**Annual Parish Meeting**

**2020 - Reports**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the **Annual Parish Meeting** scheduled for 16th April 2020 was unable to be held. The next meeting will be in April 2021.

Herewith a collation of reports from village organisations submitted in the absence of the meeting.

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Chairman: Steve Williamson | Vice-Chairman: Elizabeth Brown | Clerk: Debbie Harknett | | steve@thestepsrake.co.uk | rakehanger3@gmail.com | ­clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk | | www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk | | | |  |  | [clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk) |

1. **Parish Chairman’s Report** -Steve Williamson, Chairman
2. **CoVid-19** The past few months have been dominated by the pandemic and the need for local support networks. The response from the parish council has been considerable and huge thanks are due to councillors and the Clerk together with all those who volunteered (nearly 200) for the heroic effort in organising the parish council response. The main points are:

* Volunteer groups in Rogate and Rake with a Buddy’ system to help all residents
* Letter to all residents with a statement of RPC’s endorsement of the Governments strategy
* Information delivered/posted to all residents in the parish containing emergency contact numbers, permission slip (to be signed by resident to facilitate volunteer shopping/collecting prescription on their behalf); red & green alert cards for houses with a frontage in close proximity to pavement (resident to display card to indicate whether or not they need help).
* Support system ‘fetch & carry’ service for food and prescriptions
* Details of shops & services (focussing particularly on Rogate/Rake businesses)
* Additional shopping information and ‘sign-posting’ across the area
* Support to residents where they do not have internet access
* A telephone ‘phone-a-friend’ service for comfort, friendship or chat
* A Covid-19 banner at head of our website which links to the parish response plan, relevant RPC notices and links to key CDC, WSCC, HM Government websites info pages
* Database of parish residential addresses created (631 properties) which will help in future.

Although the crisis has dominated recently and has resulted in a lot of projects being put in abeyance (including the much needed Outdoor Gym), other work was achieved in the earlier part of the year.

1. **Open Spaces Committee -** The Parish owns four parcels of land - **Fyning Recreation Ground, Rake Recreation Ground** (both registered as Village Greens); **Terwick Woodland** and **Oliver’s Piece** (the viewpoint on London Road between Rake and Hillbrow).

* Bus Shelters - the start of 2019 saw the completion of 4 new shelters in the village. Terwick Rise and 2 on the A272 near Fyning Lane were built by the Sussex Volunteers; the cost to the Parish was only for wood. The village centre shelter was built by local craftsman Ben Law using locally sourced wood with the cost covered 50/50 by the Parish Council and the South Downs National Park. We have also replaced the waste bin by this bus shelter.
* Playgrounds – the RoSPA inspector carries out our annual playground inspections in June. Following the inspection any faults found are corrected which included repairs to the swings, replacement roller log and to a length of the fencing. Many thanks to the people who carry out the monthly inspection of the playground equipment during the rest of the year.
* Woodlands - we have continued implementing the woodland management plan which includes coppicing in Terwick Woodland where we have also cut back 2 large pines which had died; the stumps have been left to provide habituate for the wildlife. A general tidy up and removal of bracken has been carried out on Fyning Recreation ground. The spaces at Bull Hill and Oliver’s Piece continue to be managed and maintained.
* A new grit bin has been installed near Oliver’s Piece.
* We work with Highways to maintain and allow continued use of the local footpaths.
* Work in progress includes new fencing around the Hugo Platt play area; we have a small grant from CDC to help towards the costs. Bike track discussions continue over improvements to parking. Regular WSCC footpath clearance work due to be completed when lock-down is lifted. New grit bins on Dangstein Road and replacement of the stolen bin on the junction of Rogate Road / North Street. Continue with project to register all Parish Council land. New bus shelter near Flying Bull for children catching bus to Bohunt school.

1. **Finance Committee** set its budget for the financial year 2020/21 at £30,925 which is the same as last year’s. Last year we used about £12k of reserves for three items not in our budget –land drainage at St Peter’s Church Terwick (£7.3k), the village bus shelter (£3.2k) and a new website and email service (£1.2k).

