

ROUSDON OWNERS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

AGM, 30 June 2019, Peek Hall

MINUTES

Present: 37 members.

1. Welcome and apologies

Roy Jones as Interim Chair welcomed members, and reported apologies for absence from: Jeremy and Fiona Powell-Tuck, Nicholas and Heather Vaignourt-Strallen, Jill and David Tollafeld, Glynis and Alex Preshaw, Eddie Browne, Paul and Lynda Williams, Anne and Bob Goudsmit, Ann Broome, Denis and Louise O'Connor.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes were agreed as correct.

3. Officers' reports

(a) Chair's report. Roy described the purpose and aims of ROAR. He outlined some of the issues that have concerned ROAR during the previous year.

Agencies who make holidays lettings on the estate have been asked to make sure that their tenants obey the rules, such as keeping to the speed limit, picking up dog's poo, not driving on verges, and using rubbish bins properly.

Bus drivers sometimes partially block the estate's main entrance while taking a rest. After receiving complaints from us, the bus companies have told them not to do this.

Space for parking remains a problem, particularly around Old Home Farm. There is no easy solution. Letting agencies have been asked to tell their tenants to park considerately and not bring many cars.

A modus vivendi has been achieved over the flying of drones by residents. When possible, flying time will be no more than 30 minutes on any day. It will usually be done only to map the estate and to help in the maintenance of roofs and other things. If visitors start to fly drones, that will set us a greater challenge. Letting agencies will be asked to cooperate.

Some of the estate's trees in Lovers' Walk West were wantonly destroyed by a neighbouring farmer, without permission. Allhallows is considering taking legal action against the offender, and ROAR strongly supports it.

Rubbish bins provided by East Devon are regularly being removed from the Stable Courtyard bin area. This practice must stop, or East Devon will stop supplying bins.

The ROAR notice board opposite the churchyard badly needs to be repaired or replaced. Roy would be pleased to hear from anyone who can help with carpentry.

The ROAR welcome pack has been revised, and will be given personally to all new residents.

Views are welcome on the question whether the ROAR website should be continued, and if so in what form.

The estate's defibrillator has proved its value when it was recently used. Some residents do not know where it is, and steps will be taken to make its position better known.

The Rousdoner goes from strength to strength. It often returns a profit to ROAR. Thanks to the editor, Taylor Downing.

(b) Resignations and New Appointments

Roy warmly thanked the three retiring members of the ROAR Committee: Neale Moss (Chair), Josephine Cook (Secretary) and Eddie Browne.

In December 2018, Roy took over from Neale as Interim Chair. The meeting confirmed him as Chair.

The meeting also confirmed the membership of five others who offered to continue to serve on the committee: Sylvia Stride, Jill Tollafield, Glynis Preshaw, Anne Fleming and John Broome. It also confirmed the appointment of three new members: Jeremy Powell-Tuck, Freda Tate and Neil Wilkins.

In recognition of his very useful service to ROAR as a past Chair and 'honorary committee member', Roy proposed that John Rose should be made ex officio a full voting member of the committee in the role of 'Past Chair'. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that the constitution of ROAR should be reworded to overcome a glitch. On the present constitution, new members of the committee are not allowed to attend the committee's meetings until they have been confirmed by the AGM. This means they cannot attend the meeting that immediately precedes the AGM on the same day, at which the committee's officers should be appointed. But they need to be there.

(ii) Treasurer's report. Sylvia Stride (Treasurer) reported that ROAR's finances are good, even though membership is free to every owner and resident on the estate. She circulated copies of the accounts at the meeting; there were no questions about them.

Our financial position is strong because of the income raised by the 100 Club. The club has 105 members, which is fewer than last year. New members would be welcome; to join contact Sylvia. The club's regular draw was held at the meeting.

Sylvia invited suggestions for ways of using ROAR's accumulated environment fund. Approval will be required from Allhallows before they can be implemented.

(iii) Estate matters and maintenance. John Broome expressed his opinion that the estate's walls and other hardware had never looked better. For this, he thanked the Allhallows volunteers, led by Barry Moore.

John Rose proposed that the railings beside the drive from the estate's main gate should be painted black, using a special paint to cover the rust. John Broome opposed this proposal, unless the paint is necessary for protecting the railings. There was some discussion and it was agreed that the proposal should be considered further.

