

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

With restrictions easing there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel – let's just hope it's not a train....

Anyway, we had our May Council meeting via video conferencing and again, it was a reduced agenda as so much is on hold at the moment. However, we did take time to move forward with the project to install an outdoor gym in Rogate – a much needed facility at the present time. We were joined by Susi Batty who is chair of the village hall committee. We accepted the village halls preferred location which is along the northern boundary of the tennis court and agreed to work jointly to clarify the proposal from Fresh Air Fitness including its fund-raising facility. The Council also accepted responsibility for leasing the strip of land from the village hall, the associated legal costs, and the on-going maintenance of the equipment (subject to further scrutiny).

For the past few years we have been trying to resolve the poor state of the footway along the A272 from Garbitts Lane to the Renault Garage. It is only a narrow path but has been made even narrower from the collapsing bank. With the help of County Councillor Kate O'Kelly, we have finally got WSCC Highways to include it on their maintenance programmes although that is in abeyance like so many things at the moment.

There is a local village initiative to make visors for local NHS workers and we agreed to donate £250 to the operation which is based in Churt. We also agreed to go ahead with a locally made picnic table and benches for Fyning Recreation Ground.

Finally, we decided to start proceedings to reduce the number of parish councillors from the current thirteen to a more sensible nine. The larger number came about when Rogate was merged with Terwick parish in the 1950s. Based on our population, nine councillors is in line with the rest of the country. It has long been our wish to slim down the council but the process is lengthy, which is why it was not pursued in the past. If we can jump through all the hoops then any change will come in force for the May 2023 elections

With regard to any help that is needed in response to the Covid-19 crisis, 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, please do not hesitate to reach out for it as there are many people willing to help.

Please stay safe 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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