

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

At our October meeting our Clerk, Debbie, informed us that the 2018-19 accounts had been successfully audited. I reported that the long-awaited drainage scheme at Terwick to reduce the risk of flooding on the lane to St Peter's Church had been completed and appears to be working - but time will tell. Our next challenge is to get the road surface repaired by WSCC Highways. The St Peter's Church scheme was funded from the WSCC Operation Watershed project, the church PCC and local landowner. We have now applied for further OW funding to tackle the regular flooding at Sandhill Farm, Habin just south of Rogate. It is an expensive scheme but we are hopeful of obtaining the funds. Also on the grant front, we have been successful in obtaining a New Homes Bonus grant of £875 which will go towards repairing the fence around the Hugo Platt children's playground.

WSCC and SDNPA are about to relaunch a public consultation exercise about plans to create a second sand extraction quarry at West Heath Common which is just south of A272 off the lane from Durford Mill to West Harting. The new site at Down Park is just outside Rogate parish but all the resultant HGV traffic will come into the parish and join the A272 adding to the already significant HGV problem on the road and through Rogate. If you are at all concerned about this proposal, please look out for further information on how and where to comment.

We discussed aspects of the climate change debate as they might affect parish council decisions in the future. Please read Gerard McCluskey's article later in this issue.

The problems of noisy and speeding motorbikes on the A272 especially at weekends has been raised and discussed many times including with the Police. You might recall that I wrote about the nuisance in the July issue. The Police recommend that anyone affected should notify them each and every time using its traffic website www.operationcrackdown.org, so they can build up a picture and mount a specific operation. The council has agreed to support the Communities Against Noise and Speed initiative set up by parish councils in the Meon Valley, Hampshire who are also affected by this nuisance. Any local action monitoring the problem will require a band of volunteers and so if you are affected and/or able to help please contact me or our Clerk, Debbie.

We are about to formulate our budget for next year and so if you have any ideas for new projects and improvements that the council could undertake or help with – please contact me or our Clerk, Debbie.

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17 October 2019