



Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Steve Williamson (SW), Ann Arnold (AA), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Fiona Dix (FD), Val Farren (VF), Rita Harrison-Roach (RHR), Max Harwood (MH), Nic Lobbenberg (NL), Sue May (SM), Mairi Rennie (MR) and Paddy Walker (PW).

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting started 7.30pm

County Councillor: Dr Kate O'Kelly (KOK)

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

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 Sarah O'Brien Twohig and Gillian Keegan, CDC Councillor.
4. **Declarations of interest** – none.
5. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were accepted by the council as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **6. County & District Councillors Reports –**

WSCC Councillor Kate O'Kelly reported:

- a) There is an over spend on children's services and a gap in Adult Social care funding. There is cross party support at WSCC (with a motion carried at the December meeting) to call on the Government to urgently consider this – to look at the longer-term care of the elderly and deliver as urgently as possible sustainable and deliverable solutions.
- b) A new highways maintenance contract is currently being negotiated and includes plans to reduce future winter maintenance from 41% coverage to 28% which will affect minor local roads.
- c) There will be a public consultation and impact analysis on subsidised bus services in March.
  - FD noted it was important to encourage residents to respond to the consultation as well as the Council. SW will include something in the R&T News.
- d) The consultation for the expansion of Easebourne School has now closed.
- e) Consultation on changes of school catchment area for Midhurst area closes on 15 January 2018. There is cross party agreement that the new funding formula for West Sussex schools is not fit for purpose and it particularly disadvantages small schools. She has spoken on the issue of small primary schools and how they sit at the heart of the community and any consideration of the issue should include the wider impact on our communities.
  - The scrutiny committee meeting on 11 January is due to look at the issue of NFF (National Funding Framework) and local options. The Chairman of Stedham School Governors will be attending.
  - She is hoping to arrange another meeting with Gillian Keegan MP as a cross party approach for urgent action and would like her to lobby the Department of Education.
- f) She held a drop-in session at Rogate shop this morning. The issue of dog fouling in school lane was raised.
- g) She noted the next Chichester Local Committee meeting is in March and they currently have grant funds of £2-3,000 available for organisations other than the Parish Council. Available grant funding is likely to be reduced next year.
- h) EB asked about the school consultation issue as it was raised at CDC Community Forum meeting in December and information has been distributed to all Councillors urging Parish Councils to press for public consultation on the future of schools. She added we have fought and kept 3 local schools (Rogate, Rake and Stedham) open in the past and asked if we should be doing anything now as there is concern from the wider community.
  - MH added they are designated 'Rural schools' and would require public consultation to close down.
  - RHR responded they are not proposing to close them down but proposing others to be expanded thereby starving the small schools out.

- SW added WSCC Highways transport plan's vision is to reduce the need to travel. KOK noted that air quality monitoring shows that Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst currently has the highest air pollution in the area.
- After discussion it was agreed the Clerk and Chairman to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council as representatives of the concerned community.

## 7. Chairman's report

- a) SW reported the Dangstein Conservancy planning application was refused at the SDNPA Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday 14 December and furthermore passed the resolution 'That it is **not** been demonstrated that the proposed users of this site will not have a cumulative detrimental impact on the amenities of the neighbouring properties and the tranquility of the area'. He thanked EB for attending the meeting on behalf of the PC.
  - EB added that they acknowledged a clear problem of enforcement and she felt it was more positive than she had seen previously.
  - SW noted that the meeting can be viewed online from SDNP website portal.
- b) We have received a request from a Rake resident to consider the lack of playground facilities in Rake. There was once a swing on our Rake Recreation Ground but it has been inoperable for 20 years. The recreation ground at Bull Hill is not an ideal site as there is no nearby parking and no footpath on the busy, narrow road. A better site would be land at Rake Village Hall, even though this is in Liss Parish we could contribute to any project. With Council support it was agreed he would raise the matter with Rake Village Hall Committee at their next meeting.
- c) An email has been circulated from the Royal British Legion about 'Silent Soldier' silhouettes to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI1. They cost £250, appear to be life size, made of steel and would include our name on a plaque on the base. The Council welcomed the idea so Clerk to get full details.

## 8. Finance report:

- a) PW noted there is currently £6,000 remaining in the maintenance budget which includes woodland management and he is obtaining prices for bus shelters.
- b) It was noted that NL would check the bank reconciliation.

