



Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Steve Williamson (SW), Ann Arnold (AA), Fiona Dix (FD), Fred Fosberry (FF), Rita Harrison-Roach (RHR), Max Harwood (MH), Sue May (SM), Mairi Rennie (MR) and Paddy Walker (PW).

County/District Councillor: Kate O'Kelly (KOK)

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

There was two members of the public (MOP) in attendance including Neil Ryder (NR). Meeting started 7.30pm

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 were received and accepted from:** Elizabeth Brown (EB), Val Farren (VF), Nic Lobbenberg (NL) and Elena McCloskey (EM).
4. **Declarations of interest** – RHR, FD & MH noted an interest in Rogate School.
5. **Minutes of last meeting:** the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018 were accepted by the Council as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **County & District Councillors Reports** – Dr Kate O'Kelly reported  
**As West Sussex County Councillor:**
  - a) An up-to-date bus timetable has been put into June village magazines. She attended WSCC Task and Finish Group meeting last week – there are still plans to save £500k from April 2019 so we are right to be concerned. They are hoping to get SDNPA engaged to promote the 91/92/54 routes.
  - b) North Chichester CLC meeting on 19 June at Elsted is an opportunity for residents to ask questions of WSCC Members and Officers. Organisers of Velo South event will be taking questions - Villages need to plan for the day and cars will need to be removed from the route. The literature drop has not been successful in the local area.
  - c) Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst will have 24-hour closures in place for reconstruction from 10-23<sup>rd</sup> June.
  - d) WSCC have announced a further £540k for pothole repairs in addition to money received from Department of Transport.
  - e) WSCC and CDC have decided to put forward the mitigated northern option as the preferred route for A27 with the full south route as a backup.
  - f) The Education strategy consultation has been extended until 25 June which includes a statement about 210 pupils being required for primary school viability.
  - g) The full WSCC Council meeting passed a motion to explore the barriers to have more women (currently 33%) and disabled Councillors.
  - h) There will be no more capital spend on broadband after Dec 2018. This will leave about 2-3% of county without superfast but 9.1% in Chichester area. Ongoing discussion with SDNPA and a local group looking to find its own solution.**As Chichester District Councillor:**
  - i) Motion passed to phase out single use plastics from its premises and lead this in the community with local environment groups and businesses.
  - j) Electric vehicle charging points are being investigated for CDC car parks with a cross county group working with other districts and boroughs. Air quality is a hot topic nationally and locally.
  - k) Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Licensing Committee have raised concern over the closure of House of Fraser with the future of retail in Chichester a topic to be scrutinised soon. Midhurst still has a vacancy rate of 5.5%.
  - l) Businesses can apply for funding for small capital projects or new/improved websites (match fund to £2,500) and apprenticeship training (match fund £1,500) [www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme).
  - m) Social prescribing - new Community Referrers appointed start in July from Midhurst surgery.
  - n) Next drop in at Rogate Stores on 18 June from 9.30-11.3am.

## 7. Chairman's report

- a) SW noted Velo South are holding a one-to-one consultation on Wednesday 13 June from 5-8pm in Rogate Village Hall.
- b) He attended a Chapel Common Liaison Group (CCLG) meeting this morning to discuss the ongoing management of the SSSI site. SDNPA handed a draft management plan to Mr. Mir and details of the costs incurred managing the site over the last 7 years. The issue is the income from Natural England and SDNPA Heathland Reunited lottery funded project to maintain the SSSI site will not cover all the costs. It may be that the two Parish Councils will need to consider making annual contributions to the common's management.
- c) Along with EB and KOK he attended a meeting of a small group in Rake who are interested in developing a road improvement scheme for Hillbrow and Rake. The issues are speed, noise, safety and village environment. They are organising a public meeting to gauge interest and support. SW suggested they engage with WSCC Highways Agency to work out what is achievable. SW's proposal of **resolution 'RPC cover the cost of the hall for the meeting'** was seconded by PW and unanimously agreed.

