

ROGATE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Please direct any correspondence to -
CLERK to ROGATE PARISH COUNCIL: REBECCA KNIFTON
clerkrogateparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
01428 607782 / 07752 117742
www.rogate-parish.co.uk

Minutes subject to confirmation

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ROGATE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON Wednesday 29 May 2013 at 7pm

In

ROGATE VILLAGE HALL

* Present

Chairman

Councillor Shon Sprackling

Vice Chairman

* Councillor Elizabeth Brown

Councillors

* Councillor Paddy Cox

* Councillor Sara O'Brien-Twohig

* Councillor Fiona Dix

* Councillor Peter Button

* Councillor Peter Howland

* Councillor Murray Spalding

* Councillor Pauline Berrisford-Hill

Councillor Michael Williams

Councillor Peter Moss

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr E Brown welcomed all to the meeting. Cllr Brown apologised for the amended date of the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

22/13) Election of Chairman

Cllr S O'Brien-Twohig proposed Cllr E Brown. Seconded by Cllr P Howland.

Unanimous vote in favour.

RESOLVED that Cllr E Brown be elected as Chairman.

23/13) Signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr E Brown signed the Declaration. Countersigned by the Clerk.

24/13) Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr P Button proposed Cllr F Dix but she declined for family reasons

Cllr E Brown proposed Cllr S O'Brien-Twohig. Seconded by Cllr P Howland.

Five votes in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED that Cllr S O'Brien-Twohig be elected as Vice Chairman.

25/13) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Williams, S Sprackling, and P Moss.

26/13) Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 11th of March 2013 were agreed and signed subject to the following amendment in minute 27/13.

27/13) Matters arising from previous minutes not already on this agenda

Cllr S O'Brien-Twohig raised a correction that Cllr P Button had not attended the last meeting.

28/13) Representations by District and County Cllrs

District Councillor John Kingston sent his apologies.

County Councillor Gordon McAra informed Council that Cllr J. Kingston had undergone a recent operation. Speaking on behalf of Cllr Kingston and himself, Cllr McAra updated Council on the various projects being actioned by CDC and WSCC. There is a new fund becoming available to help Parish Councils to deal with the effects and consequences of traveller encampments to include portable loos, waste management and up to £1000 for legal costs.

It was noted that Parish Councils would no longer receive paper plans for planning applications which will either be sent via email or be viewed on the website. DOM's will go direct to Committee. Parish Councils will be able to make comments.

Discussions took place regarding a bonus scheme for new builds which could help fund Parish initiatives. Currently the County has £460,000 in reserve. The first tranche of money will become available in September and applications for funding should be received in August. Cllr O'Brien-Twohig asked whether this money was similar to s106 or CIL. Cllr McAra explained that this was a separate fund.

There followed a discussion re transport and roads in which he advised RPC not to focus on speed but to consider shared space.

The issue of Broadband was raised and Council were informed that the County was joining together with BT to improve availability and speeds. Cllr McAra asked RPC to indicate the average broadband speeds across the parish. He is trying to get a uniform approach across the Rother Valley so that he can lobby BT on our behalf.

29/13) Representations by the public

Dr Mairi Rennie spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan. She spoke briefly of how pleased she was that such community spirit had been achieved at recent meetings and that there were a number of capable volunteers willing to become involved in the process.

Dr Rennie questioned the late rescheduling of the date of the AGM and told Council that ex-Chairman, Shon Sprackling's reason for this was not acceptable. She went on to complain about the website not being updated and drew Council's attention to the fact that the logo on the website was not a roe deer but a red stag.

Cllr P Button and the clerk explained the change of date. Dr Rennie continued stating that the website does not reflect well on Rogate and that she would not take lightly to a member of her staff being unable to make a meeting. The clerk clarified that the change in date had been effected in accordance with the LGA 1972. Dr Rennie stated that she was not happy.

30/13) Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests received from Members. Members of the public, Captain Stephen Taylor and Mairi Rennie stated that until CDC receive members' updated declarations of interests, the meeting should not take place. The clerk explained that all members had updated their interest forms and dispensation had been given to members until the clerk delivered the forms, which she will do in person on the 6th of June.

31/13) Chairman's Report – 2012/2013

The ex-Chairman gave a written report on key issues which was read by Cllr E Brown.

He reported on the continued hostility towards the Council from various sectors of the community and that constant claims and counter claims only serve to paralyse the function of the Council and prevent the clerk from carrying out her duties. He stated that all members of Council are giving their time for free and the enthusiasm and good nature of those trying to work for the Parish is being destroyed by squabbling both within and from outside sources.

On a positive note, Cllrs have been ensuring that the Parish's open spaces, playgrounds, woodland and bus shelters are well maintained and without the support of the Parish Council, the Youth Club would have closed.

