



Meeting held via zoom video conferencing (due to ongoing covid pandemic) starting at 5.30pm.

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

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

There was one member of the public in attendance.

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

**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 and accepted** from Zoe Maclehose (ZM).
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
- 4) **The minutes of the last meeting** held on **13<sup>th</sup> December 2021** were approved by the Council as a true record to be signed by Chairman.
- 5) **Public representation** – none at this time.
- 6) **County & District Councillor reports** – KOK's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:  
As County Councillor
  - a) Covid data has increased again - 1309 new cases in Chichester; 11,532 in WS for 7 days to 30 Dec with 1,471 in hospital in SE region on 4 Jan.
  - b) She joined a full briefing on WS plans for the Fire & Rescue Service which has launched public consultation around proposals for their community risk management plan 2022-26. This document sets out the direction of the service over the next four years with feedback sought on:
    - Enhancing their retained (on-call) operating model
    - Weekend protection, prevention and response improvements
    - Improving protection, prevention and response performance in rural areas
    - How WSFRS should deal with false alarms from automatic fire systems
    - When we should review our Emergency Response Standards
    - How WSFRS proposes to undertake a review of our specialist appliance requirements to consider current and future risks to firefighter and public safetyClosing date for responses 21 January 2022 - <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/crmp>
  - c) Test and trace support scheme (pays eligible residents £500 to self-isolate) extended to 31 March 2022 & other financial support information at [www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances).
  - d) Motion to persuade Council to have a 20mph more flexible speed policy agreed at December meeting - there is going to be a speed policy review. She is hoping once agreed it will be easier for communities/residents to make changes to speed limits on roads they know best.As District Councillor:
  - e) Regular waste collections have been managed in spite of considerable covid sickness.
  - f) Government has informed CDC they will be allocated £2.8m to distribute in rate relief to businesses who did not qualify for extended retail relief (eg factories or offices). Two further grant schemes announced are Omicron hospitality & leisure and third tranche of additional restrictions grant. Details/applications [www.chichester.gov.uk/businessratesannouncements](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/businessratesannouncements).
  - g) CDC warm homes scheme for residents on low income living in a property with poor energy efficiency can contribute towards installation of an efficient heating system as well as loft and wall insulation. [www.arunchichestercab.org.uk/contact-us/energy-2021](http://www.arunchichestercab.org.uk/contact-us/energy-2021) or calling 01243 974063.
  - h) Vulnerable Support WSCC Community Hub service available to those struggling to access food, medicine & essential supplies [www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub) or 03302227980.
  - i) Help with finances web page: [www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances) lists support available if someone is struggling to pay their bills or rent, or if they have had changes in their income. There's also a link to a free benefits calculator [www.entitledto.co.uk/benefits-calculator](http://www.entitledto.co.uk/benefits-calculator) which provides people with an estimate of their entitlement to benefits, tax credits and Universal Credit.
  - j) Next drop in at The Grange, Midhurst – 31 January 10.30-12.30.

SW joined the meeting.

Questions to KOK

- k) There is a cross-border co-operation so the closest fire service attend incidents.
- l) She urged completion of the fire service questionnaire and noted they offered to present to annual parish meetings – please let her know if we are interested. Midhurst retained fire service is exceptional and an example for the county. They are doing a recruitment drive, but less people work within the required 4 minutes call time to a fire station in the modern world.

GM joined the meeting.

**7) Chairman's report** – MH had nothing to report not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Matters for discussion:**

**8) Rogate and Terwick Housing Association (R&THA) proposed transfer of engagements to PHA Homes Ltd (PHAHL) - A factual note had been circulated prior to the meeting:**

