

**Lisa Walker**

- > She came to live in Rowlands Castle yr.2010
- > Obtained the job of Clerk to the Parish Council (at first 15 hrs p.w. then 30 hrs p.w.)
- > Attracted by the fact that Parish Council wanted to work hard for its residents.
- > Parish covers large area including a National Park of the South—Downs from which you can see the sea, Isle of Wight, Chichester Harbour.
- > The Parish Council has 9 Councillors and has no contested elections. Collegiate style of teamwork. New members sought by co-opting local volunteers. Members mostly retired people who are very active.
- > Issues dealt with by Parish Council varies - a major issue raised by residents is speeding traffic through the village which Parish Council have no power over.
- > The Parish Council does not initiate activities but supports groups who organise such things as Village Fair and Guy Fawkes Night at the Recreation Ground.
- > The Parish Council are responsible for the Parish Hall which is normally a huge commitment although closed during Covid with no income.
- > In the past Parish Councillors have clashed with the District or County Council whose Councillors are invited to attend Parish Council meetings. They have challenged planning on big projects such as Shell Garage application for a licence to sell alcohol using data which was out of date. It went to Court the Parish Council won the case based on inaccurate data.
- > Another conflict occurred when a local Garden Nursery applied for permission to build on May's Coppice Farm which was in a flood plain and close to the National Park. The appeal Barrister's fee was 50% paid by local donations from the Village and local Businesses. A "traffic implications" report was done free to help train local students. The Parish Council won the case.
- > Parish Council have done a 5 year Neighbourhood Plan which is currently at the consultation with residents stage. Local democracy in action.
- > Parish Council active in flooding problems from the Lavant Seasonal Springs. There was considerable flooding in 2013-2014 season. The Lavant flood water eventually goes into the Solent.

> The Parish Council have supported many village celebrations giving permission for the Village Green to be used for Jubilee parties. Money left over from the Diamond Jubilee was used for the production of an album of the event which when sold gave a profit to enable the commission of the commemorative 'mosaic' displayed permanently on the green verge near the flint wall. For the Platinum Jubilee a new bus shelter has been built and there is a plan to install a red telephone box to act as the library of free books which used to be in the old bus shelter.

> Village identity; voluntary offers when needed. Covid response was over 100 people offering to undertake activities such as delivery of prescriptions or shopping for those unable to get out. These volunteers included many new residents in the new residential developments who were getting involved in village activities.

> The Union Jack Flag is flown from the mast in the centre of the Village Green together with the Ukrainian Flag every Thursday. The Village has welcomed some Ukrainian families to live here. Donations via the Pharmacy have been collected for items of medical need to be purchased at wholesale cost which have been flown to Ukraine.