* **Non-Discretionary grants** were given to Rogate Parochial Church Council (£1700) and Terwick Parochial Church Council (£1100) for their Burial grounds (£1100).
* **Discretionary grants** were given to:

Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau (£300)

Midhurst Food Bank (£500)

Rake Playground (£1978)

Rogate Primary School (£1000)

Rogate Youth Club Leader (£700)

R&T News (£125)

* **Other funds** were given to Rake and Hillbrow Speedwatch Group (£71)
* **Purchases** during the year include:

New litter bin by Rogate bus shelter (£319)

Two grit bins (£350)

Bus shelters replaced at Rogate, Fyning (2) and Terwick (£6388) with thanks to West Sussex Volunteers who built the 3 shelters at Fyning & Terwick and SDNP who awarded a grant for half cost of Rogate village shelter.

* **Other Expenditure:**

Installed two planters plus a Rogate sign at either end of the village (£209)

The Council continues to clean the four Bus Shelters (£180)

Hugo Platt and Rogate Recreation Ground Playgrounds have been repaired, maintained and replacement roller log purchased (£2745)

Playground equipment has been inspected (£168)

Playground bins have been emptied (£90)

Playground and Rake Rec grass and hedges have been cut (£635)

Defibrillator maintenance (£50)

Councillor Training (£498)

Terwick Wood – removal of dead pine trees (£1100)

Fire beaters (£49)

New Website and email service (£1237)

1. **Planning Committee** During the last twelve months 56 planning applications have been dealt with by the Committee compared with 49 the year before.
2. **Operation Watershed** This is a WSCC initiative to enlist parishes to tackle local flooding and drainage problems. The parish council successfully obtained grants to tackle problems at Slade Lane, Sandhill Farm and Sandilands Farm on Habin Hill. Importantly, the lane to St Peters Church Terwick that proved more difficult has now been implemented and performed well during the wet winter. The Sandhill Farm scheme has not worked well enough and additional more extensive works are now planned.
3. **Litter picking** was due to take place in March but has had to be postponed until the autumn or next year.
4. **Rogate Church of England Primary School** – Neil Ryder, Chair of Governors

At a time when an insidious bug is causing widespread grief and uncertainty, and affecting so many aspects of our way of life, when the village pub is still shut, the shop is for sale and the village hall is struggling, it’s good to be able to report that the first pillar of the community that started looking dodgy is bouncing back in a big way – thanks to our own versions of ‘local heroes’! In order to report on the latest year, we need to set the scene quickly . . .

Four years ago (January 2016) Ofsted came and rated the school as inadequate, and put it into special measures. The new head promptly left, closely followed by 20 or so children – a quarter of the pupil population (and therefore income). Soon afterwards, the department of education issued an academy order, in effect meaning the school had to join an academy trust or close. The local authority (LA) posted in an interim headteacher, and a temporary, professional chair of governors to “refresh” the board of governors. The head focused on the three Rs while the chair sorted out the compliance issues and, when Ofsted came back in June 2017, they raised the school’s rating a notch to ‘requires improvement’. That was an important step in rebuilding local confidence in the school and it was time to rebuild its traditional strengths as a small, rural, village school – deeply involved in its local community and with a caring, family Christian ethos to match – which required a different leadership style.

By June 2018, when they both moved on, the governors had been exploring strategic options for some time. It was clear that, as a C of E school, the only academy trust we were allowed to join was the diocese one (DCAT – diocese of Chichester academy trust) – but the regional school commissioner (the local supremo representing the government’s department of education) did not believe DCAT had the resources or experience to support a tiny village school right up in the South Downs (its existing schools were all down in the coastal strip). The LA was therefore under pressure to close the school, but we had spent months working with them, and with other local school governors, to develop other ideas. We had concluded that all small rural schools were too volatile to be sustainable in their current form. With a maximum of 15 pupils in each year group, some of whom defected to private schools for the latter part of their primary years, they often had such small numbers of pupils by the final year (Rogate had just two in 2018) that their ‘pupil outcomes’ (SATs result) were not a reliable measure of their educational success. With just 4 full-time teachers, all of them (no matter what their experience) needed to manage a mixed-age class, as well as lead two or more subjects – and the loss of any one of them on maternity leave, promotion or ill health caused major ructions. In any case, could a school with less than 100 pupils really justify a full-time head, business manager and caretaker of its own?