- a) As discussed last month the Parish Council have been contacted by a number of residents, shareholders and wider community about the proposed transfer of R&THA assets to PHAHL. We believe that R&THA have done a great job over the years and understand that as the organisation matures change is inevitable. These contacts have been concerned about maintaining the local link for housing in the village and the transfer of the freeholds and the freedom that gives PHAHL. There is some concern over people believing they had shares which have been cancelled or recorded incorrectly.
- b) Following last month's PC meeting the wider detail of the transfer was sent out by R&THA to shareholders on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Clerk has been allowed to view the shareholders register (but not to copy).
- c) On 21<sup>st</sup> December the PC (along with 4 other shareholders) requested a short delay to discuss the issue so far that has not been possible. It was felt the request was hopefully a last resort and the PC would like to work with the board and shareholders to cover off the questions and explore the alternative options. The PC were sorry this has arisen so close to the conclusion of this deal but somehow the proposed deal and the letter in last Decembers R&T News was overlooked.

The shareholders sought an EGM to put forward resolution:

*THAT the board of Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Ltd delay their proposal to transfer the Association's business to PHAHL until the board is in a better position to gain the full support of the community for whatever solution is proposed for the future of the Association and its properties and tenants – ie at least until:*

- *A working party comprising representatives of the board of the Association and of START, together with other community bodies (eg parish council and church) can meet and explore common grounds and what other options might be available.*
- *The working party can meet representatives of PHAHL and at least two other potential registered provider partners to discuss other options and terms, such as leasehold rather than freehold transfers (possibly including a cash transfer), splitting East Lodge and the Hugo Platt properties, mechanisms to protect local interest and influence in the future of the properties, etc.*
- *A housing needs survey of the local area by Chichester DC, already under discussion with START Community Trust, can be completed.'*

- d) The board acknowledged this request but didn't believe there was great merit in holding a Special General Meeting since they felt it unlikely the resolution would be passed and all that would be achieved is two weeks of inactivity and a lot of administrative work on their side. They agreed this should only act as a last resort and saw a much better alternative in holding a meeting with interested parties at which they could present their case again and, hope, there would be concrete proposals from other parties to consider. They suggested this be chaired by an independent person and had some ideas. They thought it useful to know if all the parties mentioned would be present with, say, up to two members or if there would be other attendees.
- e) The PC and concerned shareholders have agreed to freeze the request until a meeting is held.
- f) Following a discussion with PC's members, shareholders and START it has been agreed some aims of the meeting:
  - Which housing associations have R&THA spoken to about a transfer (in addition to PHA).
  - Explore the possibility of a village organisation maintaining the freehold while offering a long lease to a housing association.
  - A housing allocation policy being included as part of any transfer agreement.

- g) Meeting with R&THA board has been agreed for Thursday 20 January at 6.00pm which KOK has kindly agreed to chair. Clerk to arrange zoom and share the invitation list with R&THA chairman. As well as R&THA board there will be some shareholders, START representative and PC members.
  - h) The board have agreed they will circulate a letter to all shareholders on our behalf without amendment but with the proviso that the PC would meet the costs and they could add their own letter if they wished.
  - i) Peter Moss (PM) Chairman of R&THA asked for a copy of the note.
  - j) MH reminded councillors the aim is keep discussion friendly while understanding the decision.
  - k) KOK asked if the outcome was to explore the options would R&THA be preparing papers before the meeting; PM felt they had not seen anything that was an option or that represented a different way of tackling the problem.
  - l) MH noted it was about shareholders asking questions.
  - m) KOK noted she would formally invite everybody in attendance to express their views, without interruption, before moving onto questions and, finally, to a plan.
- 9) Midhurst Town Council letter** (circulated) concerning the discharge into the River Rother and the effect it is having on the quality of the water.
- a) KOK added she has raised the issue with CDC who are seeking more real time information from Southern Water. One problem is the Environment Agency is underfunded so lacks some monitoring resources. She is working with Harting as an area that has seen a lot of discharges in the last 6 months and featured in the Times article and understands that Cowdray are meeting with Southern Water.
  - b) After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to offer our support to Midhurst TC and KOK.

**10) Ultra-marathon trial running event – 9 April 2022**

Information about this event had been circulated prior to the meeting – routes 2 and 3 go through Rogate parish with approximately 500 runners on the short route and 100-200 on the long route. SW felt the danger points are where the highway is crossed. He has raised some questions about marshalls and road signage which the Clerk has put to the organisers as well as requesting a copy of WSCC Highways response. Clerk has informed B1KE downhill cycling.

