



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 28th January 2019**

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Val Farren (VF), 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
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- 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:** Fiona Dix (FD and Fred Fosberry (FF).
- 4) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 26th November 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**
 - a) MH reported WSCC have made an order to modify the definitive map to include the previously unregistered footpath which runs adjacent to Foresters Cottage.
 - b) MH noted the farmer has started ploughing which has affected some footpaths; for now we will give him time to re-instate the affected paths.
 - c) MR noted she had approached the Friends of the South Downs to try and get some stiles replaced with gates but hadn't received any response. MH has discussed with the WSCC Ranger. The Clerk thought there was a 'miles without stiles' scheme – she will investigate to see if it is a SDNP scheme.
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan –**
 - a) MH reported Logs-on-Fire are about ¾ way through coppicing Terwick Wood. They are making steady progress and are very tidy.
 - b) One of our smallish trees fell and was resting on a phone line – Logs-on-Fire have removed at a maximum cost of £50.
 - c) MH reported two very large fir trees along the top road have died and branches could potentially fall into the road. While he has been re-assured it isn't urgent, they do need removing so he has obtained one quote and is waiting on further quotes. One thing that will make a difference to the cost is whether or not the wood has to be removed or if the tree can be felled, tidied up and left on site for wildlife.
 - d) After discussion, MR's proposal of **resolution 'to fell the two dead fir trees and leave the wood for wildlife'** was seconded by VF and unanimously approved. It was further agreed that if appropriate the tree could be pollarded to a lower, safe height with the trunk monolith left standing for wildlife.
 - e) Thinning of the scotts pine remains an item for the future.
 - f) MH will discuss the rhododendrons at Oliver's Piece with Bob Epsom of SDNP.
 - g) MH asked if the lock had been fitted at Bull Hill recreation ground yet – Clerk to check.
- 8) **Garbitts Wood –**

VF noted SDNP have erected two notices asking for volunteers. MH added the school are not using the woods at the moment.

9) Play areas

- a) MH reported the council have sanctioned the repair of the swings at the recreation ground at an estimated cost of £198.
- b) MH was surprised to read in the Midhurst and Petworth a suggestion that the White Horse are going to help with the playground though any support would be very welcome.
- c) The Clerk noted she has been contacted about a large, un-emptied bin at the recreation ground play area – she has asked the hall committee to investigate.

10) Bus shelters

- a) MH reported he and the Clerk are meeting with Ben Law tomorrow to look at a replacement for the village centre shelter. It is hoped SDNP would help fund the replacement if it was locally built using local materials and they recommended we contact Ben.
- b) There was much discussion about the design and whether or not to have open sides. MR reminded the meeting that the shelter is much used as a village notice board and this facility needs to remain.

11) Protecting trees in the village

- a) RHR asked about trees being cut down, requirements for protecting them and if they can be removed to maintain a view. MR reminded the meeting that nobody has a right to a view.
- b) As trees are a concern in the village generally the Clerk has done some research on Tree Preservation Order's (TPO) and got some advice from CDC which she distributed.
- c) All trees within the conservation area are automatically protected.
- d) A request for a TPO can be made by anybody to Henry Whitby at CDC but the tree has to meet certain criteria and be classed as an 'amenity' which can be hard to define.
- e) It was felt that further discussion was necessary to see if the council should try to protect any trees in the village that are considered an asset – there are some big oak trees (at Parsonage, by Terwick church etc) adjacent to footpaths that are certainly amenities.
- f) It was felt the requirement for 'at-risk' is very hard to meet because by the time it is known a tree is 'at-risk' of removal it can already be cut down. The ash tree at the entrance to Parsonage Estate had been cut down without any advance warning.
- g) Clerk to draft an article on protecting our trees for R&T for committee to agree and further discussion next meeting.

12) Date of next meeting: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 25th March 2019 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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Chairman

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Date