

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our December meeting was chaired by Elizabeth Brown, our Vice Chairman as I was not able to attend. Two major issues dominated the discussions and they are linked together: next year's budget and the possible need to subsidise a bus service. Last month I wrote about the early morning bus service through Rogate to Chichester, and WSCC has now decided NOT to withdraw funding; so it has been reprieved but we do not know for how long. Only one of the other five parishes had agreed to pay their contribution to the subsidy and because of the reprieve, we did not have to decide one way or the other. We did decide however, to continue to promote the service and to campaign for a better return journey by bus for students attending Chichester College.

The bus reprieve made the budget decision much simpler and it was agreed that the total we raise in the Council Tax should remain the same as this year and that possible grant allocations should be combined into one pot that would be distributed as applications were received during the year.

The fate of the White Horse pub continues to be a concern as does the informal but well used pedestrian access through the car park from the village hall to the main road. This allows pedestrians to avoid the narrow North Street which has no footway. In order to preserve the access through the car park it was agreed to apply to WSCC for the route from North Street at the village hall entrance to A272 via the recreation ground and the pub car park to be registered as a public footpath.

Also in Rogate village, we agreed to replace the awkwardly sited litter bin at the new bus shelter with a new one on a post. It was agreed to provide a new bus shelter in Rake at the Brewells Lane junction layby, for eastbound schoolchildren going to Bohunt School and to provide a new grit bin on the 'top road' east of Tullecombe.

Now that we are well into winter it was welcome news that WSCC has decided to rescind its propose cuts to the gritting/salting /snowplough schedule that would have impacted on some of the parish's main lanes. Consequently, as part of the parish's Winter Plan, which was agreed, the remaining lanes will be covered by a local contractor funded jointly by WSCC and the parish council. You can view our Winter Plan on our website.

The council agreed policies on Metal Detection, Habitual and Vexatious Complaints and Co-option Procedures.

Through a new working party, Parish Councillors will continue to liaise with other authorities and the many concerned local residents about the local impacts of climate change and possible avoidance and mitigation measures.

Finally, may I wish everyone a very happy and prosperous 2020.

Steve Williamson

01730 890225 or steve@thestepsrake.co.uk

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