

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Where were you! Last night (19 April) we had the Annual Parish Meeting, which is not a parish council meeting but a meeting of the parish - all the organisations in the parish including: Rake Church of England Primary School; Rogate Church of England Primary School; Rogate Village Hall Committee; Rake Village Hall Committee; Rogate and Rake Neighbourhood Plan; Rogate Parish Churches; Rogate Youth Club; Rogate Society; The Heritage Centre; Rogate and Terwick News; Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Limited; Fyning, Terwick & Borden Wood Residents Association and; George Street Trust. We had seven parish councillors (some of whom represent an organization), our county and district councillor, and four other representatives of the organisations. If you exclude councillors and those presenting reports, there were three members of the public. For all of those who voluntarily give up their time to contribute to the local community it was extremely disappointing to see so few people attending. Please look out for the draft minutes on our notice boards or ask Debbie, our Clerk, for a copy so that you can keep abreast of what is happening in our community.

At our April Council meeting we heard from someone who has 'adopted' North Street and the road between Tullecombe and Hillbrow. Each year they will undertake a litter picking campaign to coincide with the extra free hour on the Sunday when the clocks change in the spring. This is an excellent idea and we want to promote it across the parish. Collection bags and safety jackets can be provided, and it will only take an hour or so of your time once a year. Spring is the best time as the vegetation will have died down and exposed the litter. We shall draw up a register so there is no duplication. Volunteers for next year please!

We heard some more details of the Velo South event on 23 September 2018, in that as it is a race, it will involve road closures for up to 10 hours, possibly with traffic lights in Rogate. We expressed our concern that many houses would be cut-off and people stranded for the day with little benefit coming from the event to the local community. We also noted that there is to be a smaller, but non-racing, event on Sunday 2 June 2018 without road closures but expressed the view that it may be more dangerous as large groups of cyclists mix with general traffic and pedestrians.

WSCC is processing an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order by adding a path on the south side of Fyning Common passing near to Foresters Cottage. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee and after a full discussion endorsed the application.

As you will be aware, most of the highway scheme in Rogate has been implemented. The new road surface and road markings will be implemented between 14th and 20th May 2018. Affected frontages will be informed two weeks on advance. In addition, the Parish Council is contributing with street furniture and planting. A tree has been planted opposite Parsonage and two planters plus a Rogate sign will be placed at either end of the village. Local amenities will be signed with oak finger posts at the crossroads and at School Lane. We are currently looking at providing additional planters and cycle racks. The beech hedge at the cemetery has now been cut back and the Lych Gate is now the prominent feature it should be. The highway scheme provides the backbone on which we can add additional features in the future.

We heard that the verges of Garbetts Lane have been over-ridden resulting in mud and debris on the road. We will inform WSCC Highways and request remedial action.

Changes by WSCC to the financial support given to the subsidised bus services through Rogate has been a concern for a number of weeks and the Council is heading a working group on other affected parish to lobby the County for improved and sustainable services.

As reported previously we wish to repair or replace the iconic black and white finger signposts. We agreed to replace the single finger signpost to Fyning (at the top of the hill) with a three-arm black and white signpost and refurbish the four-arm sign at Coombe crossroads.

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