



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

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Laura Craven (LC), Adrian Collins (AC), Elena McCloskey (EM), Gerard McCloskey (GM), Mairi Rennie (MR), Deirdre Walkling (DW) and Steve Williamson (SW).

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Chairman: max.harwood@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Vice-chairman: adrian.collins@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: (Debbie Harknett) clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

1) **Recording of the meeting** – none.

2) **To consider applications for co-option to the Council**

Being eligible to stand and having previously been introduced MH welcomed Deirdre Walkling to the Council. Clerk to witness her sign the declaration of acceptance of office and send other paperwork for completion. She offered to join the Planning and Open Spaces committees.

3) **Apologies for absence were received/accepted from** - all members were present.

4) **Declarations of interest** – none.

5) **Minutes of last meeting** held on 14th December 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) Covid – currently in lockdown 3. Sussex have declared major incident to maximise response to high and increasing infection rates so public services can make exceptional preparations for a potentially worsening situation. Latest WS data for 7 days to 5 January 6,094 new cases with 613 within Chichester District.
- b) Vaccine roll-out - GP led services went live on 15 December but none yet in Chichester District. The hub at St. Richards has started vaccinating care home and NHS staff. Midhurst practice on standby but have not yet received vaccine they are expecting from NHS England.
- c) She has submitted her forms to join the team of vaccinators.
- d) Budget cut options being considered included charging for DIY waste at Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS); review of the HWRS network and possible closure of 2 of the 11 sites (including Midhurst); stopping funding disabled passengers and their carers bus travel during peak times; reduction in support for rural subsidised buses; closing child and family centres; closing day centres. It appears more government money has been found and only the potential closure of the Child and Family centre at Petworth is at risk; waiting for confirmation when budget published.
- e) No further information available on agreed community highways schemes.
- f) MH noted the petition KOK established to save Midhurst tip has been well received and urged Members to sign until confirmation of its safety has been received; link on our website.

As District Councillor:

- g) CDC are promoting next round of online Retail Training sessions.
- h) CDC are continuing to consider applications for the large business scheme recovery grant launched on 20 August. Recently launched government funded Local Restrictions Grants are not CDC funded. Info of all schemes on CDC website.
- i) Green homes local authority grant to reduce fuel poverty and greenhouse gas emissions from homes in the district. Homes with an Energy Performance Certificate rated E, F or G and an annual household income below £30K are eligible – www.warmerhomes.org.uk for details. If a household is not eligible, they can contact the CDC's Wellbeing Home Energy Advisor Jo Williamson who may be able to find another scheme for which they are eligible.

8) Chairman's report – MH's report had been circulated prior to the meeting

- a) We have yet to receive a response to the planning concerns letter we sent to John Saunders, CDC in November. It was agreed this was appalling; Clerk to chase.
- b) The solicitor has completed the registration of Bull Hill Recreation Ground but needs a certified copy of the Rogate Enclosure map and MH is unsure where/how to obtain. MR noted possibly through the national archive at Kew who can certify copies.
- c) White Horse footpath registration – about 20 witness forms have been returned; others will be nudged.
- d) CDC are consulting on new Code of conduct – no comments or issues raised by members. Clerk noted we will need to adopt the new code in due course.
- e) The school have asked for unused internet-ready technology to be donated for use by pupils. EM expressed concern when she previously tried to get equipment donated the head said it had to be cleaned by a specific company at a cost. MH confirmed this request has come from the head of governors Neil Ryder (who offered to help advise with data cleaning) in collaboration with the head. Clerk added the headmistress of Rogate school welcomed the old pc laptop and a tablet she donated this morning; it is possible the current Covid situation has changed their criteria as the lockdown has highlighted the need of some pupils. MH finished with - please donate if comfortable doing so.

Matters to consider:

9) White Horse sale – MH reported

- a) A community group of volunteers representing the parish council, village hall management, church, school, R&T News, START Community Trust and other villages interests has been established.
- b) They have until 24th May to decide whether to make a bid for the pub which has added to the urgency to update the village plan. They put together a simple questionnaire which has been sent to all people that received the village alert. Within a couple of days it has already received over 100 responses with good support and some monetary offers. They are trying to arrange for paper copies to be distributed as well. Link on our website.
- c) The pub viability study is due to be carried out on 19 January with report in early in February.
- d) EM expressed concern that if the sand quarry extension goes ahead the village will be sunk by an increase in traffic preventing people crossing the road to the shop/park/church etc and felt this bigger picture should be a consideration.
- e) SW noted our submission to the soft sand review raised these issues but because West Heath quarry is considered an extension of an existing site WSCC felt any traffic increase would be small. He had responded further stressing it wasn't really an extension but transport was a long way down the priority list of planning issues and comments. Over 50% of the HGVs are likely to exit the site and turn left towards Petersfield.
- f) MR reminded members when planning permission was granted for the quarry it was not within a national park. HGV's lorries need to drive over both Trotton and Durford Bridge (grade I listed monument).
- g) EM and GM raised the possibility of re-investigating a village bypass and felt it could solve a lot of issues including village parking and school access. SW explained even when village bypasses were being built in 1960-70s there was insufficient local support and no agreed north or south route; the only possible way to achieve it now would be if it were financed by a large housing estate in the village. GM added it could release land that would no longer be considered agricultural.

