



Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on 27th April 2017 at 7:30pm in Rogate Village Hall.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Steve Williamson (Chairman) (SW), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Val Farren (VF), Max Harwood (MH), Sue May (SM), Sarah O'Brien-Twohig (SOBT), Debbie Pattinson (DP) and Mairi Rennie (MR).
Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Public attendees: Eric Piper, M Kershaw, Ian Peters, Stephen Berendt, Hilly Buell, Joyce. Piper, Rev Edward Doyle (ED) arrived at 7.45pm.

Recording of the meeting – the Chairman noted the meeting would be filmed and recorded.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were accepted from the following:
Councillors - Ann Arnold, Fiona Dix, Rita Harrison-Roach, Nic Lobbenberg and Paddy Walker.
Others – Emma Yellop, Harvey Morgan and Pam Valler.
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 April 2016 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Parish Chairman's Report:** SW reported on the Council's year:
 - a. Three new Councillors have been co-opted (Rita Harrison-Roach, Nic Lobbenberg and Paddy Walker) bringing the Council to full complement.
 - b. Wooden name-plates have been erected at the four Parish council owned parcels of land – Fyning Recreation Ground, Rake Recreation Ground, Terwick Woodland and Oliver's Piece.
 - c. A Woodland Management plan has been developed and lodged with the Forestry Commission. The plan defines maintenance schedules for each area so they can be properly managed to ensure the safe enjoyment of the areas and to benefit the flora and fauna.
 - d. The Finance committee has set the budget for the forthcoming year of £30,980 which is an increase of just £64 on last year.
 - e. The planning committee considered 58 applications during the last year with Dangstein Woodland Conservancy's application and Parsonage Garage site being the most significant. While the Parsonage site was eventually given permission for three houses this was a reduction to the original application for five.
 - f. RATA (Rogate Appeal for Traffic Action) scheme for Rogate has got funding from WSCC and the works should be carried out during the 2017-18 financial year.
 - Following this report ED and other expressed concerns about the speed of traffic in the village and the recent accident at Durleigh Marsh. SW informed the meeting that the village cannot have a 20mph because it is an 'A' road.
 - g. Rogate has again been successful in obtaining an Operation Watershed grant to tackle flooding problems. With funds for work at Slade Farm, Sandhill Farm and Sandilands Farm on Haben Hill and the lane to St. Peters Church though this has been delayed whilst the best scheme is agreed.
 - h. Steps to provide access from the Primary School to Garbett's Wood via Haben Hill have been installed with help and funds from SDNPA and the Woodland Trust.
 - i. The Council helped organise successful celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday.
4. **County Councillor's Report - Gordon McAra:** No report was available.
5. **District Councillor's Report - Gillian Keegan:** No report was available.
6. **Reports from:**
 - a) **Rake Church of England Primary School**
EB reported (although she is no longer a Governor) the Ofsted inspection carried out earlier in the year gave good comments and the school has increased in numbers. The pressures

for Governors trying to balance the books with right amount of staff for the children's needs is difficult.

b) Rogate Church of England Primary School

MH reported that following the Ofsted report 18 months ago the school is making good progress. They have made the acting head's (Miss O'Toole) appointment permanent.

- ED added they will be starting to provide nursery provision which should be good for the future of the school.

SOBT left.

c) Rogate Village Hall Committee

SW read a report prepared by Emma Yellop informing the meeting the Hall is thriving. Last year they completed an upgrade to the front of the property and planted trees to give the hall more curb appeal and 'no parking' signs have been erected outside the Heritage Centre.

d) Rake Village Hall Committee

SW reported that bookings and therefore income have improved during the year but running expenses use most of the income. They have completed two major projects during the year – to convert a small meeting room into a full-enabled toilet which was carried out with grants from Rogate PC, Liss PC, EHDC and CDC. They have also repaired the wooden parquet flooring and redecorated the hall with painting carried out by the caretaker.

e) Rogate and Rake Neighbourhood Plan

SW informed the meeting a lot of work has been undertaken to progress the plan including public meetings. They now have a draft which they hope to initiate the pre-submission consultation in May.

