresh publicity.

11. Jill requested clarification about our right to challenge trespassers on the estate. Roy

replied that we are fully entitled to challenge them, but their response will not always be polite.

12. John B will settle the date of the next meeting in early January using Doodle Poll.