

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Who knows what the situation will be by the time you read this but I sincerely hope that you and your family and friends are safe and free from the virus.

We managed to have a short parish council meeting the Monday before Easter using a conference call on the internet – not a very satisfactory medium but we got the essential business done. We will use the same technology for future meetings until ‘normal’ life returns. The meetings remain open to the public who can join if they contact the Clerk for details.

The bulk of the meeting inevitably discussed the coronavirus pandemic. A small group of councillors and the clerk put in a huge amount of work to devise a Buddy system across the parish which built on the earlier Facebook work in Rake and Rogate. Every household will have received an information pack that explains the help that is available to all. All the information is available on our website: rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk. or Facebook at Rogate Community Coming Together or Rake Help for Covid 19.

More importantly, if you need to phone for help, the numbers are 07788 568641 or 07748 320237 and if you just want to chat to someone then call Elizabeth on 01428 725545.

Should you need any assistance at all during this trying time, please do not hesitate to reach out for it as there are many people willing to help.

A big part of the daily and weekly routine is food shopping and the Buddies can help with that, but also spare a thought for those dependent on food banks and try to give them something to help those in most need.

The Annual Parish Meeting (which gathers all the organisations active in the parish) has had to be cancelled this year but a request has been sent out to those groups asking for their 2020 reports anyway so we can circulate them.

Our own annual meeting, where councillors are voted into positions, has been postponed until we can have face-to-face meetings.

All our projects, including an outdoor gym and speed indicator signs, are now in abeyance until restrictions are relaxed but they remain firmly on our agenda.

Strangely, I have to report that the salt/grit bin located at Tullecombe has been stolen along with its contents. I am not sure we are expecting snow or ice soon, but we will have to replace it before the winter.

Please stay safe during this emergency and heed the clear advice to stay at home except for essential trips and then keep person-to-person contacts more than 2m or 6ft apart. We will get through this but it will be difficult for many, however there are many willing and able to help – just ask.

Steve Williamson
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