So when our head resigned two years ago, we were ready to seize the opportunity. We immediately started talking to the heads and governors of other local schools and concluded that Rake was the best cultural fit, the most popular with parents (judged by the number of pupils and waiting lists), and with an experienced head, David Bertwistle, ready for new challenges (he was already being used by the LA to help other headteachers).

We don’t need to go into all the details. I have already paid tribute in the R&T News to the governors at Rake, and to David himself, for being prepared to jump in and take up this challenge at short notice. They agreed to share David and their business manager with us from the start of the following term (September 2018) and our partnership was born. David called in favours and spent most of his summer holidays down at Rogate, so that the school looked and felt different when the staff and pupils returned - and we have not looked back since.

With having to pay only 50% of the salaries of our head and business manager, we were able to recruit two new teachers of a far higher standard than we could otherwise have afforded. We won a £10,000 grant from the LA to help both schools improve their maths and writing standards and the governors raised £20,000 from local charities to upgrade the IT of both schools and link them properly, so that our now-larger staff could collaborate more effectively. Some of you came to our joint Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths day or our joint arts day.

In another key step, last September, Ofsted came back and rated Rogate ‘Good’ – one of the first small schools in the country to be assessed under the new tough inspection regime, which had been expected to be a real challenge for small schools. What’s more, they were back in just 3 weeks and gave Rake a ‘good’ rating too, so David must be one of the first heads to have gone through two Ofsted visits in a month!

With the new confidence this gave both sets of governors, we’ve spent a lot of time since September discussing our future with the LA, the diocese, and governors and heads of other schools that have become academies. By the Spring, we’d decided that federation was the right move, to finish what we’d started and go all out to create a more stable and sustainable partnership that could keep the best features of the small village schools but also get the benefits of bigger schools; that could offer staff more shared teamwork and experience and better career prospects; and could offer pupils a better start. To make sure, though, we have spent six weeks consulting parents and staff, the LA and diocese, local parish and church councils before making the final decision this week. Since the responses were overwhelmingly favourable, I have to say the final decision was not difficult!

We’re now in the process of conducting staff and parent elections for the new, unified board of governors, which will meet on 10th June, but the two schools had a combined total of 18 governors and the new board will be just 12, so we’ll have to lose a few of our local heroes - but they have agreed to stay on local school committees that will safeguard the specific values of each school. On Rogate’s board, Debs Burles and Max Harwood, who both joined after the fateful Ofsted shock of 2016, have made a huge contribution to this pillar of village life; at Rake, Nik Taylor – the former chair of governors who did the deal with us – and Mark Poeti both feel they cannot make the bigger commitment cannot. We’re delighted, though, that all four will still work with the governors at a local level to protect their unique local characters.

The other group of largely unsung heroes are the Rogate staff, some of whom have stuck by it right through this turbulent time, and some who agreed to join at a difficult time and have somehow fitted in so well. In that first group, it’s only fair to single out Steph Garwood, who was a young teacher at the school in the ‘noughties’, taught in Liphook for a while and came back. Steph was deputy head when the last head left and worked closely with the governors to save the school and help David take the reins, while providing the stability and leadership the staff needed. She is his head of school at Rogate and will be part of its local committee as well as being an associate on the federation board, and her presence there will reassure those that know her.

At the time of writing, the staff have been on a rota to go in and look after the half dozen children of essential workers and vulnerable families that were allowed to stay at school through the lockdown, as well as doing their best to support the other parents in home-schooling. Whilst a few are in self-isolation for medical reasons – but working hard from home - the rest have willingly done their duty and looked after the children that needed their help – and the parents trying to do some of their work in homes suddenly doubling as classrooms and offices. Senior leaders have even helped the heroic caretaker keep the school scrupulously cleaned and reconfigured for social distancing. Right now, primary schools are find themselves centre stage in the massive uncertainties of the end of lockdown and, once again, we all have to depend on the staff to do their best in difficult circumstances – so nothing new there!

