



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

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Adrian Collins (AC), Laura Craven (LC), Zoe Macle hose (ZM), Elena McCloskey (EM), Gerard McCloskey (GM), Mairi Rennie (MR) 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) **It was noted the meeting would not be recorded.**
- 2) **Apologies for absence were received from Deirdre Walkling (DW); all other Members were in attendance.**
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest.**
- 4) **The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th February 2021 were approved by the Council as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.**
- 5) **There were no members of the public present to make a representation.**
- 6) **County & District Councillor reports** – KOK's report had previously been circulated
As County Councillor:
 - a) Covid latest data for 7 days to 2 March 418 new cases; 34 in Chichester District = 28.1/100,000.
 - b) KOK is helping with vaccinations, currently at Selsey but hoping to join Midhurst Riverbank GP led team. Chichester Westgate Centre is now operational with booking through the national system.
 - c) WS have requested Government support to be able to arrange asymptomatic testing.
 - d) WS balanced budget finalised in February with tough decision including closing all but 11 of the 43 children and family centres; not re-opening Shaw day centres and youth centres. Consultation on closures opens 8 March <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/early-help-redesign-proposals/> Lib Dem group have sought amendments including keeping children & family centres and day centres open at least until the pandemic is over when we can review the need and community-based alternatives.
 - e) Health and Adult scrutiny committee looked at plans to reconfigure mental health in-patient beds in WS with proposals to establish a centre of excellence for dementia care in Worthing resulting in the closure of all older adult mental health beds Chichester District. She has asked they look at other options for non-dementia beds; they don't need a centre of excellence but to be closer to home. Significant concerns were raised about transport issues, particularly from rural north areas.As District Councillor:
 - f) Budget agreed with a 2021/2022 council tax increase of £5 for band D equivalent house. Lib Dem group proposal for a strategic approach to inward investment economic regeneration and place branding was agreed as a priority in the budget debate.
 - g) Chichester Court is reopening as Nightingale Court which will mean more local access to justice. However, CDC included the court site in their masterplan for Southern Gateway redevelopment so these plans will need review as acquisition of the site was a key part.
 - h) Textile and WEEE (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) pilot for a monthly kerbside collection has been approved. The pilot will cover 75% of households and is intended to help specify any future permanent collection of these materials by identifying the volume of matters and participation rate of residents. She is waiting to hear whether our area is included in pilot.
 - i) AC noted that it is good news the Midhurst recycling centre has been saved and won't be implementing a booking system.

- 7) **Chairman’s report** – MH’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting
- a) He has received several emails about Slade Lane with sand coming off the field, flooding and potholes. With KOK’s help the potholes and sand have been dealt with; flooding could be an Operation Watershed application.
 - b) He has also received emails about flooding in North Street and is discussing options for an Operation Watershed application with residents. SW noted the gully probably need emptying or pressure cleaning though MH understood reports are that it may have collapsed.
 - c) The planning application to retain the SSE hard standing at Bull Hill is receiving considerable opposition. The planning committee have made a site visit; met with the applicant and will consider at their meeting tomorrow. The Clerk is maintaining a record of objections.
 - d) Rake Recreation Ground registration has been completed and is now with the Land Registry. When Covid restrictions allow we will contact WSCC Records Office for documents in relation to Fyning Recreation Ground.

Matters to consider:

8) **Rogate community group survey update**

MH reported the online survey was a great success with 280 responses providing a lot of useful information. It has also produced a valuable list of local people who are willing to help with the project to save the White Horse.

9) **White Horse situation update** –

MH reported a working party led by Jeff Soar has started work on assessing the viability of the pub as a going concern. They have studied the report prepared by the Plunkett Foundation’s expert on community pubs and all the other information they can find, including talking to current and former local landlords. The enthusiasm and practical input from everybody is very encouraging and there is a genuine will to re-open the pub. The community has until 24th May to formulate a business plan and everyone is working hard to get this in place; it is vital the pub can be seen to operate as a sustainable going concern prior to purchase and that the structure, funding and vision is well thought out.

- SW noted there was a Government budget item relevant to saving community pubs with grants available; MH thought it was for pubs currently open but the group will clarify.

10) **SDNPA glamping and camping consultation**

Draft comments prepared by DW had been circulated prior to the meeting. The importance of the policy was agreed; members to respond to email so comments can be finalised and submitted.

11) **SDNPA parking consultation**

Draft comments prepared by LC had been circulated prior to the meeting; members to respond to email so final comments can be agreed and submitted.

12) **Soft sand review**

MH noted the Inspector has approved the three soft sand sites, including the East extension of West Heath site near Rogate with some minor amendments and tightened conditions (mainly on process).

13) **Finance report and matters**

- a) GM noted the updated financial regulations had been circulated prior to the meeting and approved by the Finance Committee. As there were no questions SW’s proposal of **resolution ‘to adopt the revised finance regulations’** was seconded by AC and unanimously approved.
- b) GM noted he recently attended a SALC finance webinar and will share the information. There was discussion about asset values being maintained at the cost price; SW explained this changed some years ago, the items on our register at £1 value are from before this rule was implemented.
- c) Non-cheque signatory to check reconciliation – EM had checked the file.

