



**Open Spaces Committee  
Minutes  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

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

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Adrian Collins (AC), Zoe MacLehose (ZM) and Mairi Rennie (MR).

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

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- 1) **Recording of the meeting** - It was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** n/a.
- 3) **Declarations of interest:** none.
- 4) **Representation from the public:** none.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 6) **Actions from last meeting** were noted (unless elsewhere on agenda):
  - a) Footway adjacent to A272 Garbett's Lane to Village centre has been cut back by WSCC Volunteers and the hedge has also been cut back by the owner in the last few days.
  - b) Hugo Platt play equipment has a 15-year wood guarantee from its installation in 2017 – Playsafe will look at if any splits are bigger than 8mm.
  - c) VE75 bench at Fyning Recreation Ground installed.
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan** –
  - a) MH's suggestion that Terwick Woodland is left to settle before any scotch pine or further holly clearance was agreed.
  - b) The wardens for the various areas were reviewed: Fyning Recreation Ground MR; Terwick Woodland MH; Oliver's Piece AC; Rake Recreation Ground SW. Wardens asked to review the management plan; do a winter walk of their area and consider any actions that are needed.
  - c) Bull Hill has sweet chestnut trees that need coppicing and the little woodland at the end is overgrown and untidy; walkaround with SW at to be arranged.
  - d) MH noted a felling licence was provided as part of the Woodland Management plan; Clerk to ascertain when it expires.
- 8) **Footpaths:**
  - a) ZM reported the paths from Fyning to Black Bridge and Home Farm to North Lane are both very overgrown – she will get an exact location and photos so it can be reported to the landowner.
  - b) AC noted WSCC 'imap' app is a very comprehensive source of information including footpath numbers, parish boundaries and even individual house names.
  - c) MR reminded members about the White Horse route between the A272 (opposite the Church) to the steps at the start of the Village Recreation Ground - Full Council agreed to try to register at the December 2019 meeting. It was noted WSCC would contact affected properties as part of the application process. After discussion it was agreed:
    - a. Hall support for application preferred; MR to talk to the hall, with support from MH.
    - b. Clerk to obtain blank witness forms.
    - c. Map to be produced in duplicate showing precise route claimed.
    - d. Clerk to chase planning enforcement for an update on the gate.

- d) MH noted concerns about the erection of a new fence and possible encroachment on a PROW at Fyning. Following a site visit by Members the Clerk has written to WSCC Footpath Warden to ask for guidance as to what movement is permitted, what action can be taken etc to form guidance if we are concerned about a possible breach in the future.

**9) Play areas –**

- a) Outdoor gym and playground inspections were discussed at length as the volunteer system we have had in place hasn't really worked and the outdoor gym also needs weekly inspections for the guarantee. It was agreed to try to find somebody who would be prepared to carry out simple weekly checks (with a tick-box style report) of all our sites on a paid basis (an hour a week), subject to approval of full council.
- b) MH noted we have been approached by the hall to purchase a strimmer on wheels at a cost of £130 for use in our play area and around the gym equipment as it would be easier to manage for the current operative. There was much discussion including concern about whether or not the operative should be using the equipment and if the equipment would be durable. Clerk noted we currently pay for the strimming - she will check the cost. Agreed further consideration necessary.

**10) To approve – Use of Open Spaces policy**

Having previously been circulated subject to the inclusion of the detail of the relevant Village Green law reference (section 29 of the Commons Act 1876, together with section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857) it was unanimously agreed to pass to the full council for approval.

**11) What3Words – to consider promotion/use**

AC noted this system for smart phones to obtain a 3-metre square grid reference for every area in the country; it is widely used by the emergency services, AA etc. As well as pinpointing where you are it can be reversed and used as a location finder. For the Parish Council it could be helpful for reporting footpath issues. Agreed to include information on our website and have a policy to include the 'what3words' as a means of location within the parish where appropriate.

**12) Refurbishment of Bull Hill finger post –** Clerk noted she has obtained a quote from Ralph Restorations; SW is due to meet Tim Ralph on site to answer some questions. MH added that due to its poor condition it is likely to cost approximately £1,800; agreed it isn't urgent but to include in future budget as it is important to preserve them.

**13) Winter/Emergency plan**

- a) AC noted current plan was a Winter plan rather than emergency plan and having been updated last year needs to be re-read but doesn't require significant updating. AC/MH check document and include as notice on website when updated.
- b) A separate 'emergency/contingency plan' should be reviewed in light of the Covid pandemic as to what was useful and viable in the longer-term. After discussion, it was agreed to keep it simple:
- Maintain the list of parish addresses created for Covid.
  - Strategy for the PC to immediately establish a working party in the event of a crisis which can meet to consider what is being dealt with and how to respond.

**14) Date of next meeting:** The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**