This little school has proved, time and again, that it’s a core pillar of the village. It’s been shaken and stirred for the last few years but has proved its resilience and we believe it’s now in better shape than ever before. It has gained the all-important Ofsted seal of approval for its wider curriculum and is being quoted as a shining example by the diocese and the LA for forging a partnership aimed so squarely at pupil benefits, and it still has plenty of plans for further improvements.

Perhaps most important of all, though, its parent survey this Spring reflected the third year of increasingly positive responses - this time with not a single negative score – and the word is obviously spreading: Rogate has attracted its biggest reception class for years for this September. Local parents are recognising that it can, once again, give their children the best start in life - whether because they have been coming to its weekly “stay and play” group, and seen at first-hand how happy and engaged the pupils are, or because they’ve seen its choir and other children at village events, or they’ve visited the school and recognised its creative curriculum, caring community feel and stunning outside space.

Talking to other governors across the county, it’s been clear to me that this school has been very lucky with the support it’s had from the local community and the parish council. We’re all very grateful for that and will continue to try hard to deserve and repay it. Let’s hope the school’s revival can help some of the village’s other institutions to bounce back!

1. **Rogate Village Hall Committee -** Susi Batty, Chair

We have had a busy twelve months at the Hall and the Rec. I list the major projects below.

The Hall We completed the work on the new oil tanks for the Hall and Hall Cottage, using a more reputable firm. Both are now signed off and properly certificated, as is the fire alarm system and all electrics.

We renovated the toilets in the Youth Club, replacing the original WCs and hand basins, re-tiling, laying lino and redecorating.

We improved the regular users’ backstage storage cupboards and now have a safe and tidy space, free of loose items.

After complaints about noise when both the Hall and the Pavilion are in use we submitted an application for a grant from West Sussex County Council for soundproofing, entailing a new, properly soundproof door and blocking up the hatch between the small kitchen and the Hall. This was accepted will go ahead shortly.

The Rec We have moved the old container from behind the Hall onto the Rec and purchased a second container. We repaired the old wooden pavilion and the small wooden shed, hoping that they will last for a few more years. This rationalises the storage in one place along the northern boundary. We still have to reinstate the tarmac in the rear car park, revealed when we moved the old container, but have installed safety railings to make the change of level there safe.

After the sad, unexpected death of one of the tenants in Hall Cottage we decided to use a professional letting agency, Henry Adams, for future lettings as no-one on the Committee has the legal expertise to supervise modern contracts. Although the cottage was more or less ‘up to scratch’ we did need to upgrade it to meet market standards. This included repainting throughout inside, applying preservative to the original cedar cladding externally, tidying up the garden, fitting new curtains and carpets and, of course, testing and certificating the electrics. This was carried out by a mixture of contractors and voluntary members of the Management Committee. The cottage was let quickly to a local resident, which pleased us.

Future Projects There will be ongoing maintenance but in the main the new projects are grant-dependant and will, I hope, include:

Proper loft insulation of the roof spaces above the Hall, the Pavilion and the Youth Club. This is crucial as at present it is very poor indeed and our heating bills are high. Mairi Rennie is trying hard to source a grant for this.

The installation of an outdoor gym. We are working closely with the Parish Council on this and hope to source a grant.

We would like to consider a grant for solar panels on the roof of the Hall.

Unsurprisingly we are suffering a big loss of income during Covid-19 but we are delighted that our Treasurer, Chris Bleasdale has been successful in obtaining £10,000 through a government scheme via Chichester District Council to assist small businesses to cover loss of revenue. Once the restrictions are lifted we must work hard to resurrect use of the Hall and the Rec. Petersfield Youth Football Club will start playing once the restrictions are lifted but new activities on the Rec will be especially important.

1. **Rake Village Hall Committee –** Steve Williamson

The major event last year was the installation of the £80k children’s playground in the grounds behind the tennis court. This success is due to the significant efforts of a group of local residents under the leadership of Pai Tang who has now become the new Chairman of the Trustees. The playground was well used last year and we hope to be able to open it again soon.

