



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 22nd January 2018**

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting started at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Max Harwood

CONTACT

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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:** None
- 4) **Declarations of interest:** MH noted he was a School Governor.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th November 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**
 - a) RHR reported some fallen trees blocking the path near Commonsides/Durford Heath. She will take some photos so the Committee can establish if it's a public footpath or on National Trust land and, if appropriate, its path number so it can be reported.
 - b) It was noted most other paths are clear now its winter – no current complaints.
 - c) FD noted three trees had fallen at Garbitts Lane which resulted in the road being closed for a number of days.
- 7) **Hedges**

The hedge opposite Mayfield House on Habin Hill remains a concern as it protrudes onto the road. VF to have a look while FD offered to contact the owner if appropriate. However, it was noted if its remains safe it can help slow traffic.
- 8) **Woodland Management Plan –**
 - a) MH is waiting to hear from Roger Fitter about the holly clearance – he will chase. At FD's suggestion he will ask for the area concerned to be taped off to identify it.
 - b) MR has spoken to Jeff Hills about coppicing the chestnut trees. His work was recognised by most members of the committee who welcomed the chance for him to become involved in the coppicing and who felt he was trustworthy and reliable in his work/findings. While it was hoped coppicing would eventually be carried out for free in return for the wood it was agreed that the first cut may not produce such good wood and it may take some longer-term management to get to that stage. Therefore, it was agreed it was more important to get good management than a lot of quotes from unknown people at this time.
 - c) MR to speak to him again.
- 9) **Garbitts Wood**
 - a) MH reported the teachers have recently attended Woodland training and are hoping to use the area more. Children have been asked to leave wellies at school so it's more accessible.
 - b) The school would like a 'trap cam' for the area to enable photos/videos of the animals – there are known to be deer, badgers etc. The cost is likely to be £180+ as well as memory cards and installation.
 - c) VF proposed **resolution 'to support the purchase of the trap cam to the value of funds held (£268)'** was seconded by FD and unanimously approved.

10) Play areas

- a) VF reported that the bottom step on the slide at Hugo Platt is loose but its difficult to look at the underneath to establish the cause.
- b) MH reported Guy Watson continues to inspect Rogate Recreation Ground. He has reported a rotten balance post and the Clerk passed around a photo. RJ Playground Services have checked only one is rotten and quoted £204 for its replacement. While it was felt this seemed quite high it was noted he usually does our repairs and is local. The bigger companies would not want to come out for a small repair and it was felt we cannot wait to do repairs because of the health and safety concerns.
- c) FD proposed **resolution ‘to accept RJ Playground’s quote to repair the rotten balance post’** was seconded by MR and unanimously approved. The Clerk will ask him to look at the slide step at the same time.
- d) VF noted she will paint the rusted areas previously mentioned on equipment at Rogate Recreation Ground when the frosts have passed – the Clerk has given her some red oxide paint.

11) Finger posts

VF reported she has spoken to the Engineers who have looked at the three finger posts but she is waiting for the quote. The Fyning one needs a new top while there is a ring and finger missing from the one at the Combe.

12) Grit bins at Parsonage Estate

- a) MH explained Elizabeth Brown had been approached by a resident seeking additional grit bins on Parsonage Estate and he has discussed the matter with Sue May who lives there. There are hills every way on the estate but it was felt there was not one suitable location as they could block the footpath or cause an obstruction on grass with the cutting. VF agreed with these thoughts.
- b) There was a suggestion that an additional bin could be installed alongside the other at the entrance to the estate but it was felt it could be a matter of health and safety suggesting grit were moved from one location to another on the estate in frosty/snowy weather.
- c) It was noted WSCC provide the grit for roads and public footpaths and not individual drives.
- d) After discussion it was agreed to ask EB to talk to the person concerned as it wasn’t felt there was a suitable location unless they could suggest another.

13) Dogs fouling at School Lane

MH updated the committee following the report of dog fouling problems at the recent Council meeting. The Clerk has reported the matter to CDC. They have a scheme whereby the local school designs a sign and the PC funds the cost of it being made/installed. It was unanimously agreed this would be a good idea – Clerk/MH to get more information and proceed with the project.

14) Date of next meeting: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 26th March 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