



Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Steve Williamson (SW), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Fiona Dix (FD), Val Farren (VF), Fred Fosberry (FF), Rita Harrison-Roach (RHR), Max Harwood (MH), Sue May (SM) and Mairi Rennie (MR).

Clerk: Debbie Harknett
Meeting started 7.30pm

There was one member of the public in attendance.

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:** Ann Arnold, Nic Lobbenberg and Paddy Walker.
4. **Declarations of interest** – MH and RHR expressed an interest in Rogate school.
5. **Minutes of last meeting:** Subject to changing 'moments' to 'monuments' in 15a) the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2018 were accepted by the council as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Rogate Village Shop**
 - a) SW explained that a village shop, together with a school, pub and church are the essential components of a sustainable village and this was recognised by both the 2007 Parish Plan and the current Neighbourhood Plan.
 - b) The viability of Rogate Shop has been uncertain for some time and the impact of the current roadworks has made matters worse. The Clerk has looked at their figures and verified the weekday takings are down considerably although weekend takings have remained about the same.
 - c) There is no recompense available from WSCC even though the reduced passing trade is a result of the roadworks disruption. In fact, there is little that local Councils can do to help private enterprises.
 - d) However, thanks to research by the Clerk and advice from SLCC, there is an opportunity for the PC to offer some assistance where it would benefit some or all of the community – which is certainly the case with the village shop. Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 is a statutory power that gives Council's the power 'to incur expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorised' on condition it is only used where there is no other specific power; it is a power of last resort; the expenditure and benefit must be balanced; there is a annual maximum that can be spent (over £9k in our case); separate financial records must be kept.
 - e) Our budget for the current year includes a contingency allocation for Legal and Consultancy fees which is not going to be spent. It is proposed to offer part of this as a one-off contribution to help maintain the Village Shop for the community.
 - f) In response to MH's question SW suggested £900 which would be £100 a week for the expected 9 weeks of work.
 - g) FD added profit did not need to be discussed as we are trying to make-up for the effect of the roadworks and to support the shop is a good thing. The RATA roadworks originated when a crossing was proposed outside the shop which would have had a debilitating effect on the shop. Hopefully these roadworks will only have a negative effect for a short term.
 - h) MR felt more parking should help and RHR agreed the removal of the yellow lines will also help.
 - i) EB felt £900 was a small amount in comparison to the maximum permitted and she had no query as to why we are giving.
 - j) VF added that any support would be appreciated.
 - k) FF asked who brought the road works into the village to which EB explained the PC were behind the scheme which has had a great deal of thought and time over a number of years to recognise the village as a place for cyclists, pedestrians & horse riders as well as vehicles – a 'shared space' scheme.
 - l) SM understood the problems caused by the roadworks but expressed concern there could be a conflict of interests as Ann Arnold is also a Councillor and how this could be perceived. SW explained any grant would be to the shop and not the owner. In our view the shop is a community asset we wish to retain for the benefit of our community and it would be wrong to penalise it because AA is a Councillor. Any decision is transparent and will be included in the monthly R&T News report.

- m) The Clerk added that we would still be supporting the shop if AA was not a councillor.
- n) MH reminded the meeting that we had given £550 to the organisation trying to purchase the village pub.
- o) SW proposal of **resolution 'The Council donates the sum of £900 to Rogate Village Shop in order to maintain the valuable community asset during the adverse trading as a result of the temporary road works under Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972'** was seconded by EB with one Councillor against the rest were in favour and therefore the resolution was carried with payment to be included this month.

7. County & District Councillors Reports –

WSCC Councillor Dr Kate O'Kelly reported:

- a) Emsworth and District Bus Company are withdrawing from their contracted bus services in mid-April 2018. WSCC have put the services out to tender (bids are in) and have employed a transport consultant who she and Max are meeting tomorrow to look at short and long-term plans.
- b) There is a reprieve regarding bus subsidies as savings have been removed from next year's budget to give more time to develop a new rural transport plan. The bus strategy public consultation will be open soon at www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/have-your-say. She has requested paper copies put on buses for people who may not have internet access.
- c) There is a meeting arranged for Monday 19th March at 6.00pm at Rogate School. We have invited other PC's that are on the affected routes so we can make a plan for the year ahead as the subsidy is likely to be withdrawn.
- d) Another consultation open on the West Sussex website is for the voluntary and community sector for NHS and WSCC. A workshop on social prescribing and developing the North Chichester Local Community Network for health providers, local voluntary and other community organisations is at Petworth on 22 March.
- e) The Members Big Society Fund and Small Grants Fund have closed with a move to crowdsourcing for the Community initiative. There will still be £4,000 per-Councillor allocation of funds. WSCC have not yet updated the website.
- f) The Sussex Partnership Mental Health Trust was scrutinised at the HASC meeting last week. They are aiming to scale up community mental health care. WSCC presented their new 6-week reablement program for people recently discharged from hospital which is more tailored to the individual and is starting well.
- g) The decision to change the catchment area for Easebourne and Midhurst Primary has been made with the two areas being combined which could be a threat to nearby smaller primary schools.

District Council

- h) The election for a new District Councillor is on 18 April 2018.
- i) The Clerk noted that Gillian Keegan, MP (who was our CDC Councillor) is due to hold a drop-in session with Robert Pettigrew (CDC Councillor candidate) at Rogate shop within the next few weeks.