From April last year to February this year, bookings and therefore income improved on previous years but running expenses continue to take up most of the income.

Obviously since February the hall has had to be closed with therefore no income coming in. However, we qualified for and received a £10k grant from the Government via Chichester District Council which is keeping us afloat.

The orchard continues to flourish although we had a few casualties due to the wet winter. These will be replaced in the autumn.

During the closure we hope to redecorate some of the areas internally.

1. **Rogate and Rake Neighbourhood Development Plan** – Steve Williamson

SDNPA employed AECOM to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of our NP which was completed, reviewed and revised. It did not identify any major issues with the Plan. The R&RNDP was then due to go through yet another round of strategic consultations but this has been put on hold by SDNPA due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.

1. **The Heritage Centre** – Mairi Rennie

This year we have refurbished the Centre with repainting the floor, mounting notices and pictures, and have started on a review of our cataloguing. We are gradually working through the collection and grouping the materials in more relevant locations. There is so much to do, cross-referencing where appropriate, tightening up the categories, and trying to impose logic on diverse and sometimes random items. I am fortunate to have the help of June Gutridge who is a chartered librarian.

In October we hosted the Petersfield Museum Road-Show and attracted more visitors than any other Museum Road-Show event. We mounted an exhibition of photographs, articles and items reflecting the history of Rogate in the Village Hall. We have also bought a brick for the Museum courtyard.

A collection of photographs taken of Rogate in the 1950s by Donald Birkinshaw came up for sale on e-bay. These capture the village with its several shops, and quiet roads just before it all changed. I bought the whole collection, including the copyrights. This will be important for future publications and exhibitions. Photos of Rogate still come up on e-bay and in time we may add more to the collection.

There are several on-going projects planned for the next year or so. I wondered if I could add some more recent history to the history section of the Parish Council website. Then what about a history of the school, from the documents and photos we have at the Centre? I’ve a feeling there might be much more information hidden in long term residents’ attics etc., if this was made a kind of community project. Unfortunately I don’t have much about Rake school.

There is so much to do before modern life takes away all community memories – with perhaps the pub and the shop.

1. **R&T News** – Stephen Berendt, Editor

The magazine has continued to be published with 420 copies being distributed to its subscribers every month.

For much of the year, the website continued with viewing at about 450 per month. Although this is being written to meet a year-end of 31st March, it is worth noting that the pandemic has meant that the content has been much updated with particular emphasis on local help available and online church services following the closure of all churches. April saw 2,000 views during the month – (usually 450 views).

The ALERT system has also been useful in disseminating information about the pandemic as well as the other information that has been sent throughout the year. Since the last report another 14 ALERTS were sent out to an average of 395 email addresses on the community database.

The subscription cost for this year has been raised to £7 – having stayed at £5 for as long as anyone can remember – probably 15 years or more! Revenue from advertising continues to provide the bulk of income for the magazine (though we are concerned about the coronavirus effect).

Very disappointingly the Newcomers event in June (which was combined with the Sussex Day event) was something of a disaster. I went back to the participants and got some good constructive feedback, which we can think about when the time comes for another event.

Since the last report we have a new ‘weatherman’ who has been provided with up-to-date technology and has been providing very detailed information about the local weather.

The magazine once again sponsored the Christmas Lighting around the church.

Finally, at our March committee meeting Elizabeth Brown stood down as chair, having been involved with the magazine for 31 years, 26 of those as chair. She was also editor until 2014. She has overseen the transition of the magazine from a gestetnered news-sheet to the digitally produced copy we have today. Her contribution to the community has been immense, and should not be underestimated.  I have (very reluctantly) agreed to take on the role of chair as well as editor.

1. **Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Limited** - Peter Moss, Chairman

The Association has continued to operate sheltered housing in 16 flats at East Lodge and social housing in eight units at Hugo Platt in Rogate during 2019. These are all managed on behalf of the Association by PHA Homes.

The surplus in the year at just under £49,700 was slightly greater than in the previous year, reflecting a small reduction in expenditure on repairs and replacements as explained below, despite rental income falling very slightly in line with Government legislation.

