



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

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Adrian Collins (AC), Laura Craven (LC), Zoe MacLehose (ZM) and Mairi Rennie (MR). Clerk: Debbie Harknett

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Chairman: Max Harwood

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- 1) **It was noted the meeting would not be recorded.**
- 2) **Apologies for absence were received and accepted** from Deirdre Walkling (DW); all other members were present.
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest.**
- 4) **There were no representations from the public.**
- 5) **The Minutes of the last meeting** held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 6) **Actions from last meeting** were noted (unless elsewhere on agenda):
- 7) **Woodland management**  
MH noted all that is outstanding is thinning of trees at Rake Recreation Ground; AC/MH to try to arrange meeting with SW next month when lockdown restrictions have hopefully been eased.
- 8) **Footpaths:**
  - a) **Condition reports**
    - i) ZM's report of the broken plank on the Souter Copse 1149 footpath has been reported to WSCC footpath warden who is due to visit tomorrow.
    - ii) LC noted the farmer has re-instated the ploughed path running towards Black Bridge.
    - iii) Clerk noted the previously reported problem stile by Home Farm has been dug out/repared.
    - iv) ZM reported the footpath sign near Hambledon House, Fyning had fallen down but now appears to have been stolen. She previously reported to WSCC but will remind them it now needs replacing, not just re-installing. LC noted it was important to remind people it is not a bridleway as it is unsuitable for horses/riders.
    - v) AC/MH noted there have been rural thefts in the area, including water troughs from fields and a post box along the Dangstein Road.
  - b) **Kissing gates**  
MR reported she has received an offer of a kissing gate from the Friends of SDNP. If agreed it would replace an existing stile making access easier. After discussion, suggestions of Slade Lane by Hunters Cottage; Haben Bridge (as large gate is sometimes locked and stile beside it overgrown); other end of field from Home Farm. MH to take photos and what3words locations to pass to Friends for further discussion.
  - c) **White Horse footpath update**  
MH noted he has 5/6 forms, LC 2 and Clerk about 25. MR offered to read them before we submit but it was agreed that 30 forms was enough to proceed with the application.
- 9) **Play areas/outdoor gym:**
  - a) Clerk noted she receives weekly inspection reports for the play areas/gym from the volunteer.
  - b) MH noted annual RoSPA playground inspections are due in June – we will ask them to include the outdoor gym and look at Rake playground.
  - c) MH noted in future we may be required to help fund repairs at Rake playground – the equipment is still new but Rogate was needing repairs by the time it was 6 years old.

## 10) Facilities for our Open Spaces

- a) AC gave a PowerPoint presentation of ideas for Fyning Recreation Ground, some with a cost but some with the only resource required being effort from those interested.
- Easier to concentrate on one place that we have full control over (it's under our ownership though there is a bridleway and a footpath) and Fyning is central to the parish.
  - There is a variety of trees, open green space, unique circular boundary (ridge & furrow construction), picnic bench, log bench & seats, bird boxes, insect hotels along with self-help play dens and swing/rope.
  - Should we make more use of the space or keep it a quiet/tranquil place?

Ideas/themes could work in conjunction with information added to our website

- Nature – look & find activity sheets; tree identification signs.
  - Recreational facilities – picnic bench was £350 with self-help installation, similar could be built with wood from the woods – keeping it very organic.
  - Keeping fit/rustic trim trail – doesn't have to involve expensive equipment (logs can be used as step-ups etc); provision of exercise leaflet/information has no maintenance costs.
  - Information & interest – wooden framed signboard at entrance with map, origins of area, wildlife & tree identification; additional bird boxes/bug hotel.
  - Children's woodland – activity/information logs/fairy woodland to discover the base of tree roots can be created at little/no cost.
  - Play equipment – provision of a professionally installed 'nest' swing would have wide appeal to children and teenagers (though possibly not just from within our parish). It would need to be professionally strung between two suitable trees with stainless steel cables/binding to prevent it colliding with the trees and to remain safe and secure (cost in the region of £2,000). This was presented merely as an idea for future consideration.
  - EM has suggested (via correspondence) some cheaper nest swings but these were highly unlikely to meet standards required by installers in a public setting. It was agreed that the possibility of grants from Calor and SDNP should be investigated.
- b) Everybody welcomed AC's thoughts. LC noted the 'beware adders' sign needs replacing; MH felt self-help swing installation shows people would like things in the area and wondered if a QR code could be used on signboard to link to our website; MR reminded the committee of the ecological survey for information on the nature and wildlife of the area.
- c) AC to share draft article for R&T/noticeboards with committee members for comment with the intention of a self-help volunteer 'Friends of Fyning Recreation Ground' group to work with the PC on this project. Also, to see what interest there may be from Rogate & Rake Schools.

## 11) Maintenance of Rogate PC property sign boards

MH noted there is no requirement for repairs/maintenance at the moment.

## 12) Village maintenance tasks

- a) Clerk noted we need somebody to look after the planters by East Lodge and opposite Parsonage Estate as Sam is no longer able to – she has written an item for the R&T.
- b) Details of the village tasks had previously been circulated to the committee. After discussion it was agreed the committee would carry out audit of the work and review.
- c) Annual litter pick – Covid-19 affected last year and continues to affect this year – the committee didn't feel able to arrange an organised event. Agreed to publicise the National 'Keep Britain Tidy' scheme in May/June and ask people to do their bit – item for R&T.

## 13) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via 'zoom' video conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.51pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**