(iv) Environment report. Mike Hughes reported that the estate's trees and woodland has been improving since Allhallows took charge of it. He mentioned as examples the presence of dormice and wood mice, and the number of tawny owls. Allhallows will continue to control dominating species and encourage a mixture of tree of different species and different ages. At least 150 new trees will be planted in the coming winter. All the work is done by volunteers, whom he thanked.

In response to questions, Mike said there are jays on the estate, that he has not yet seen any sign of ash die back on the estate, though he knows it will come, and that the threat of xylella is impending but has not yet reached Britain. There was a discussion of biosecurity. We should try to avoid spreading plant diseases. Try not to bring in plants from dubious sources, or mud from other places.

John Broome said there had evidently been a dangerous fire on the beach within the last week. There was discussion of beach cleaning and how rubbish can be removed from the beach. We will encourage people – perhaps by asking Allhallows to erect a notice – to bring

up rubbish each time they visit the beach.

4. Social activities. Jan Jones (Chair of the Social Activities Group) thanked the group's other members: Sue Rowe, Sylvia Stride, Linda Rose, Jill Tollafield, Anne Collier and Jane Gibson. She reported on social activities in the last year.

The ROAR barbecue was very successful this year – thanks to Judith Ellard and Warwick Bergin for the venue.

The Christmas carol singing expands each year – thanks to Per and Ulla-Brit Ytting and their neighbours for the venue and to Patrick Ytting for the music.

The annual Christmas dinner took place at the Victoria in Sidmouth, and was equally successful.

A new event – a charity cream tea – raised £200. This time thanks to Sylvia and Mick Stride for the venue.

Taylor Downing gave a talk on his book *1983: The World on the Brink*.

Mike Hansell's Easter quiz raised £1600 for the Air Ambulance.

Regular events have continued regularly, including coffee mornings at Clive's café, ladies' lunches, men's breakfasts, and various events organized by the Wednesday Group.

A major occasion was *Axe Valley Remembers*, a performance marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. It was directed by Roy Jones from the Rousdon Estate. He and Taylor Downing wrote the script, and 20 residents of estate took part, but the whole of the Axe Valley was involved. Singing was by the Axe Valley Community Choir. The event drew a large audience including our MP Neil Parish. It was generally acclaimed.

Many future events are planned. They are listed in 'What's on in Rousdon', which Jan circulates to all residents.

5. The Rousdoner. Taylor Downing has been editor of The Rousdoner for nine years. In his annual report he summarized some features of the year's issues, and outlined some new ideas that will appear in the next couple of issues.

The Rousdoner will hold a photographic competition in conjunction with the Archive Committee. Members of ROAR are invited to enter photographs of gardens on the estate. Prizes will be awarded, and the photographs will be added to the archive to help form a record of how the estate looks now.

6. Neighbourhood Watch. The Chair read out a report from Mary Hansell.

Police resources are becoming more stretched, but there has been very little crime on the estate. The Police UK website lists five reported crimes said to be located on the estate, but Mary thinks they may be wrongly located owing to a computer error.

Community speedwatch has been running for nine years. Since May 2018, 3100 vehicles have been checked and 68 warning letters have been sent.

7. The Archive Committee. John Rose (Chair of the committee) reported that the committee has met six times since the last AGM. He thanked the other members: Sid Gibson, Christine Barradell, Anne Fleming, Roy Jones and David Tollafield. They are sorting, filing and preserving the material they have received. There is not a great deal of original material from the Victorian and school periods, so most items from that period are copies. They want to build up material from the present day, so as to leave a good account of the estate for future generations. John thanked Martin Healy for photographs taken from his drone and discoveries found with his metal detector. John stressed the importance of the Rousdoner's

photographic competition in helping to build up the archive.

Some interesting material from the archive was exhibited at the meeting.

8. Any other business.

The Chair read out a note from Alex Preshaw about the private track on the south side of the walled garden. This track will be closed four times a year to make it clear that it is not a right of way. Residents are welcome to use it at other times provided they pick up their dogs' poo.

John Rose reported that the Colyton Fire Station is under threat of closure. This station has the duty of first response to the Rousdon Estate, and has special knowledge of the estate. He referred us to the Fire Service's consultation. It can be found by googling 'Devon and Somerset Fire Service Have Your Say'.

Sylvia Stride has arranged for milk to be delivered on the estate in glass bottles. Deliveries will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Contact her for information.