East Lodge - As mentioned in my report last year, the programme of window replacement had been planned for 2018 but the work was delayed and took place in 2019. In fact, less was spent than was originally budgeted as on detailed inspection it became clear that not all the frames identified for replacement were in a condition to warrant rectification. Other savings arose as a result of not doing such extensive work as had been planned.

Hugo Platt - only routine repairs were carried out on Hugo Platt during 2019.

The Board - During the year Stephen Berendt was appointed to the Board. Stephen is a long-term resident of Rogate and his parents were both residents of East Lodge for a time and he is involved in many community activities. He brings to the Board a deep knowledge of the needs of those in supported housing and we welcome his input and advice.

I am very grateful to the other members of the Board John Field, Juliette Murray, Catherine Staples, Emma Rose and Bob Trembath who all make a major contribution to the work of the Association.

I must also offer my thanks to PHA (Homes) who continue to manage Hugo Platt and East Lodge with great efficiency. They are by our side and are happy to be consulted and give help on any aspect of our operations.

Since the end of the year under review, the key issue affecting the Association and every other aspect of our daily lives is the threat of the coronavirus. Most of our residents at East Lodge are high risk and vulnerable people and an early decision was taken, in conjunction with PHA Homes, to be ultra-cautious in protecting our residents. It is not an easy or pleasant situation for anyone to be confined to their room for a protracted period and at the time of writing there is no indication when self-confinement will come to an end.

Rogate and Terwick Housing Association is a very small part of the social housing sector and in the short term we will remain focused on surviving the effects of the crisis. Within that period and thereafter our overriding objective is to provide a good living environment for our tenants within the bounds of our funds.

1. **George Street Trust** – Anne Alderman

The George Street Trust was set up from the proceeds of the sale of Rake Chapel and subsequently the club room. Its remit is to use its income :

* to help those in need who live in either the hamlet of Rake, the ecclesiastical parishes of St Luke’s Milland and St Luke’s Linch with Iping Marsh and the Civil Parishes of Liss, Milland and Rogate, either individually or through other charitable institutions.
* for religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the same area.
* if the charity’s income cannot be applied for the purposes set out above, it may be applied for charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit.

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications for grant, normally in June and November. In 2019 grants totalling some £17,800 were awarded to a mixture of individual recipients and groups, the specific details of which must remain confidential. However this includes grants to both Rogate and Rake Primary Schools.

1. **Rake and Hillbrow traffic calming Community Highways Scheme** – Adrian Collins
2. Community Highways Scheme (CHS) proposal was submitted to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) in June 2019 and has been successful in being selected for taking to the next stage of development by WSCC highways.

This proposal was the result of work initiated in 2018 by a Rake and Hillbrow community led group concerned about the impact of traffic speed and noise in the area and in the vicinity of Rake CoE Infant School in particular. The group was supported by Dr Kate O’Kelly, District and County Councillor and endorsed by Rogate Parish Council in line with the Rake and Rogate Neighbourhood Plan which identified the strong need and support for traffic calming on the B2070. The CHS proposal document was published on the Parish Council website (<https://rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk/notices/rake-and-hillbrow-community-highways-scheme-application-2019/>) WSCC adjudicated all CHS submissions in the county in Dec 2019 (see paragraph 7 for details and next stage).

1. The objectives of the scheme are to:

* Enable the community’s aspiration for more cohesiveness and enjoyment of the open space by reducing the invasive impact of the B2070 road traffic volume, speed and noise.
* Encourage more walking and cycling by providing safer routes to village amenities, business locations and transport links (bus stops). specifically:
* Pedestrian crossings with safe refuge across the B2070
* New pathway pavements
* School bus stops
* Reduced speed limit to 30 mph in Rake and Hillbrow in line with West Sussex CC Speed Limit Policy 2010 for Villages currently with 40mph roads
* Change character of the B2070 road by means of hatched approaches to pedestrian crossings, marked cycle lanes and village gateways.

