



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 1st April 2019**

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Meeting started at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Max Harwood
maxjharwood@googlemail.com

www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

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clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 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:** None.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 28th January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**
MH was unaware of any issues but would check the path from the bottom of Fyning to Bluebell Wood as it sometimes has problems at this time of year.
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan –**
 - a) MH reported he has been invited to attend a South Downs 'Small Woodland Owners Day'. He has also been told grants are available for the removal of rhododendrons. He will pass the details to RHR.
 - b) FD noted some small rhododendrons near the path in Terwick Wood. It was agreed to ask about having them removed when the wood is next having clearance work.
 - c) FD reported some fir trees near the overhead cables at Terwick wood – she and MH will have a walk and investigate further.
 - d) MH to try arrange walk around Rake Recreation Ground with Steve Williamson to look at the trees there to establish what work needs doing.
 - e) MH reported the two dead trees at Fyning have yet to be removed. He looked at them with EB and SW who felt it unlikely they would fall towards the road. He had been concerned about 'dropping' the wood but Bob Epton, SDNP has confirmed this is usual practice. The Clerk reminded the meeting we have received 3 quotes, £1,100; £2,400 and £3,000 and while it was agreed we could ask for quotes to limb branches the higher quoted contractors would probably still be more than the lower quote for removal to a monolith for a wildlife habitat. Following discussion and concern the trees could pose a threat to the road and would therefore require ongoing monitoring and eventual work FD's proposal of **resolution 'to fell the two rotten trees in Terwick Woodland by accepting the most economic quote'** was seconded by VF and unanimously approved. FD to try to obtain a further quote otherwise the lower of the current three quotes to be accepted.

MR arrived with thanks for collecting election nomination papers. Under footpaths she noted any representation or objection to the Definitive Map modification order for the Fyning path has to be made to WSCC by 11 April 2019.

8) Garbitts Wood

- a) VF and MR noted that it is coming into bud and the steps are looking better.
- b) MH added that the school children are using the area but haven't purchased the wildlife camera yet – he will remind them.

9) Play areas

FD noted the Recreation ground play area is much used but the gate to the site appears to no longer be upright. MH with ask the person who keeps an eye on the site to look at for us.

10) Bus shelters

- a) MH report that Darren (WSSC Volunteer group) has recently undergone another operation on his wrist but should soon be back in service ready to complete the three shelters.
- b) The Clerk noted that Ben Law is due to replace the village shelter the week commencing Monday 10th June with the asbestos roof being removed first thing on that morning by a specialist removal company.

11) Forest School

- a) MH reported at the moment Elaine hasn't received enough interest to make the trial day viable; she will make a final decision on Friday.
- b) The Clerk felt that we do not want to put any more time into the preparation of an agreement/rules (memorandum of understanding) unless we know it's going ahead.
- c) After discussion, it was agreed to suggest a trial Saturday or day in the May half term while reminding Elaine we are unable to give permission for a summer school without having a trail and time to consider any implications.

12) Litter pick-up weekend

- a) FD reported that although this wasn't on the agenda it was well supported with about 12 people picking and raising awareness. A lot of bags were filled/sorted and she will try to get an article/photo into the local paper.
- b) It was agreed it had made a visible difference to the village - VF offered a vote of thanks to FD.
- c) EM hoped it may become an annual event if not more often.

13) Date of next meeting: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 24th June 2019 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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Chairman

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Date