



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 26th November 2018**

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

There was one member 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:** None.
- 4) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** After changing 7a) 'likes after' to 'looks after' the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 24 September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6) **Footpaths**
 - a) MH informed the meeting Kevin Dewitt, WSCC ranger has offered us a brush cutter to enable us clear some of the footpaths ourselves. He added he did not think we would have a problem with insurance and the responsibility for clearing is either WSCC or the landowner whose permission would be required before any clearing took place. After discussion concerning taking over the responsibility and problems getting volunteers it agreed it wasn't appropriate for the PC.
 - b) We also received an email from Kevin informing us Rogate's footpaths are due to be inspected in December and he wanted any concerns brought to his attention. MR to check path numbers before the Clerk gives the information to Kevin:
 - Dumford Lane to Black Barn
 - By Terwick Cottages – Green Lane
 - Manx Cottage to Fair oak – bridleway
 - Beech Lodge to border path
 - Bottom Durford Wood to Tipsall caravans
 - Slade Lane to Commons side
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan –**
 - a) MH was pleased to report 'Logs on Fire' have agreed to carry out the coppicing in return for the wood. The draft contract has been agreed and they should start in a couple of weeks.
 - b) The Clerk noted that the last full council meeting felt getting rid of rhododendrons on our land is our responsibility as they are non-native and considered a weed. MH noted SDNP have suggested we could apply to the Forestry Commission for a grant. Oliver's Piece is our main area with any rhododendrons. After discussion, it was agreed further investigation of the grants and consideration of native species that could be used to replant the area and improve the habitat. MH to talk to Bob Epsom of SDNP and Roger Fitter who did our woodland management plan.
- 8) **Garbitts Wood –**

VF noted the signs have not yet been erected – Clerk to check with Phil Truluck of the Woodland Trust.

9) Play areas

- a) VF noted the new swing has been installed at Hugo Platt and asked if the wood has been treated. Clerk to check the specification - *post meeting note – FSC certified hardwood robinia timber with natural unstained finish.*
- b) FF raised concern over screws in the rolling road log (in the recreation ground equipment) as they are wearing loose. MH noted this has been repaired previously; Clerk to contact R.J. Playground repairs to ask them to check.
- c) The Clerk noted she is in contact Building Control at Chichester District Council about the wall at the rear of the White Horse. CDC have contacted Harvey's and awaiting a further response.

10) Bus shelters

- a) The design from Darren had previously been circulated and was agreed by the committee for the three shelters outside the village centre.
- b) The Clerk noted it is not appropriate to make the village shelter any shallower and it was agreed that it should be kept the same size because it allows access for push chairs.
- c) FD to check original RATA design to see if any design ideas for the village shelter. MR noted it is in a conservation area.

11) Replacement tree at Rogate Recreation Ground

There was a lot of discussion about the proposed tree as it was felt that is was not possible to replace like for like in either tree or location and there was concern over it being looked after/watered. It was agreed planting of a new tree wasn't appropriate at this time.

12) Date of next meeting: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 28th January 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