



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 19th August 2019**

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Adrian Collins (AC), Fiona Dix (FD), Val Farren (VF), Zoe MacLehose (ZM) 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:** Carolyn Butler (CB) and Clare Jardine-Paterson (CJP).
- 4) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 1st July 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**
 - a) MR passed a footpath map to the Clerk for safe keeping; it was borrowed by AC.
 - b) MH noted the new walkways on the path from Mizzards Farm to Parsonage Estate have covered the swampy area and are looking good.
 - c) ZM noted a potential trip hazard of barbed wire across the entrance to Souters Copse (bluebell wood). Clerk to try to establish owner and contact them or contact the WSCC footpath team.

FD arrived.

 - d) The Clerk noted that WSCC volunteers have completed the bus shelters and have expressed an interest in getting involved in other projects. There was much discussion and suggestions including sky watching hut, benches, Garbett's picnic bench, village entrance gates, woodland keep-fit trail. It was suggested that a full-council brain storming session should be arranged to discuss options. Meanwhile Clerk to approach Darren to see if the woodland trail would be something they would be interested in getting involved with.
 - e) There was concern over dog waste at Fyning and walkers with over four dogs which cannot be controlled. ZM noted 'don't pick – flick' signs at Stansted Park – she will obtain more information.
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan** - nothing to report
- 8) **Garbitts Wood**
 - a) It was noted the steps are overgrown – VF to re-check before Clerk contacts Woodland Trust.
 - b) MH noted the school has not yet installed the wildlife camera.
 - c) MH to discuss ideas to improve the look of the steps with Woodland Trust. FD noted area was unsuitable for wildflowers but possibly primroses.
- 9) **Play areas**
 - a) VF reported she has fixed the new 'no dogs sign' on the gate at Hugo Platt.
 - b) MH noted R.J. Playgrounds have been instructed to carry out repairs to the village

playground to meet the concerns raised by ROSPA annual inspection report.

- c) MH noted the fence at Hugo Platt required repairing or replacing. A New Homes Bonus grant application has been made towards the cost. It was agreed as it is not dangerous we can decide the best course of action when the outcome of the grant application is known. AC is currently working on a draft H&S policy for the site to go with the application.

10) Bus shelters

- a) MH reported WSCC Volunteers and Darren have built the three replacement shelters at Terwick and at the bottom of Fyning Lane each side of the A272 – total cost of materials is just under £3,500. They have done a really good job and the shelters are being used.
- b) MH reported CB has been in contact with CDC about replacing the bin outside the village shelter. They are not prepared to fund its replacement or movement - CB to establish what cost would be if Parish Council paid for it. It is complicated because the bin has a large grommet base and is tarmacked into the footpath.
- c) FD to look at village shelter to consider if flower mangers can be attached.

11) Registration of council land

- a) MH noted that none of the council land is registered with the land registry though both Fyning Recreation Ground and Rake Recreation Ground are registered as village greens. It was agreed we have a responsibility to protect parish land and it is sensible to avoid potential future disputes (nationally the church is currently in the process of registering their land), particularly the areas that are not village greens – Terwick Wood and Oliver’s Piece.
- b) The Clerk noted that the new lease has finally been agreed for Hugo Platt playground and this is being registered.
- c) Clerk to obtain cost information from MacDonald Oates who dealt with Hugo Platt lease and take matter to full council.

12) SSE Cables at Fyning recreation ground – no update except, given power cut earlier in day, it needs getting on with!

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

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

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Chairman

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Date