



Meeting held via 'Zoom' video conferencing due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Elizabeth Brown (EB), Adrian Collins (AC), Fiona Dix (FD), Max Harwood (MH), Zoe MacLehose (ZM), Elena McCloskey (EM), Gerard McCloskey (GM), Mairi Rennie (MR) and Steve Williamson (SW),

County/District Councillor Kate O'Kelly (KOK).

There was one member of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Chairman: Max Harwood

maxjharwood@googlemail.com

Joint Vice-Chairmen:

Adrian Collins and Fiona Dix

www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

1) Recording of the meeting – none.

2) Election of Chairman

- a) As outgoing Chairman, SW noted nominations had been submitted to the Clerk prior to the meeting because of Covid restrictions. AC, FD and MH received nominations but AC & FD declined to stand. The proposal of MH as Chairman was unanimously approved and he took the chair with the hope that everybody will pull together to help.
- b) MH noted AC, FD and GM received nominations for Vice-Chair but GM had declined to stand. After consideration that different people bring different skills, MH's proposal that AC and FD act as joint vice-chairmen was seconded by EB and unanimously approved.
- c) EB offered her resignation as she no longer lives in the village.
- d) SW thanked her for her enormous contribution to the Council and support to him; thoughts that were echoed throughout. He had previously presented her with a plant which she thanked the council for.
- e) Ann Arnold has indicated she will be resigning because of health issues; again she has done an enormous amount of work with the PC and other organisations in the village and will be greatly missed. EB had given her a rose bush 'retirement' on behalf of the council.
- f) Val Farren has resigned due to family commitment; SW noted her down to earth advice will be missed.
- g) FD thanked SW for being a fantastic chairman – reliable, well-prepared and a tower of strength adding it was a pleasure working with him and we were glad and lucky that we would not be losing his advice and knowledge as he was remaining on the council; thoughts echoed throughout.

EB and ZM left the meeting.

3) Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: None.

4) Declarations of interest – none.

5) Minutes of last meeting held on 13th July 2020 were accepted by the Council as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.

6) Representations from the Public – none.

7) County & District Councillor reports – KOK's report had previously been circulated:

As County Councillor:

- a) West Sussex is a Local Authority with a low number of Covid infections; to date 2,826 recorded cases with infection rate of 327.1 per 100,000 residents which compares to overall rate in England of 477.9 and South East of 391.6. They had their first meeting of the Councillor group scrutinising the local outbreak plan and their Public Health team assured her they are now receiving enough detailed data about individual cases. She made the point lessons need to be learnt from areas where local outbreaks have occurred and the integration of the National and local track and trace systems needs to be as smooth as possible.
- b) Cycling – Rother Valley Way progress SDNPA have allocated more funds and more Officer time and hope to see progress over the next few months. Government funding for seven temporary cycleway schemes in WS has been approved by Department of Transport. CDC scheme in Chichester is being constructed. Second tranche of Government funding bid has been submitted. She is on County Member group looking at government funded cycling schemes which includes reviewing their impact.

- c) Full council met on 17th July when they discussed plans for their Reset (what they want to do) and Reboot (how they intend to do it). Her recommendations that climate change needs to be an overarching theme was agreed. Financial challenges are considerable with predicted £34m deficit for the year. That was prior to latest announcement on more Government funding which is likely to improve the situation but not be enough to remove the deficit entirely.

As District Councillor:

- d) Planning - Member briefing due this week on implications of government announcements about wholesale changes to the planning system. Awaiting briefing from SDNPA/CDC on specific implications for parishes within the Park.
- SW noted these changes will also have implications for the parish.
- e) CDC has allocated discretionary funds totally £500,000 in recognition of the exceptional circumstances around Covid. Small Grants (up to £1,000) towards costs incurred keeping staff, volunteers, clients or customers safe during the crisis. Larger grants (up to £5,000) towards measures to recover from lockdown, these grants are offered on a 50% match fund basis to a maximum of £5,000. High demand is anticipated and will be considered in receipt order www.chichester.gov.uk/covidrecoverygrants.
- f) In response to a question, KOK explained there is an 'in principal' agreement for people on the county boundaries to use Petersfield recycling centre but the formal agreement is in progress. People outside Hampshire are currently unable to book an appointment via their website but they can ring.