Receipts and payments approved:

Receipts noted:		
HSBC	Bank interest	£0.05
West Sussex County Council	Operation Watershed grant-Sandhill	£50,665.80
Ann Arnold	Cheque not banked-donated	£19.20

Payments approved:		
Clerk/RFO	Salary/PAYE/Pension	Undisclosed
Debbie Harknett	Zoom video conferencing monthly cost	£14.39
Rogate Village Hall	Outdoor gym rent	£25.00
Debbie Harknett	Expenses – 3 months	£55.15
Julie Reed	Fyning bus shelter cleaning – 6 months	£90.00
Mick Butcher	Rogate bus shelter cleaning – 6 months	£90.00
Alan Goodwin	Ground maintenance at Hugo Platt	£90.00
Fred Fosberry	Bin emptying/cleaning - 6 months	£90.00
Geoff Cornwell	Rake Recreation ground - 6 months	£90.00
Sam Bailey	Village planters – 6 months	£90.00
SSALC	Councillor training-Gerard	£72.00
SSLC	Councillor planning training	£300.00
Ralph Restorations	Bull Hill finger post	£2,150.00
MacDonald Oates	Rake Recreation ground land registration	£456.00
Amott Tree Surgery	Removal of fallen tree at Fyning RG	£200.00
Unity Bank	Payment for opening new bank account	£500.00
Rogate Village Committee	Replacement trees for village & Rogate Rec	£89.90
Current works/orders approved for payment before year end if invoices are received:		
Elan City	Speed indicator device	£2,260.56
Landbuild	Sandhill Operation Watershed works	£60,798.90

Committee reports:

14) Planning Committee

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 15th February 2021 were received.
- EM noted responses to our planning concerns letter have been received from John Saunders, Tim Slaney and Trevor Beattie. A further response to be sent to Tim Slaney (about our dissatisfaction of the quality of the Planning Officers report) has been circulated for comment and will be approved by Planning Committee. It was agreed we want to have a better working relationship with the planning authority, it is time to address issues and move towards a more prominent PC.

15) Open Spaces

- The Open Spaces Committee meeting on Monday 22nd March 2021 was noted.
- MH reported the RATA tree opposite the entrance to Parsonage Estate has died. A replacement 12-foot tree along with two for Rogate Recreation Ground have been planted with the help of Nick Heaseman, SDNP. Previously we agreed to meet the cost of a replacement tree at the hall but it was never purchased. After discussion, SW's proposal of **resolution 'to purchase two trees (one to replace the RATA tree one at Rogate Recreation Ground) at a cost of £89.90'** was seconded by ZM and unanimously approved.

16) Finance Committee

- The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 23 November 2020 were received.
- Update from the Finance Committee meeting of 22nd February covered under finance.
- The Finance Committee meeting on Monday 26th April 2021 was noted.

Working groups:

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

- The second SID device is due for delivery by the end of this month.
- Current SID moved to Rake bus stop location at the weekend ahead of the schools re-opening today. This move is the first undertaken entirely by volunteers.
- Sussex Police Road Safety Presentation webinar to be held on Tuesday 16 March is a follow up of the first one held in September 2020 in response to pressure for more enforcement of antisocial driving/excessively noisy motorcycles. He has registered to attend meeting and will report back.
- Rake Community Highways Scheme is still on track and included in WSCC Highways 2021-2022 delivery programme published last week with a total budget of £700,000 he hopes there is no reduction in our plan.

18) Neighbourhood plan – SW had led a zoom discussion ahead of the meeting
SW proposal of **resolutions ‘to agree changes to the R&RNDP following the Independent Examiners report’** and **‘to agree the Referendum Version’** was seconded by MR and unanimously approved with thanks to SW for his perseverance.

19) Drainage issues/operation watershed –

- a) SW noted Sandhill works should be completed by Landbuild this week.
- b) KOK noted WSCC Highways are waiting on a starting date for the stonemason for work to both Durford and Habin ancient bridges.

Village organisation reports:

20) Projects

- a) EM reported she has been in touch with the grant specialists who informed her things are slowly getting back to normal with grant giving and bodies are starting to accept lifestyle grants. She hasn't seen any grants that we can qualify for but it is easier to search when we know what projects we want to fund. She suggested councillors draw up a list of potential projects.
- b) In response to GM's question KOK didn't feel other parishes were seeing projects we were missing but thought Clerks may be the best resource for checking this.
- c) MH suggested it would be worth looking at the village questionnaire for ideas.
- d) EM wanted to consider revisiting the possibility of providing matting to allow for parking at the village recreation ground while AC felt we are better to look at options involving our own land and noted the Open Spaces committee will be looking at ideas for Fyning Recreation Ground.

21) Policy updates

Having previously been circulated and with no questions MH's proposal of **resolutions ‘to adopt the new Code of Conduct’** and **‘to adopt the revised Standing Orders’** was seconded by MR and unanimously approved.

22) Rogate and Rake Schools – MR noted the proposed federation with Compton is ongoing and that children returned to school today following the current Covid lockdown.

23) START (Community Land Trust)

MR noted there has been no progress.

24) Rogate Village Hall –

MR noted there was nothing to report but it was agreed working together is important.

25) Correspondence -

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

26) Information for the Council (for noting or inclusion on a future Agenda) – none

27) Date of next meeting –

- Clerk noted current legislation for remote meetings expires on 7 May 2021 and we are awaiting further guidance; at some time we will need to return to face-to-face meetings but current Government rules would not allow this until at least June.
- The next Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 12th April 2021** at 7.30pm via Zoom video conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman:

Max Harwood