8. Chairman's report

- a) SW reported we have received the resignation of Sarah O'Brien-Twohig with immediate effect. He recorded our thanks to Sarah for her many years of service to the parish and wished her well in her new ventures. The Clerk will inform CDC Legal Services and instigate the procedure to appoint a new Councillor. Please ask around to see if anybody you know would be interested in standing.
- b) Velo South cycling event for 15,000 cyclists held on 23 September 2018 is being supported by CDC and WSCC with the route passing through the parish on Harting Combe road from Milland, turning left up Combe Hill to Tullecombe, down to North Street, across to Haben Hill and onto Nyewood and South Harting. Roads will be closed for safe passage. There are objections from other parishes concerned about safety issues and lack of benefit to local areas the races passes through. We have not been asked for our views but, after discussion, it was agreed KOK and SW to try to establish how long the road closures are likely to be in place for and whether or not WSCC will be covering this cost.
- c) SW understood there was a successful White Horse Pub meeting on Saturday with 115 attendees.

9. Finance report:

- a) SW noted it was the last month on the financial year and expenditure is in accordance with the budget and previously stated areas of underspend.

b) It was noted that VF would check the bank reconciliation.

Receipts and payments approved (FF abstaining as appropriate):

Bank transfers:		
Current to deposit account		£5,000.00
Neighbourhood Plan to current account		£175.35
RATA to current account		£1,075.21
Receipts:		
HSBC	Interest received	£2.21
Payments:		
Rogate & Terwick Village Hall	Hall hire	£42.00
Elizabeth Brown	Website cost	£24.91
Clerk/RFO	Salary/PAYE	Undisclosed
R.J. Playground Services Ltd	Playground repair	£204.00
Julie Reed	Bus shelter cleaning-6 months	£90.00
Mick Butcher	Bus shelter cleaning-6 months	£90.00
Alan Goodwin	Ground maintenance at Hugo Platt	£90.00
Fred Fosberry	Bin emptying/cleaning-6 months	£90.00
Geoff Cornwell	Rake Recreation ground-6 months	£90.00
V Signs	RATA signs	£762.00
Rogate Village Shop	Grant	£900.00
Petersfield Open Air Pool	Grant	£250.00

10. Consideration of Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool grant request

- SW read a letter from the Trustees of the pool and noted we have a grants underspend of £950 for the current financial year.
- RHR comments that is used by a lot of people and should be supported was echoed by others.
- SW proposed **resolution 'to grant £250 to Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool'** was seconded by VF and unanimously approved and payment to be included this month.

11. **Bus Services** – this had been covered by KOK's report.

12. Rother Bridges

- MR reported she received a negative response from WSCC for permission to erect a notice on the bridge. However, she has obtained a quote of £458 from V Signs for an A2 sign that could stand alongside if they can get permission to erect on private land and planning requirements checked.
- EB added she has spoken to Trotton Parish Council who are going to discuss at their next meeting. It was agreed a common design would be a good idea so MR to send her info to Trotton.

13. Data Protection

SW informed the meeting new regulations are coming into force on 25 May 2018 which are complicated and require a lot of areas to be checked, including the current use of email addresses and appointment of a Data Control Officer. It was agreed it could be helpful to do with another village organisation; EB to discuss with R&T News as they are also investigating.

14. Committee and Working Party Reports:

Planning

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on the 12 February 2018 were received.

Open Spaces

- The Open Spaces Committee meeting on 26th March was noted.
- VF noted rubbish has been dumped on the green at Hugo Platt. KOK offered to help if this is an ongoing problem.
- MH reported he has looked at the finger posts at the top of Fyning Lane and Tullecombe crossroads. The Fyning one was made from a lamp post and would require a complete rebuild. However, the

- Tullecombe one is a proper finger post and requires maintenance. After discussion it was agreed to look at replacing the Fyning Lane post and repairing the other – Clerk to resend repair quote to SW.
- e) MR informed the meeting she has been offered a 'kissing gate' to replace an existing stile – suggestions to her by the end of the week.

Finance Committee

- f) The finance committee meeting on Wednesday 9th May 2018 was noted.

RATA – nothing to report, ongoing work.

Drainage issues/Operation Watershed

- g) VF noted a pumping lorry was at Hugo Platt sewage works all day Monday.
- h) SW reported the Operation Watershed plan for lane to St. Peter's Church is progressing. He has agreement (with conditions) from Watcham Farm that their field on the south side can be part on the plan. He is waiting for confirmation that the NT are still able to offer £500 previously offered towards the project.
- i) FD asked about problems at Slade Lane raised by RHR and if we could make another Watershed application. SW felt unable at the moment but he and EB offered to help the Clerk and RHR who will need to talk to Landbuild and complete an application form.

15. Rogate & Rake Schools

- a) RHR noted two Governors are sharing the Chairmanship.
- b) EB noted that Rake School has made a planning application for a new classroom.

16. Neighbourhood Plan

SW reported V35 has been agreed and unofficially sent to SDNP – he needs to complete and add two more documents to make official.

17. Community Land Trust

- a) MR reported they had a good meeting on 22 February and were impressed with Tom Warder from Action in Rural Sussex but are a little confused about the relationship between CDC and ARS. She will try to get clarification from CRC,
- b) EB added that Trotton may be interested in participating with us.

18. Correspondence

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

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

20. Date of next meeting – The next Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 9th April 2018** at 7.30pm at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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