10) Covid update

- a) After discussion about the latest lockdown it was agreed there was no current need with most people being supported by neighbours.
- b) AC noted the outdoor gym has been closed in accordance with government guidelines.

11) Finance report and matters

- a) GM noted nothing exceptional from the finance file with most items within everything in good order.
- b) Non-cheque signatory to check reconciliation – EM has checked.
- c) GM has taken over as Chair of the Finance Committee as previously agreed by the committee.

Receipts and payments approved:

Receipts noted:		
HSBC	Bank interest	£0.84
Payments approved:		
Clerk/RFO	Salary/PAYE/Pension	Undisclosed
Debbie Harknett	Zoom video conferencing monthly cost	£14.39
Southern Water	Fyning recreation ground supply	£18.26

Committee reports:**12) Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 14th December 2020 and 4th January 2021 were received. ZM noted both meetings were to consider pre-applications which the Clerk has managed to register on SDNP planning website to be notified of.

13) Open Spaces

- a) The Open Spaces Committee meeting on Monday 25th January 2021 was noted.
- b) MH noted there is a silver birch tree down at Fyning Recreation Ground – we will obtain a quote.

14) Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meeting on Monday 22nd February 2021 was noted.

Working groups:**15) RATA – AC's report had been circulated prior to the meeting**

- a) The initial impact of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) is encouraging and its recent time at the bottom of Fyning Lane was welcomed (though at least one resident thought it had been stolen when it was moved at the end of two weeks).
- b) He explained graphs showing clear evidence of the positive impact of the SID changing driving behaviour and reminded members of the reasons for it being 'temporary'. He is writing an article for the R&T to explain the principals and how it is managed. At SW's suggestion he will send the data comparisons to Highways.
- c) A second device is on order and should be received in February which will allow for more frequent rotation between sites.
- d) MH asked if he is getting the help required for managing the device; David Leonard is helping in Rogate and he has volunteers for Rake and Hillbrow. He needed somebody to help with the statistical analysis of data captured; SW volunteered.

16) Neighbourhood plan – SW's report had been circulated prior to the meeting

- a) The consultation period closed on Monday 14 December 2020. He understands there were 10 comments sent to SDNPA who passed them to the Inspector.
- b) The Planning Inspector has been appointed - Mr John Slater BA (Hons) DMS MRTPI. He has inspected a number of NPs in the south downs area and he conducted a site visit last weekend.
- c) It is hoped that our referendum would be in May along with the local elections but there are rumours these may be postponed until the autumn.

17) Drainage issues/operation watershed –

SW reported a recent WSCC press release confirmed we have secured the funding to go ahead with the major scheme at Sandhill Farm. There have been two previous schemes for this site but it still floods regularly because it is beside a disused small sand quarry which fills the gully's with sand. The new £50k scheme will pipe water across private land to a nearby stream.

Village organisation reports:**18) Rogate and Rake Schools – no report.****19) START (Community Land Trust) –**

MR noted they have a meeting this week.

20) Rogate Village Hall –

MR noted they have no income so are applying for grants. They are looking for a new treasurer due to personal commitments the current one has resigned.

21) Correspondence -

- Emails as previously circulated.
- Bank statements received – filed in finance file.

22) Information for the Council (for noting or inclusion on a future Agenda) –

- a) SW asked for an update on Rogate Village Vision, START meeting and questionnaires to be included at next month's meeting.
- b) Clerk noted the census is still planned for on Sunday 21 March.
- c) AC noted the website contract with Netwise entitles us to have our website upgraded at no cost which will then meet the accessibility compliance requirements. When completed the site will need an audit and a statement of compliance. Clerk noted she attended a webinar on accessibility Word and PDF documents today and aims to incorporate the changes in future council documents.

23) Date of next meeting –

The next Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 8th February 2021** at 7.30pm via Zoom video conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.44.

Chairman:

Max Harwood