



Meeting held at via zoom video conferencing - started at 6.30pm.

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 was one member of the public in attendance.

Chairman: Max Harwood

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- 1) **It was noted the meeting would not be recorded.**
- 2) **There were no apologies for absence as all the committee were present.**
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest.**
- 4) **There was a representation from the public (as detailed in minute 6 below).**
- 5) **The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 27th September 2021 were approved for signing by the Chairman.**
- 6) **Oliver's Piece**
 - a) MH reported the contractor has been onsite removing the gorse today. Agreed to investigate the actual work completed and any impact on the grass in daylight.
 - b) AC added the improved access work (rail and steps) has also been completed.
 - c) A MOP of the public addressed the committee to explain work she has been carrying out on the side area of Oliver's Piece aiming to increase biodiversity. Over the last four years she has been beating bracken and lopping rhododendron to allow native plants to grow without the use of any pesticides. Re-growth has not been as she imagined but there is now elder and blackthorn seedlings as well as sorrel, wood sage and groundsel encouraging a wider variety of birds, reptiles and insects. She is happy working on her own and doesn't feel the site is suitable for machinery or a large working party using chainsaws.
 - d) MH thanked the MOP for her work to improve the area and reminded the meeting rhododendron in some areas was welcomed by locals. The MOP agreed it was much admired ahead of the grass/seating area enhancing the stunning view but needs to be restricted to stop its spread and encourage wildlife.
 - e) AC noted a recent TV program showed rhododendron being injected with glyphosate for a more targeted approach rather than spraying but it still takes years to kill the plants.
 - f) The MOP thought the site could be three different areas – bank/grass where the seat is located; scrub/nature where she is working and woods on the other side. A mosaic of trees and open areas to increase biodiversity and support a wider range of wildlife.

The MOP left with many thanks for her work.

- 7) **Actions from last meeting (previously circulated) were noted**
 - a) Clerk has visited the land registry and is waiting on further response from our solicitor re Fyning Recreation Ground registration.
 - b) Bus shelter cleaning at Rogate and Fyning is with just one volunteer now.
- 8) **Woodland management**
 - a) MH reported contractors have carried out two days holly clearance at Terwick woodland.
 - b) The scotch pine trees at Terwick need thinning and they have marked about 30 to be felled. These should generate an income of approximate £40 per tonne with each tree possibly weighing about a tonne. The contractor has expressed concern over the wood collection which (at full length) needs to be picked up by a crane to load onto a transport lorry. The overhead telephone cables make this difficult and our advisor has suggested installing a hardstanding to allow safer access. Any cost would be met by the wood sale but a fence and gate would probably also be required. There is also a bund around the woods causing some additional questions. After some concern and much discussion, it was agreed MH, MR, AC and LC would meet onsite (possibly with the advisor) to consider the options (including felling and leaving onsite/smaller lorries/ alternative access) before reporting back a recommendation to the council.

9) Footpaths:

WSCC footpath clearance should now be complete and MH wasn't aware of any problems with blocked/overgrown paths. He noted reports that in order to prevent flooding in North Street, Rogate the farmer has dug a ditch across a footpath though he understood it could be walked around. LC to walk the path and report back.

10) Play areas/outdoor gym:

- a) MH has purchased a gift voucher as thanks for the person who generously inspects the equipment weekly.
- b) AC noted the playground repairs have been completed. He had a long conversation with the contractor and it appears buying more expensive equipment with galvanised footings would save repair costs in the long-term.
- c) MH noted the gym lease has come back again from the solicitors and needs reading; with no volunteer he will re-read.

11) Parsonage planter

- a) It was agreed the broken planter should be removed though the soil could be left to rot away. After some discussion ZM volunteered to dispose of the wood.
- b) MH to ask the garden club if they would look after a planter on the opposite site of the road if permission were granted to install one.

12) Fyning information board

- a) Clerk noted the information board is on order and expected in the next few weeks.
- b) AC reminded the meeting there are 4 x A4 display slots and there needs to be a plan in place for the notices/information to be displayed before the information board is installed.
- c) LC to draft text on the flora and fauna and circulate for comments. AC suggested we could also include information about the history of the site.
- d) MR is trying to get a carving of a stag beetle for the board.
- e) MH to introduce LC to the schools (Rogate and Rake) so she can co-ordinate a project involving the children drawing pictures.
- f) Agreed to position near the glade/picnic bench. AC's offer to install was welcomed with LC volunteering to help.
- g) MR added she would like to see some pond/puddle source (it wouldn't need to be deep or large) as it would improve biodiversity.

13) WSCC Community verge project

Parish Council support has been given to ERA and we are awaiting their next moves if they want to make an application before the end of the month.

14) SDNP call for nature sites was noted.

15) Terwick woodland

MH reported request from owner of Terwick House asking if they could remove chestnut saplings and rhododendron (at their expense) from land adjacent to their orchard. After discussion, it was felt the area in question did not belong to the parish council; Clerk to respond accordingly.

16) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.30pm on Monday 24th January 2022 via Zoom video conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.48pm.

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Chairman

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Date