## 8. Community Governance Review of the Parish arrangements for Rogate and Harting

- a) A time extension had been given to allow for consultation before a decision at this meeting.
- b) EB contacted the owners of the three affected properties. One owner put the idea to Harting PC as they felt more part of Harting.
- c) A MOP asked about the timeframe for the change and if should be postponed until the decision of a hall had been made. SW explained he was unaware of the timeframe for a new village hall but we have to respond to the Community Governance Review tomorrow.
- d) Discussion included the history of the boundary being the old railway line, commercial properties not paying Council tax to the Parish (business rates go to CDC), if the change would affect any other properties or if a further request was likely. Concern was expressed at the use of public funds for the administration of the change and cost for any Ordnance Survey map change.
- e) The MOP expressed concerns about a possible development of a new village hall and if the properties would have more say in Harting or Rogate. SW explained the site will still be governed by SDNP and the decision should not be made in respect of the hall.
- f) It was noted the MOP had not responded directly to WSCC.
- g) FD's proposal of **resolution 'On the basis of a lack of demonstrable need and likely financial administration costs involved in any amendment Rogate Parish Council wishes the boundary to remain unchanged'** was seconded by AA and unanimously approve.

The MOP left with reassurance they could come back to the Council in the future if they had stronger feelings.

## 9. WSCC Traffic Order (removal of yellow lines) West Street, Rogate

- a) We have received a traffic order to reduce the yellow lines (previously circulated) – for safety reasons WSCC want to prevent cars parking and blocking the view. SW explained the RATA scheme did not include any yellow lines in the village so felt they should be removed altogether.
- b) MH noted there are no 'no waiting' signs and the area is not policed while RHR felt there is a need for lines to stop people parking in these areas.
- c) Following discussion, SW proposed resolution '**Rogate Parish Council wishes for the removal of all yellow lines from the village centre**' was seconded by FD and unanimously approved.
- d) It was noted the issuing (and associated costs) of this Traffic Order should be questioned at the CLC meeting next week.

## 10. Finance report:

- a) PW reported we are still quite early in the year so spending has yet to catch up with the budget.
- b) In response to his question about the Youth Club the Clerk/MH explained there is some concern over the employment contract and if the employer should be the YC or PC – it needs to be able to stand up if ever there was a problem and at the moment it doesn't appear to. It is unclear if our Employers Liability insurance would cover the employee and it would be negligent to continue as previously without ensuring.
  - AA felt the YC could be the line manager with PC as employer.
  - SW, MH and Clerk to try sort out YC contract and seek advice from WSCC Legal department/VAAC and try to ensure payment is being made.
- c) Petersfield Museum 'buy-a-brick' scheme was considered before AA proposed **resolution 'to purchase 3 bricks at £30 each (for Rogate Parish Council)'** which was seconded by FD unanimously approved.

- d) SW's proposal of **resolution 're-appointment of Wallis White & Company Ltd as internal auditors for another year'** was seconded by AA and unanimously approved.

Receipts and payments approved:

<b>Receipts:</b>		
HMRC	VAT refund	£362.55
HSBC	Bank interest	£1.33
<b>Payments:</b>		
Rogate & Terwick Village Hall	Hall hire	£42.00
Elizabeth Brown	Website cost	£25.76
Clerk/RFO	Salary/PAYE	Undisclosed
Debbie Harknett	Clerks expenses	£89.87
Playsafety	Annual playground inspections	£189.00
Wallis White	Internal audit	£274.80

Neil Ryder arrived.