8) Councillor vacancies and formation of Committees for 2020/21 – Planning – Open Spaces – Finance

- a) MH noted with the resignations today plus two we already had; we need to find some more councillors.
- b) In response to GM's question the Clerk explained while we are going to apply to reduce the number of Councillors to 9 any change will not take effect until the next election; in the meantime we need to advertise any vacancies.
- c) FD noted talking to individuals is normally a better approach than advertising.
- d) It was agreed it would be preferable to get applicants from different areas of the village including Hillbrow and Parsonage.
- e) Committee Membership was discussed and agreed to include a 'Forward plan' working group to look at aims for the next few years. It was noted the planning committee is low on members so it was agreed any Councillor could join the committee as and when required. People outside of the Parish Council can join working groups and it was agreed to call on others who have expertise to help when appropriate. Clerk to circulate updated committee list.

9) Chairman's report - none

10) Finance report -

- a) SW noted four months into financial year expenditure is in line with budget but without room hire; £2,350 of £4,000 budget remains for equipment purchase/replacement and £5,200 discretionary grants.
- b) Non-cheque signatory to check reconciliation – this has been difficult because of Covid restrictions; FD to go through file.

Receipts and payments approved:

Receipts noted:		
HSBC	Bank interest	£0.06
Payments approved:		
Clerk/RFO	Salary/PAYE	Undisclosed
Debbie Harknett	Zoom video conferencing monthly cost	£14.39
SLCC	Training course	£72.00
Elizabeth Brown	Repayment of expenses	£18.99
Scottish Water	Fyning Recreation ground supply	£21.72
Amott Tree Surgery	Terwick Woodland chestnut tree felling	£750.00
Simon Wright	Fyning Recreation ground summer clearance	£135.00
R.J. Playgrounds	Playground repairs	£3,444.00
Glasdon UK	Replacement grit bin	£225.80
Steve Williamson	Repayment of expenses	£38.95

Matters for discussion:

- 11) Soft sand review** – MH noted our submission, as circulated for approval, has been made; thanks to SW.

Committee reports:

12) Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 13th July and 3rd August 2020 were received.
- b) AC noted members have received an email from Dolphin Homes in connection to Zurs planning application. SW added we are not required to do anything – planning permission relates to a site not an applicant or activities and though his operation may be laudable any future use may be different.
- c) AC reminded Members our objection was based on three similar local sites being unoccupied. The applicant had been offered the opportunity to submit substitute plans to include development that has already taken place on the site, but these new plans still appear to differ from the actual development.
- d) It was agreed we are unable to reconsider our objection as the rationale for our decision hasn't changed.
- e) KOK noted as the PC have objected the application will go to committee for a decision unless the Officer decided to refuse.

13) Open Spaces

- a) The Open Spaces Committee meeting on Tuesday 25th August 2020 was noted.
- b) MH updated the meeting – 3 trees have been clearer at Terwick Woodland; the bench is on order; the grass has been cut along the footway between Garbett's Lane and the Garage (though we are unsure if this was by WSCC Highways or at our instruction). WSCC Community Volunteers are due on 27 August to cut back into the path – somebody to try and call in to see them.

14) Finance Committee – it was agreed to bring the meeting scheduled for 26th October 2020 forward.