A neighbourhood plan is being researched and delivered to the community to ensure a positive future for the Parish.

Cllr's Luff and Coles have resigned due to the demands of family and business and for the same reason, Cllr Sprackling is stepping down as chairman.

32/13) Committee Reports

- Traffic – Cllr F Dix apologised on behalf of RPC for any confusion caused by WSCC's proposed crossing near the shop. This had been announced without any prior consultation with RPC.
- Cllr Dix wished to convey formal thanks to James Stock for his tireless efforts with RATA and to all those involved with the village crossing.
- It was noted that there was very little movement on developments with the village gates.

- Approving a traffic calming consultation was requested from Council using Hamilton Baillie Consultants. Cost: £400 plus expenses. Proposed by Cllr Dix. Seconded by Cllr Howland. Cllr Cox stated that approval was needed from the Finance Committee. All in favour providing the cost is approved by the Finance Committee.

Cllr Dix to arrange.

- Planning – Noted and agreed.
- Trees spaces Cllr Dix reported that at the meeting held on 24th April, Cllr Cox stated that Nina Williams and Nick Easeman are preparing a report on the proposed steps at Garbitt's Wood.

It was noted that Cllr P Berrisford-Hill was now chairman of the committee.

Projects to be undertaken this year include:

- Woodland Management Plan;
 - Playground Improvements;
 - Hugo Platt improvements; and
 - Noticeboards and woodland signs.
- Finance Committee – In the absence of Cllr Moss the clerk reported.
 - **RESOLVED** that the annual return be submitted to the external auditor following the internal audit. All figures approved by Council.
- The chairman read out the Governance Statement and signed the annual return.

33/13) Neighbourhood Watch

It was reported that the clerk had been in contact with PCSO Heidi Hay and had been informed that Rogate does not currently have a NW co-ordinator. Parishioners spoke out and stated that they were under the impression that Jackie Eade was the current co-ordinator. Cllr Brown stated that no NW reports had been received by residents of Hill Brow for several years. Parishioner, Nick Jacobs offered to assist in co-ordinating and Council proposed that Cllr Murray take charge of the Neighbourhood Watch on behalf of RPC.

34/13) Approval of Committees

With two members of Council having resigned, it was decided that committee membership be deferred and form part of the agenda for the next meeting.

35/13) Contracts and Budget Payments

All approved as per the budget.

36/13) Neighbourhood Planning

Mr Brown noted that there had been two successful launch meetings in May with a public turnout of 103 and 65. Paddy Walker had stepped forward at the first meeting and agreed to act as co-ordinator/project manager. Mr Walker plans to set up an interactive website for public consultation along with various other methods of communication. It was noted that formal terms of reference for the working group are currently being drafted.

SDNPA are due to meet with RPC to discern the legal role and responsibilities of RPC in the NP process. The proposed date is the 19th of June.

Much discussion on the responsibility of the Council towards the plan took place. Cllr O'Brien-Twohig read a letter from Andrew Triggs at SDNPA, in which he stated that there was no set procedure that the Council should adopt and that the Plan should be developed by the community. Cllr Cox and the clerk stated that the Plan must have some Council monitoring as it can only be submitted by RPC and any funding to be obtained can only be done so by the Parish Council.

Cllr Brown proposed Mr P Walker for the post of Interim Project Leader for six months. After a heated discussion with several interruptions from some parishioners, she reiterated her initial proposal which was seconded by Cllr O'Brien-Twohig. The proposal was accepted.

37/13 Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr O'Brien-Twohig went on to talk about the SDNPA's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which will inform future funding decisions through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The consultation documents had been sent to us all by Gareth Giles via the clerk in April.

The range of possible infrastructure projects was indicated in the information pack. To get future CIL funding, infrastructure projects for Rogate, backed up by evidence, need to be agreed by RPC as a body and documented in Council Minutes.

The IDP will be in place sometime in 2014/2015 and parishes will receive twenty-five per cent of the charge levied per square metre on private developments. It appears that the rate currently being discussed sets the levy at £235 for residential, £150 for retail and £100 for hotel/guest house, though this may vary. Section 106 rents, which are of course much lower, will continue to apply for affordable housing projects.

RESOLVED that an extraordinary meeting of council be convened to draw up a Local Project List.
Agreed to arrange the meeting for the 18th of June.

37/13) Insurance Renewal

It was noted that the insurance renewal from AON had reduced from the previous year.

RESOLVED to continue cover with AON for the next twelve months cover.

MEETING CLOSED – 8.50 pm

REBECCA KNIFTON, Clerk
Clerk to Rogate Parish Council.

Chairman:..... Dated: