



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 27th April 2020**

Meeting via 'Zoom' audio conferencing - started at 3.00pm.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Carolyn Butler (CB), Adrian Collins (AC), Fiona Dix (FD), Zoe MacLehose (ZM) and Mairi Rennie (MR).

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Chairman: Max Harwood

www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

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maxjharwood@googlemail.com

clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 1) **Recording of the meeting** - It was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** None.
- 3) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 4) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 27th January 2020 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 5) **Actions from last meeting**
 - a) ZM noted the barbed wire has been removed.
 - b) ZM to circulate example 'don't pick-lick' signs. After discussion it was agreed to aim to put up notices at the entrances to our land and Chapel Common for a limited period of 6 months. Consider if possible to include guidance through social media.
 - c) After further discussion it was agreed not to install flower mangers on the village bus shelter despite FD volunteering to look after them.
 - d) Trees have been removed from footpath at Fyning Recreation ground and Souters Copse.
 - e) AC noted WSCC imap website is a very useful mapping tool with a lot of detail.
 - f) AC/FD have looked at woodland management plan – more at item 8).
 - g) Hugo Platt fence due to be replaced in June (delayed because of current situation).
 - h) Dig-it tree campaign not applicable under current situation.
 - i) CDC were not interested in erecting bins in the layby on A272 by Slade Lane.
Post meeting note – CDC have erected 'take your rubbish home' signs for the summer in this layby. They have also reported an increase in fly-tipping in the layby by Durleigh Marsh.
- 6) **Representations by the public:** None.
- 7) **Footpaths**
 - a) Clerk noted WSCC annual clearance has been delayed under the current Coronavirus situation.
 - b) MR reported a broken stile on path 1151 between Slade Lane and Common Side – she has sent a photo to the Clerk who will notify the owner who is responsible for its repair.
 - c) MH noted the farmer is ploughing/drilling some fields – paths should be re-instated within 2 weeks but we should allow 3/4 weeks before contacting him with any concerns.
 - d) White Horse path registration - after discussion it was agreed while it is important to protect the path its important it doesn't become an issue. MH had some concern over support from the Village Hall committee and trustees. After consideration of the current status of the White Horse it was agreed to defer any further action for 6 months. Clerk noted she has raised the gate installation with planning control as it is within the conservation area.

Woodland Management Plan –

- a) AC and FD have been looking at our woodland management plan and suggested
 - in the short term, £1,000 budget for this year is spent in Terwick Woodland to remove the holly at the north edge (£750) and Oliver’s Piece to mark out the progression of the rhododendron ponticum to stop its development, to survey and work on removing diseased/dangerous trees (£250).
 - Carry out a more detailed survey of all sites.
 - Complete spreadsheet of work required at each site and budget.
 - Consider expanding objectives of our plan to improve facilities for the enjoyment of the parish as the current aim is technical and doesn’t encourage use.
 - b) The Clerk noted there is £3,000 unspent within prior year budgets and reminded the committee the plan was compiled by Roger Fitter on our behalf so perhaps we haven’t taken ownership of its aims.
 - c) Oliver’s piece – it was agreed boundary markers at the bottom would be useful and trees highlighted by Roger Fitter should be checked. After discussion, AC volunteered to look at with MH.
 - d) Clerk to pursue registering the land.
 - e) Bull Hill – AC to discuss with SW and look at with him and MH.
 - f) AC read the vision statement of our current plan and felt it should be expanded to include the public amenity and encourage usage. It was agreed to consider adding another statement to the current objectives.
 - g) MR felt a small pond at Fyning Recreation ground would be helpful for wildlife while the Clerk thought wildlife information boards could encourage children.
- 8) **Garbitts Wood** – no update and as this is looked after by the Woodland Trust it was agreed not to include on future agenda.
- 9) **Play areas** - the Clerk noted the annual inspections are due to be carried out early June.
- 10) **VE75 day picnic bench**
MR noted we have been awarded a £250 grant from CDC to purchase a bench with a memorial plaque. After discussion about various locations it was agreed to try to purchase a picnic table for Fyning Recreation ground; AC to investigate options/cost.
- 11) **Date of next meeting:** The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 7.30 on Monday 22nd June 2020 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.02pm.

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Chairman

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Date