15) RATA – AC's report had been circulated prior to the meeting

- a) A272 Antisocial Motorcycling Campaign Group initiated by CDC (comprising of communities and PC's along route) have held 3 zoom meetings which have been largely information sharing and discussion on initiatives taken locally, ideas for coordinated activity, need for Police enforcement and lobbying for change in the law. It's clear from representation in the group that whilst the noise and speeding problem is widespread, the size and level of activity of local campaign groups varies significantly with many not being PC led.
- b) One action is to organise a specific day/time for Community Speedwatch (CSW) operations along the A272. We are not currently in a position to support this action as Rogate does not have a CSW group.
- c) Sussex Police engaged and taking steps to tackle this issue. Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Sussex 'Performance & Accountability Meeting' held with new Chief Constable (CC) of Sussex Police – the agenda was dominated by noise, speed and anti-social driving with PCC asking what the force are doing about the problem. A recording of this meeting can be viewed <https://sussex-pcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. It was obvious from the range of correspondence referred to by the PCC the problem is common and widespread across both West and East Sussex and the new CC appreciates the level of public angst and is responding to the problem. She referred to Operation Downsway which specifically targets speeding and antisocial motorcyclists, new technology they are researching and trials conducted by other police forces.
- d) We must ensure Rogate/A272 is on the PCC and CC 'radars' regarding this issue. With this aim in mind AC's proposal of **resolution 'that a letter is written, to both the PCC and CC, to include the full length of the A272'** was seconded by FD and unanimously supported.
- e) SW noted an article in the technical press which indicates there is a lot of movement about noise elsewhere in the country; he will forward to Adrian.
- f) **Speed indicator device signs (SIDS)** Section 115 licence application to WSCC for permission to install the devices on existing traffic signposts has been submitted.
- g) Elancity (chosen supplier) have confirmed costs quoted will be maintained until application is complete.
- h) There are two locations (Fyning Lane junction and opposite Rake garden centre) without existing posts so new 75mm traffic posts need to be purchased and installed by WSCC approved contractors. SW's proposal of **resolution 'to provide a budget of £300 to purchase and install two traffic posts from RATA funds'** was seconded by FD and unanimously approved.
- i) Community Highways Scheme - Allison Thorpe, SDNPA requested sight of the 'Feasibility Design' and has supported the overall scheme design.
- j) AC gave thanks to V-Signs, Rake who produced a large printed canvas banner to enable the July outdoor Covid-19 compliant public exhibition to take place as they have waived the cost (c£200) as their contribution to the community scheme. He will write a note of thanks on behalf of the council.

16) Grants & Projects - Outdoor gym

- a) EM reported that since the Parish Council has offered 50% funding support for the project, she hopes other groups will be encouraged. She, together with Susi Batty, GM and Jim McMeehan Roberts have established a working group to try to raise the remaining funds. The group have met and drawn up a list of various companies and individuals to approach for donations.
- b) She has spoken to the Village Hall Committee and although they haven't yet offered any financial support they are very keen for the project to go ahead.
- c) They wrote to the George Street Trust and are very pleased to have received a £1,000 donation.
- d) EM reminded Members that grant giving remains focused on Covid-19 projects and she has been told this is unlikely to change for some time.

17) Neighbourhood plan

- a) SW reported he has been amending the three NP documents with the outcome of the recent Strategic Environmental Review, Sustainability Appraisal and the boundary change at Nyewood. The documents are the R&RNDP Submission document (the actual Plan); Basic Conditions Statement with 3 appendices (the planning background and context); Consultation Statement with 11 appendices (results of all the consultations).
- b) These will be sent to SDNPA for checking next week and there will probably be some changes still needed. There have been no changes to the policies within the NP.
- c) Once these documents are officially submitted to SDNPA there will be a further 6-week statutory consultation run by SDNPA. The results of which will go straight to the independent examiner who will consider them as part of the examination.
- d) When agreed by the inspector it will go to referendum when it will require a vote of 51% or more to pass. An information public meeting will be held ahead of this.

18) Drainage issues/operation watershed –

- a) SW noted that he hopes to be able to arrange a meeting with Pete Davey about the Sandhill flooding now that Covid restrictions are easing.
- b) KOK noted there is still Watershed funds available for new schemes.
- c) MR noted problems in Fyning Lane caused by spring water running down the road, creating potholes and ice in the winter. SW explained you need to find out the cause, the solution, cost and then submit an application. Landbuild, who are approved by WSCC, have helped us with other schemes.

19) Rogate and Rake Schools - MH noted they are currently on holiday.

20) START (Community Land Trust) - MR noted they are talking to a housing association to see if they can work together. She reminded Members they are also a community benefit society looking at projects to help the village and may be able to offer help with fundraising.

21) Correspondence

- a) Emails as previously circulated. MH reminded Members they should be looking to use their 'rogateparishcouncil' email addresses.
- b) Bank statements received – filed in finance file.

22) Information for the Council (for noting or inclusion on a future Agenda) – MR asked about trees; Clerk will include on Open Spaces agenda.

23) Date of next meeting – The next Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 14th September at 7.30pm via Zoom video conferencing.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman:
Max Harwood