1. Benefits identified:

* A safer school access for children, staff and parents
* Improves safety and feeling of a safe road environment for pedestrians, horse riders, dog walkers and cyclist.
* Improves quality of life for the 600 plus residents of Rake and Hillbrow in terms of reduced noise pollution and better air quality
* Encourage walking to village amenities and retailers/services and access via public footpaths to the wider countryside and marked walking routes/trails.
* Provide safer access with road crossings to amenities based on the Village Hall and its grounds, especially the new children’s play park.
* Provide safer cycle route within and through the village

1. Community support

Public consultation. Following first public meeting in July 2018 a second of 2 public meetings was held on 16th May 19. This was attended by 61 members of the community with District/County Councillor and Chairman of Rogate Parish Council also in attendance. The meeting identified home/business locations of those attending, explained process to date, relevant policies, initiatives taken (Community Speedwatch), self- funding and CHS opportunities. A Q&A and individual survey completed at the conclusion of the meeting indicated level of community support for traffic calming proposals. Analysis of the survey was undertaken and adjustments made to CHS proposals.

Community Speedwatch The concern about vehicle speeds along the B2070 led to a group of residents established a ‘Rake and Hillbrow Community Speedwatch (CSW) Group’ under the auspices of Sussex Police. Since establishing the group in November 2018, the group currently has 14 trained volunteers. The group has operated sessions from 6 authorised sites in the 40mph sections of the B2070. This has resulted in 454 vehicles reported for speeding in excess of 46mph and advisory letters sent to vehicle owners. CSW activity was reduced following submission of the CHS proposal. (CSW is currently not permitted due to Government Lockdown instructions).

1. CHS Proposals:

* Improved Footways:
* Widen footway between the Brewells Lane junction and the garden centre junction.
* Made up footway between Chapel Common junction and Rake village.
* Pedestrian Crossings. uncontrolled pedestrian crossings with central island at:
* Oliver’s Piece Area
* Adjacent to the Former Sun Inn
* Between the Coldharbour Wood Road and Chapel Common
* Junction Improvements at London Road, Brewells Lane and Bull Hill to improve vision of joining traffic and pedestrians crossing the road.
* Marked cycle lanes.
* Speed Limit Changes
* Rake Village speed limit of 30 mph (reduced from 40mph in line with WSCC Speed Limit policy for villages). Minimum distance of 100m on the single carriageway in advance of Rake Primary school. (Village Gateway to be positioned at this location) and 30mph limit on the approach to the village on Bull Lane.
* Approach to Rake Village from Liphook direction: Speed limit of 50mph on the dual carriageway at a suitable distance from the 30mph speed limit proposed on the single carriageway leading to Rake.
* Hillbrow. Speed limit of 30 mph (reduced from 40mph in line with WSCC Speed Limit policy for villages)
* B2070 between Rake and Hillbrow. Reduce existing 50mph speed limit to 40mph.

1. CHS includes the following community-funded measures:

* Tree Planting to break up long views ahead and to increase village amenity.
* Village Gateways to enhance change of road character to residential area (Location of village gateways are to be co-located with change in speed limits).
* Speed Indicator Signs. Temporary/ demountable speed indicator signs on 6 WSCC approved sites. (the device will be used on 2 sites on A272 in Rogate.

1. CHS Adjudication and Next Stage.

WSCC adjudicated 37 CHS submitted from across the county by the deadline for submission in 2019. Of these 14 were successful in being taken to the next stage. The Rake and Hillbrow proposal was considered on the basis of a reduced scheme based around Bull Hill junction improvements, speed limit, dropped kerbs and footway improvements in the centre of Rake with an estimated budget of £170k (this is the highest budgeted scheme of those progressing to the next stage)

Next stage. The CHS is programmed to be taken to the ‘Design Stage’ within the current financial year (FY Apr 2020 – Apr 21). Design stage involves community consultation. Progression to the Development stage (FY21/2) is dependent on design feasibility and WSCC highways budget allocation.

1. **Tennis Club** - Richard Hatfield

The Club is very much a club aimed at local people. We had a hundred members last year, very similar to recent years, mostly living in or close to Rogate, including many families. The Club’s Sunday and Tuesday mix-ins were well supported throughout the year and we had some very enjoyable extra mix-ins on pleasant summer evenings. We also played a couple of fun friendlies with Midhurst (not their first team!) – one on grass at Bepton on a glorious summer evening and the other under their new floodlights on a cold December evening.