Receipts and payments approved:

<b>Receipts:</b>		
HSBC	Interest	£3.03
<b>Payments:</b>		
Rogate & Terwick Village Hall	Hall hire	£21.00
Elizabeth Brown	Website cost	£25.97
Clerk/RFO	Salary/PAYE	Undisclosed
Home Start Chichester	Grant	£450.00
White Horse fund – replacement grant cheque payable to Rogate & Terwick Village Hall		£550.00

## 9. Oliver's Piece – request for permission to plant wild flowers

- a) SW reported a request has been received from Elizabeth Everleigh asking if she could plant wildflower seeds to the left of the viewpoint. She proposed keeping down the bracken by pulling, trampling and using a switch and see what appears. Bob Daren looks after the area and he is happy for her to work alongside him. She is not seeking any funding from the Council.
- b) After discussion, all were in favour of giving permission and suggested we to invite her to address an Open Spaces meeting to discuss her plans.

## 10. Local parish highway lengthsman

- a) SW informed the meeting we have received an email from Milland Parish Council to consider employing a joint Parish Highway Lengthsman covering several parishes in the area. The role would involve working along the highway clearing ditches/drains of leaves etc to aid free drainage.
- b) EB suggested it be seriously looked into as a local person would come to know the local area and its problems.
- c) SW expressed caution as drainage is the responsibility of WS Highways.

- d) KOK added there is a green offer from WSCC encouraging the community to come together and they are happy to provide insurance cover and use of tools under the pilot scheme.
- e) VF added Milland used to have a lengthsmen.
- f) After discussion, it was agreed PW to look at the idea, talk to Milland PC and the WSCC tool man.

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

### **Planning**

- a) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were received.

### **Open Spaces**

- b) The Open Spaces Committee meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 was noted.
- c) VF noted she has get to get a response to her enquiries about finger post repairs.

### **Finance Committee**

- d) The finance committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 was noted.
- e) PW noted he has spoken to Patrick LaPla who confirmed they now have sufficient funds for Rogate Churchyard for the current year.

### **RATA**

- f) SW noted an email from WSCC with start dates for the road scheme which has been circulated. Phase 1 will start on Tuesday 23 January and last for approximately 7 weeks with daytime working and traffic lights. It will be followed immediately (Monday 12 March) by 2 weeks of Phase 2 carriageway resurfacing carried out at night with traffic diversions. Affected frontage houses will have a leaflet drop from WSCC.
- g) In response to AA's request the Clerk will make into notice format for the shop and try to obtain additional detail as to the scheme of works. She is concerned about the effect on the village centre and shop.
- h) The Parish Council are due to purchase trees for the scheme that will be put into place by WSCC but we are still waiting to know the type of trees they will accept.
- i) Quotes for cutting back of the beech hedge at the cemetery are being sought and it is hoped they can be reviewed at the finance meeting at the end of the month.
- j) SW to chase the planters as they are yet to be delivered.
- k) FD suggestion to publicise pictures of what is going to happen was welcomed.
- l) RATA working party to meet ASAP.

### **Drainage issues/Operation Watershed**

- m) VF noted Parsonage seems to be quiet at the moment though SM added the ditch is full of rain water.
- n) RHR noted problems at the bottom of Slade Lane/Hale Common.
- o) EB reported the top road near the entrance to Durford Wood is flooding badly even though the end cottage has dug out a lot of the ditch.
- p) EB also noted a number of pot holes have appeared in the last week.
- q) VF noted Sandhill at Nyewood still flooding while SW explained it will still flood but should drain away quicker now the work is complete.
- r) The Clerk reminded members of reporting on the WSCC 'Love Sussex' website.

## **12. Rogate School**

RHR noted a Governors meeting is being held next week.

## **13. Neighbourhood Plan**

SW reported SDNPA's comments have been addressed and changes incorporated into a new draft of the plan and Historic England's comments will be incorporated shortly. He then went through the next steps which will probably lead to a referendum in the summer.

## **14. Community Land Trust**

MR reported they have joined the National CLT organisation. PW offered to help as an accountant.

**15. Correspondence**

- a) Emails as previously circulated.
- b) Bank statements received – filed in finance file.

**16. Information for the Council** (for noting or inclusion on a future Agenda) – EB noted she has received a request for additional grit bins on Parsonage Estate. It was agreed this will be considered by the Open Spaces Committee.

**17. Date of next meeting** – The next Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018** at 7.30pm at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm with a drink and New Year wishes from the Chairman.

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