



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Tuesday 25th August 2020**

Meeting via 'Zoom' video conferencing - started at 6.00pm.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), 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
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- 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 22nd June 2020 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 5) **Actions from last meeting**
 - Removed from list:
 - a) 'Don't pick-lick' signs.
 - FD joined meeting.
 - Completed:
 - b) Broken stile on footpath 1151 repaired.
 - c) Hedge at Clayton Court cut back today following our 'lovesussex' report and letter to owner from WSCC Highways. It is a lot easier for large vehicle to pass though FD noted the righthand side of the road is not as wide as the left – she will investigate further and take photo/measurements if appropriate to seek additional work from WSCC.
 - d) Fyning Recreation Ground summer clearance and felling of 3 or 4 dead trees.
 - e) Terwick Woodland Chestnut tree felling.
 - f) Hugo Platt fence installation.
 - g) Playground repairs following annual inspection.
 - In progress:
 - h) Garage to Garbett's Lane footway – WSCC Volunteers due 27.08.20. MR volunteered to visit them, and after discussion, MH's proposal of **resolution 'to provide volunteers with a sandwich/pie from Rogate Stores'** was seconded by MR and unanimously approved.
 - i) VE75 Picnic bench should be installed at Fyning Recreation Ground by 7 September.
 - j) Registering land – documents with Solicitor; need to find proof of ownership of Fyning Recreation Ground - MR/MH/Clerk working on this.
 - Ongoing:
 - k) Holly at Terwick – MH to contact Roger Fitter.
 - l) Oliver's Piece – ongoing when Covid-19 lockdown allows.
 - m) Bull Hill – AC & MH to meet SW now Covid-19 restrictions have eased.
 - n) Vision statement for Woodland Management plan – ongoing AC/FD. AC explained the plan template they have been looking at includes a 'vision element'.
 - o) Footpaths – concern over maize planting and leaking irrigation pipe – needs somebody to walk past and report current state. MR to provide path numbers to help.
 - p) Use of Open Spaces Policy – draft with FD to circulate prior to next meeting.
 - q) Hugo Platt – check age and guarantee of play equipment – Clerk.
 - r) Winter plan to be reviewed – AC volunteered to look at; MH to help.

6) **Representations by the public:** none.

7) **Footpaths:** no reports.

8) **Woodland Management Plan –**

- a) MH noted most of the work within the original Woodland Management Plan compiled by Roger Fitter in January 2017 has been completed.
- b) Removal of some scotch pine in Terwick Woodland has been left so the wood had a chance to settle after the coppicing.
- c) Bull Hill has sweet chestnut trees that need coppicing and the little woodland at the end is overgrown and untidy.
- d) Oliver's Piece rhododendrons haven't been cut back as they are admired by some people so it needs further consideration.

9) **Play areas –** covered within actions above.

10) **Consider membership of the Open Spaces Society**

Clerk had become aware of this organisation and wondered if they could provide any help to the committee, membership would be £45pa. MR explained they are a small organisation and though helpful we can find all the information via the internet so it was agreed not to join.

11) **The Dell – seat and trimming back**

- a) MR noted he raised concerns about the bench's condition about five years ago. He has looked at it and it has obviously deteriorated more in that time. Some slats are broken, bolts rotted etc but, as its concreted into the ground, he thinks it may be repairable. The vegetation around it is not overgrown though there is a large pampa grass close by.
- b) MR thought it was placed there by the WI though the Clerk explained it is included on our asset list so we are responsible.
- c) After discussion, it was agreed MR will talk to the WSCC Volunteers to see if they are able to help.

12) **Tree planting –** it was agreed we do not want any additional trees on our Open Spaces (and this should be reflected in our vision statement). Any offers of free trees should be passed to the wider community.

13) **Use of Open Spaces policy**

- a) MH reminded the meeting we need a simple policy for reference and available on our website though there is a 'no camping, no fires' sign at Fyning Recreation ground.
- b) FD feels strongly that it is a shame about the camping is not permitted on a village green and wondered if it would be possible to have a designated area.
- c) In response to question about other policies the Clerk wondered about the need for a Wildlife or Bio-diversity policy in the future. MH noted the ecologically of our areas are very different.

14) **Date of next meeting:** The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 26th October 2020 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.57pm.

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Chairman

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Date