The club continued to encourage young players. Richard Hopp Coaching provided after school tennis clubs during the year although unfortunately bad weather forced us to cancel our Red Ball Tournament/Family Day (open to non-members) which proved so successful in the previous two years. We had a record entry for this year’s tournament but, regrettably, it has been one of the casualties of Covid-19. this year as forced us to cancel as part of the LTA Quorn Cup.

At the start of the season, we also held a couple of “rusty rackets” coaching sessions, open to non-members, to encourage former players to return to the game. Again, we had planned to repeat these this year but this too has been prevented by Covid-19.

In December, thanks To Debs Burles, the Club (and Rogate School) were able to obtain tickets for an afternoon session at the end of season O2 tennis tournament -

Away from the courts, the Club has taken part in village life. We provided a (not very successful) quiz team for a fund-raising event for the school. Last, but by no means least, the Club, through Kerry Smith before the fete and the team selling tickets on the day, contributed substantially to record raffle takings of almost £1900.

We are looking forward to getting back on court as soon as Covid19 permits – just a reminder that our subscriptions are excellent value at £85 for a family, £45 for an adult and just £15 for students/juniors.

1. **START (Stedham, Trotton And Rogate Together) Community Trust** – Neil Ryder

The parish council’s year coincides almost exactly with our first year of operation: START Community Trust was first registered on 5th April, so I guess we are a mere toddler amongst the other respected bodies that will be reporting to the parish council this Spring - maybe it’s just as well there will be no physical meeting, as toddlers tend to be a nuisance at adults’ events!

It’s a bit sad to think back to last summer after these weeks of being locked up at home, and we’ll all miss the lovely Rogate fete. For us, it was our first public launch day and, along with the rainy Sussex Day a week later, helped us to recruit our first 75 members. They are now amongst the 100 or so who will have a vote when we are finally able to hold our first annual general meeting - currently scheduled (optimistically) for 6pm on 18th September in the village hall – and on whatever projects we eventually manage to get under way, whether affordable housing or other community projects.

Some of those early members may have been hoping we’d be ready by now to start building a few lovely little stone cottages for their children and grandchildren, or for local nurses, teachers, farm labourers and others important to the community. Dreams are fine of course but we’ve done our best, from the start, to emphasise that most community land trusts take five years or more to get to the stage of actually building anything – and most don’t have the difficulties we face of trying to find suitable sites inside a national park! It may well be that we will be getting involved in other local community projects before we can start building anything at all but we will keep up our efforts and we remain hopeful: there are places where a few good-looking cottages, held in trust for local people, would be a genuine boon to the village.

Most of our year, though, has been used to get ourselves set up and ready, and to get our heads round the sort of sites that the planners might allow us to develop, to look for opportunities, and to select experts to help us when the time comes.

We will find places to build the houses our community needs and, when we do, we are going to need the right skills to manage the process. We can buy the consultants, architects, builders and so on, but we will need people on our board with the experience to know when we are getting the right advice and how to cope with the inevitable problems. We have a good group of people on the board (see our website at [www.start-ct.org.uk](http://www.start-ct.org.uk)) but we would like to find another member with development, planning or building experience. We can offer highly attractive terms (the opportunity to serve your community as a volunteer!) and an interesting challenge, so please don’t hold back if you – or someone you know – could help us to fulfil our purpose and retain the support of the community for it.

Rogate is a village in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, within reach of its capital and of many of its best leisure facilities. If we all want our children and grandchildren to be able to live here, despite having to pay back the national debts we are building up, we need to be able to build a few more houses in the area – and help to retain some of the other community facilities we enjoy. Wouldn’t we all rather make sure they are developed and controlled by a community-owned trust than by outsiders? That’s what START is here for, and why it needs you to join or to offer it some of your time, your land and your support.

You can learn more about us at [www.start-ct.org.uk](http://www.start-ct.org.uk) and we hope to be reporting to the parish for many years to come – hopefully with a bit more to say!

**Next Annual Parish meeting to be held in April 2021**