### 11. Rogate & Rake Schools

- NR explained the School Effectiveness Strategy Consultation 2018-2022 is underway and the closing date for comments has been extended to 25 June. Comments he has made on the document had been circulated prior to the meeting. He is unhappy with the consultation process and felt the paper was lacking explanation and evidence and was calling for the PC to respond in a similar way.
- The government has already decided small schools are not viable with £40,000 capital expenditure being removed though WSCC are phasing this in over three years.
- The consultation suggests that primary schools with less than 210 pupils are not 'viable'. Rogate School currently has 67 pupils.
- In order to survive the schools may need 2/3 small schools to become part of a Federation sharing resources and swapping specialties – moving teachers/IT/clerical etc. rather than children. It has been suggested by WSCC that this will be acceptable as a way of keeping the small schools open.
- In some ways Rogate School is ahead of other schools in the area because they have already been investigating sharing resources. At the moment they have three non-teaching staff – Head, administration and caretaker. Their Head teacher has resigned and they are looking at sharing a head with another local primary school and appointing the deputy as a teaching head.
- It was agreed that the village provides for the school and the school provides for the village and that many children come from outside the immediate catchment area with parents wanting children to attend a smaller school and being prepared to travel to get to it.
- The Council strongly wanted to support and retain both Rogate and Rake Schools and hoped the schools may be able to work together. It was agreed a school is vital to a sustainable village. After discussion about how best to respond it was agreed it would be better to write than complete the consultation document. SW proposed **resolution to write letter 'RPC feels that the questions in the consultation document are biased as the only way of making a comment is to 'disagree strongly'. It also feels that the understanding of the issues is severely hampered as there are no definitions or supporting data. RPC considers its village schools are an essential element of a sustainable village that are worth retaining beyond their supposed financial viability. They are an integral part of the South Downs way of life. Closing the schools will further reduce our villages to empty shells. RPC would support initiatives to retain its schools including grouping them together and with others as appropriate. RPC would like a wider, more open and informed debate of the future of Village Schools because Rogate and Rake are not unique within the South Downs or WSCC'** was seconded by FD and unanimously approved.

### 12. Broadband (FD)

NR was asked about the Broadband scheme for Trotton which has a target cost of £150 connection fee and £30 unlimited use on a rolling contract. They are looking for 2,000 households in clusters running back to the cabinet exchange at Reigate to bring the super-fast dark fibre to the village. The Parish Council agreed they supported – FD to join working party.

NR left with thanks.

### **13. Committee and Working Party Reports:**

#### **Planning**

a) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were received.

#### **Open Spaces**

b) The minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were received.

c) The Open Spaces Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 was noted.

#### **Finance Committee**

d) The finance committee meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 was noted.

#### **RATA**

e) SW reported the surfacing works start on 13 June for 3 nights.

f) The Clerk is discussing the licences for village signs, planters etc. with WSCC who appear reluctant and want more information – working party to help.

g) **Drainage issues/Operation Watershed** – not discussed

### **14. Neighbourhood Plan**

SW is making progress.

### **15. Community Land Trust**

MR reported their next meeting is on 2 July when they hope to meet James Brigdon the Community Led Housing Officer at Chichester District Council. They have applied for £4,000 grants to start the scheme.

### **16. Silent Soldier**

AA noted these have been delivered to the shop. She will arrange for one to be put on the green at the village church; SW to arrange for one in Rake by the War Memorial.

### **17. General Data Protection Regulations**

AA, RHR, MH and the Clerk to form a working party for new policies.

### **18. Parish-wide database/contacts**

a) FD explained that it was felt useful to have a parish database so information could be shared for emergency/social/people that want to be notified of events.

b) SW expressed concerns over GDPR and FOI did not feel the PC could manage the database.

c) It was noted that the R&T are already building one – PW and FD to offer to help.

### **19. Correspondence**

a) AA noted the WSCC Rights of Way Committee meeting tomorrow consider the Definitive Map Modification Order for a footpath from Bridleway 1163 to Fyning Lane.

b) Emails as previously circulated.

c) Bank statements received – filed in finance file.

### **20. Information for the Council** (for noting or inclusion on a future Agenda) – none.

### **21. Date of next meeting** – The next Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018** at 7.30pm at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28pm.

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