

Councillors in attendance: Chairman: Paddy Walker (PW), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Max Harwood (MH), Sue May (SM) and Steve Williamson (SW).
Clerk: Debbie Harknett.
There were no members of the public in attendance. Meeting started at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Paddy Walker
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CONTACT

Clerk: Debbie Harknett
clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 1) **Recording of the meeting** – it was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Representations from the public** - None.
- 3) **Apologies for absence** - Fiona Dix (FD).
- 4) **Declarations of interest** - SW expressed an interest in Rake Village Hall.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting** - The minutes of the last meeting held on 29th January 2018 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 6) **Chairman's report** -
PW explained this would be covered by items 7 & 8 below.
- 7) **Review of year 2017/18 and internal audit**
 - a) PW went through the accounts for 2017/18 which resulted in an underspend of about £8,000 from a £29,000 budget – mainly in staff salary, legal costs, councillor training, equipment purchased and Youth Club.
 - b) Project balances remain for neighbourhood plan, RATA, Operation Watershed and Woodland Management.
 - c) PW and SW have looked at the Clerk's salary and would review after the meeting.
 - d) SW explained when RATA was established WSCC encouraged us to view it as a partnership and set aside funds for some work. However, we have not been included as expected so remaining funds will be spent over the next 5 years to enhance the scheme and possibly include Rake. It is hoped to purchase additional planters, benches, cycle racks and trees as well as the ongoing care of the planters.
 - e) There was some discussion about dog waste/litter bins and it was agreed to approach the shop owner to see if she would be willing to empty a litter bin (if purchased) for an honorarium (as paid to others who help out in the village).
 - f) Operation Watershed funds are held for drainage work to St. Peters Road, Terwick. As plans they have been amended the contractor has got to requote. It was hoped any additional cost could be met by the PC.
 - g) The Clerk is meeting with Rita Harrison-Roach to look at the problems in Slade lane with the view of making a new Operation Watershed application.
 - h) It was noted Sandhill, Langley, Top road by Durford Wood and Fyning Lane still silt up. List to be given to Clerk to see if a further Operation Watershed grant could be obtained for bi-annual gulley clearance.
 - i) MH reported it has been difficult to find somebody to coppice the woodland and both he and the Clerk continue to chase Roger Fitter for the holly clearance. The Clerk added South Downs have said they may be able to help with coppicing and is hoping to arrange a meeting for later in the month. It was agreed to put an article in the R&T if unsuccessful in finding somebody.
 - j) PW reported the Clerk has managed to make contact with Darren Rolfe, WSCC who has not been working for some time. Hopefully a meeting can now be arranged with Fred to look at the bus shelters. It was noted the shelter in the village appears sound but would benefit from a seat while the others need more significant repairs.

- k) SW thanked the committee for the £2,000 grant towards replacing Rake village hall floor and said they will be applying to other organisations for more. He also noted a group has been established to raise funds to install some play equipment at the hall.
- l) The Clerk noted she is continuing to chase a new lease for Hugo Platt playground with Hyde and it may incur some legal costs.

8) Review of budget for 2018/19

- a) As the budget for 2018/19 is similar to 2017/18 PW felt it was likely there would be another surplus unless more money was spent during the current year.
- b) The Clerk reminded the meeting the finger posts are being repaired while MH noted one at Durford Heath may also be the responsibility of the PC and SW added there used to be one at Canhouse Lane/Bull Hill.
- c) The Clerk informed the meeting the Youth Club has appointed a new leader, the cost of which would be a Parish Council expense though wasn't included in the budget. It was agreed this would come from reserves unspent for the Youth Club in the previous year.
- d) MH noted that the Parish Council could be asked to help with future funding of the bus service.

9) Discretionary funding 2018/19

- a) SW to include item in R&T news in June.
- b) There was some discussion about encouraging the planting of trees in the parish; MH to discuss with Mairi Rennie.
- c) Clerk to ask Youth Club if there are any projects they would like the PC to consider to encourage use of existing facilities or for new ones.

10) Date of next meeting – The next Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 15th October 2018 in Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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Chairman

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Date