



Open Spaces Committee Minutes Monday 6 November 2017

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Val Farren (VF) and Mairi Rennie (MR).
Clerk: Debbie Harknett.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting started at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Max Harwood
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Clerk: Debbie Harknett
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- 1) **Recording of the meeting** - it was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Representations by the public:** None
- 3) **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Fiona Dix (FD) and Sarah O'Brien-Twohig (SOBT)
 - It was noted there has been no volunteer to stand on this committee, despite the Chairman asking at the recent full Council meeting.
- 4) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 25th September 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**
 - a) MH reported footpath 1147 is now clear as the crops have been cut as has the path from Bluebell wood to the Church where the verge has also been cut. However, the path from Parsonage to Slade Lane has been driven out poorly.
 - Clerk to write to farmer thanking for clearing the paths for now but asking him to consider keeping them open when re-planting in the spring.
 - b) MR noted the temporary closure of the timber yard for parking at Durford Heath while the paths retain permissive access for which the community benefit.
- 7) **Hedges**

The Clerk noted that WSCC have looked at the tree behind the bus shelter at Fyning Lane and trimmed back some of the overhanging tree. Further cutting would need to be done by the owner.
- 8) **Woodland Management Plan –**
 - a) MH reported Simon Wright has tidied Fyning Recreation ground though not cut the grass again. It was agreed work over the last year has improved the area; it will now be left until the spring.
 - b) MH has spoken to Roger Fitter who is arranging for a local Forestry contractor (E.C. Simpson Plant Hire) to spend a day removing the holly at Terwick Wood at a cost of £250+vat.
 - c) It was agreed to put up warning signs prior to the commencement of the work and MH to write an item for the Rogate & Terwick News.
 - d) In the spring (when this initial work is finished and settled) a bonfire working party will be considered.
 - e) MR noted she may know somebody who can do coppice the chestnut trees – she will contact them.
 - f) The thinning of the fir trees was discussed and will be reconsidered next year.
- 9) **Garbitts Wood**
 - a) MH is talking to the school about ideas for the funds. The Clerk will pass on some information about benches to which we could ask if SDNP would contribute.
 - b) It was noted that the Council retain an interest but not a responsibility for this area.

10) Play areas

- a) MH informed the meeting that Guy Watson has been providing comprehensive reports of the equipment at the Recreation Ground and he showed the committee some photos showing a couple of rusty areas on equipment. VF's offer to paint with red oxide was welcomed.
- b) VF reported there are no problems at Hugo Platt though Alan Goodwin has noted the stone boulders are a bit of a nuisance when mowing.

11) Woodland Fire prevention

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting the Forestry Commission no longer provide beaters on their land because of them being stolen and the risk to people fighting fires. They consider it to be the responsibility of the fire brigade to fight them.
- b) After consideration of the fire brigade's suggestion to purchase fire beaters, the availability of mobile phones for reporting fires and the Forestry Commission comments it was agreed to replace two of missing beaters at Fyning Recreation ground at a cost of £24.99+VAT each but not purchase any for Terwick Wood for the time being.

12) Finger posts

- a) VF reported the finger posts at St. Peters Church and Canhouse Lane/Bull Hill are in good condition but the one at the top of Fyning Lane/Coombe Hill is damaged with bits missing. She noted that Milland have recently repaired one so she will contact their Parish Council for details of a contractor.

13) Date of next meeting: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 22nd January 2018 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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Chairman

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Date