- In response to ED's question SW informed the meeting it has taken 5 years to get this far. The statutory consultations will be followed by a yes/no referendum. If accepted it would come into force and remain until 2035.
- SM expressed concern about the inclusion of any Parsonage site and the problems with lack of parking.
- In connection with the NP there is a parallel initiative, sanction by the PC, to develop a Community Land Trust with the aim of providing finance for affordable homes for local people.

f) Rogate Parish Churches

Rev. Edward Doyle informed the meeting there are exciting times for the Church as they seek to 'know, love and follow Jesus' in their various communities. He updated the meeting on their 20/20 vision for Rogate which was launched in November and includes upgrading the lighting in the church, renewing the boiler, re-ordering the chapel to enable it to double as a small private meeting room and extending the chancel area to enable more flexible use of the building. They are presenting the plans to the community, seeking the necessary funding and consulting with the appropriate authorities with regards to planning.

- Trotton Church has been included in a book published by the Church of England – 'The Directors Choice' by Janet Gough which is her selection of 42 church that give a sampling of the best of churches and their era.
- The school continue to regularly use the church.
- The new Sanctus bell has been blessed by the Bishop of Horsham in a special service in November.
- Social events continue and they formal switching on of the Christmas lights was very well attended.
- The church buildings are provided for people to enjoy (which included an Art Exhibition) and the church continues to raise money for charity.
- Thanks were given to the PC for their grant and the Rev noted there are currently 4 churches in the Parish and no pub!

g) Rogate Youth Club

SW read a report prepared by Pam Valler informing the meeting that the club continues to flourish, providing a meeting place, outings and activities for 9-16 year-olds. Members raised money at the village Fete and donated it to the Hugo Platt toddlers play area, showing support for the community. They have been without a qualified youth leader for more than 6 months but are hopeful they may have found a replacement. The club is currently supported and run by volunteers to whom thanks were given. The clubs' finances have been without funds

previously provided by the Rogate 100 Club as they have been unable to find somebody to continue to run it.

h) Rogate Society/The Heritage Centre

- Ian Peters reported Rogate Society currently have 36 members and meet monthly in the hall. Annual membership is £14 which encourages membership but can make it difficult to obtain good speakers on their budget. However, they have generous friends and have had a variety of talks and excursions. He then mentioned society books including 'The Shadow Between' taken from the diaries of William Parkinson and edited by Dr. Mairi Rennie.
- MR paid tribute to Eric Piper who has donated a fantastic collection of items on the history of the village to the Heritage Centre. She then added the other publication available through the society is a picture of life in Fyning.

i) Rogate and Terwick News

Stephen Berendt reported Rogate & Terwick News has undergone a significant change in the last year. In January, the Trotton Church magazine stopped production so they decided to extend their circulation to include Trotton to help bring the two communities closer together and coincide with a drive by the churches in the benefice to work together more closely. As a result they have become the R&T News and now include matters from Trotton and Chithurst and have increased their subscribers by 65.

- The magazine sponsored the Christmas lights at the church last year which were well received so they will do the same this year.
- They are organising a Newcomers event later in the month – the first held in 4 years.
- The village website www.rogatevillage.net has shown an increase in visitor numbers with an average of 290 per month in 2016 and 390 in 2017.
- He thanked volunteers and distributors for help enabling the magazine to survive and provide a useful tool for communication within the village.

j) Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Limited

Unfortunately, Peter Moss missed the meeting and sent in his report afterwards which explained they continue to operate sheltered housing at East Lodge and social housing at Hugo Platt.

- As a result of planned refurbishment, the East Lodge surplus for the year was less than 2015. The involvement of PHA Homes has bought to light some areas where East Lodge was falling short of compliance with legislation which has led them to undertake a major refurbishment of common areas and guest room.
- The construction of East Lodge was in 1971 and after 45 years some elements are becoming beyond repair so they are establishing a program of replacement.
- The eight units at Hugo Platt continue to be managed by PHA Homes. Whilst there was no great expenditure on repairs in 2016 they are budgeting for several window replacements in 2017.
- Linda Ellingham has resigned having served the board for over 14 years and will be dearly missed.

k) Fyning, Terwick & Borden Wood Residents Association

Harvey Morgan had informed the meeting there was nothing to report.

7. Public Participation: Members of the Public raised a number of issues:

- ED expressed concern over the speed of vehicles in Fyning Lane and the condition of the road.
- ED's report of problems with the footpath towards Terwick from Fyning where large amounts of smelly poo seem to have been dumped was noted.
- Eric Piper expressed disappointment at the lack of attendance at the meeting and asked about printed accounts. SW explained they will be approved at the next PC meeting (8th May which is the AGM) after which they will be available for public inspection and the annual return will be completed/publicised.

8. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm with refreshments.