



Open Spaces Committee Minutes Monday 24th September 2018

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Fiona Dix (FD), Val Farren (VF), Fred Fosberry (FF), Rita Harrison-Roach (RHR) and Mairi Rennie (MR).

There was one member of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Meeting started at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Max Harwood
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- 1) **Recording of the meeting** - It was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Representations by the public:**
 - a) Elaine Parkin addressed the meeting and answered questions to explain about her request to use Fyning Recreation Ground for a Forest School in the holidays for children aged 5-12 with the aim to learn about nature/wildlife through play. She would run from 10am-3/4pm for a maximum of 12 children. Their ethos is to leave no trace and would protect the site. There would be a requirement for some parking and a fire bowl for roasting marshmallows at the end of the day while learning how to respect fire. There would be a ratio of at least 1:6 adults to children with necessary first aid, insurance and DBS checks carried out. She anticipates a charge of about £30 per day per child but this is to be confirmed and could be reduced for Rogate children. She runs a forest school at Rogate Primary (among others) and is self-employed.
 - b) She left the meeting with thanks.
 - c) There was further discussion about the idea which was supported by the Committee in principal.
 - d) Questions remained about the council making a charge or requesting a donation, how many days a week the scheme would run, how it would affect existing users as well as concern about setting a precedence and our insurance cover. MH to obtain some further information.
- 3) **Apologies for absence:** None.
- 4) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th August 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**

MH reported a small tree was down on the 1163 footpath from A272 end – Clerk to contact Fyning Hill Estate.
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan –**
 - a) FD was concerned the holly cuttings had covered a path and were left looking scruffy. There was some discussion about holding a volunteer working party a Saturday morning in May. MH to look at and also ask the person who likes after the site for ideas.
 - b) MH has spoken to several people about the coppicing and shown them the site but has not yet managed to get a price. There was a lot of discussion about the problems and frustration with finding somebody for this work – MH/Clerk write article for R&T.
- 8) **Garbitts Wood** – nothing to report

9) Play areas

- a) MH reported the repairs have now been carried out at Hugo Platt and the Recreation Ground play areas.
- b) The order for a new swing at Hugo Platt has been placed.
- c) It was agreed funds need to be put in the budget for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of the playground equipment.
- d) Concern was expressed at the White Horse wall which continues to deteriorate. It is the responsibility of Harvey's (who own the pub) but it has still not been repaired, even though the pub includes the playground in its promotion leaflet. Clerk to contact the Hall Committee and Kate O'Kelly.

10) Bus shelters

- a) The Clerk had previously circulated Darren Rolfe's WSCC working party list – our three shelters are scheduled to be replaced in December and January.
- b) A final design has got to be agreed – Clerk to resend pictures from Darren.
- c) FF reported the village shelter is not viable to repair as the struts are rotten at the base. There is also concern that it has an asbestos roof.
- d) FD suggested the use of RATA funds to replace as it is in the middle of the village.
- e) After discussion, FD proposal of **resolution 'to ask Darren if replacement of the bus shelter in the village centre could be added to his list'** was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved. It was noted that it would need a window/space for a window.

11) Replacement tree at Rogate Recreation Ground

- a) There was a lot of discussion about the proposed tree – size, planting, location and tending of it.
- b) It was suggested a water tube be planted with it and the hall could be asked for a suggestion of somebody to water it occasionally.
- c) Clerk to check the suggested location with the hall.
- d) MR to asking somebody about its planting.
- e) VF to obtain alternative price.
- f) It was agreed if possible it should be planted by the beginning of November.

12) South Downs – the introduction from the Wealden Team was noted.

13) Velo Cycle event – had been cancelled due to adverse weather forecast.

14) Budget

- a) There was discussion about funds required for next year and ongoing.
- b) Finger post repairs and bus shelter replacements would be included in the current financial year.
- c) It was agreed to request £2,000 for ongoing woodland management, £7,500 for play areas.
- d) It was noted there used to be a finger post at Canhouse Lane and it may be worth seeing if any of it remains.

15) Date of next meeting: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 26th November 2018 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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Chairman

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Date