

Rogate Parish Council – Chairman's letter

Well just as I put a note in the R&T News about all returning to normal a new variant of Covid comes along and we are back to holding meetings on zoom. The plus side is that nearly all of us are now able to use zoom, a far cry from the early days. Hopefully, this will be a short interlude in proceedings before we return to face-to-face meeting. Should anybody wish to join a meeting please contact the clerk for instructions.

Work on Rake Community Highways Scheme will hopefully be finished by the time you read this and we will be starting to see the benefits of the speed restrictions.

I am happy to welcome Mike Galley as a new councillor. Mike has only just moved to the area and is keen to help with those small changes that can make life a little more pleasant for all. The plan is he will join the council at our meeting on the 13th December, this is just after the submission for the R&T News, so hopefully everything goes to plan.

Our precept should have been approved at our December meeting for submission to Chichester District Council who collect payments. The details were set out in the October edition of the R&T and the local precept will increase from £39.40 to £47.25 per annum for a band D house. This is the first increase in 7 years and inflation just caught up with us.

We were pleased Stephanie Garwood, Head of Rogate School has been reappointed as a trustee for the Parish Council to the George Street Trust which help local organisations.

Some of you may be aware of plans to transfer the ownership of Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Ltd (East Lodge and eight houses/flats in Hugo Platt) to Petersfield Housing Association. We have attended a couple of meetings, including the AGM, to hear how these plans are developing.

Finally, one of those small things which make the Parish Council function. We have a new notice board, which is due to be put up outside the shop. It is hoped the old notice board can be used in Rake when the new bus shelter has been built. We have also purchased a new information board for Fyning Recreation ground, which with the support of the schools, we would like to use to show the features and wildlife at the site.

Best wishes for the New Year

Max Harwood, Chairman