The MOP left.

**11) Finance report and matters**

- a) GM went through budget progress to-date with no questions.
- b) Non-cheque signatory would not check the bank this month.
- c) Bank payments authorisation – MH and GM to approve this month’s online payments.

**Receipts and payments approved:**

| <b>Receipts noted:</b>            |   |             |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Unity Trust Bank                  | Interest received                         | £1.20       |
| Rogate Road Residents Association | Donation for purchase of village gateways | £1,123.80   |
| <b>Payments approved:</b>         |   |             |
| Clerk/RFO                         | Salary/PAYE/Pension                       | Undisclosed |
| Debbie Harknett                   | Zoom video conferencing monthly cost      | £14.39      |
| Unity Trust bank                  | Monthly account fee x 3 months            | £18.00      |
| Hudson Tree Survey                | Woodland works                            | £945.00     |
| Rogate Village Hall               | Outdoor gym lease                         | £25.00      |
| Andrew Stead                      | Notice board installation                 | £40.00      |

**Committee reports:**

**12) Planning Committee -**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December were received.

**13) Finance Committee –**

The zoom Finance Committee meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 was noted.

**14) Open Spaces**

- a) The zoom Open Spaces Committee meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 was noted.
- b) LC has contacted the schools about Fyning Information board but has yet to receive a response. MH reminded the meeting schools have only just returned after the holidays but he will talk to them.

### **Working groups:**

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

- a) An application has been submitted to WSCC Highways for S115 permission to install a village gateway near Oliver's Piece. The gateway will be ordered when consent has been received.
- b) A donation of £1,123.80 has been received from Rogate Road Residents Association to cover the cost (net of VAT) of purchasing the pair of village gateways as detailed last month. A works order for the gateways has now been placed with Glasdon.
- c) The slotted post has been reinstalled on the Rogate Road to the correct specification which will enable the use of the SID in both directions.

#### **16) Drainage issues/operation watershed** – Clerk noted WSCC have responded they thought the work at North Street was complete. She is awaiting feedback from the affected residents as we believed further investigative works were expected.

#### **17) Projects and grants –**

- a) Jubilee grant – MR suggested a display cabinet for the flower show cups in the hall. After discussion it was agreed she could talk to the hall, see if they would be interested and obtain cost indication.
- b) AC mentioned the map/information board outside Milland shop. This idea was also well received – he will circulate some photos and try to find out more.

### **Village organisation reports:**

#### **18) Rogate and Rake Schools** – no update as it has been Christmas holidays.

#### **19) START (Community Land Trust)** – MR noted they have been involved with the PC about R&THA. They have asked CDC to carry out a new Housing needs survey asap.

#### **20) Rogate & Rake Village Halls**

- a) MR noted Rogate bookings have recovered well with most regular users returning in the New Year. There are concerns about the cost of heating. A group associated with the hall committee are making plans for the Queen's jubilee.
- b) SW noted Rake is in a similar position though are concerned of cost implication of 2 large dead ash trees that highways have decided are on their land. As they are intertwined with the power cables MG suggested contacting the SSE as they may be responsible for cutting them back – he will pass the details to SW.

#### **21) Youth Club** – MR reported negotiations are on-going with Sussex Clubs for Young People and village hall trustees. Unfortunately, the independence of the Youth Club was compromised some years ago and the loss of Pam Valler and Ann Arnold's indisposition has left no one able to carry on the Youth Club under its traditional organisation. Nevertheless, it is hoped the youth club can be revived after Easter.

#### **22) White Horse** – MR noted the planned meeting with Tim Slaney, SDNP to consider the state of the building has yet to be re-arranged. Harvey's had said they are doing some maintenance work and the property has been alarmed after a break-in.

#### **23) Correspondence -**

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

#### **24) Information for the Council** (for noting or inclusion on a future Agenda) – none.

#### **25) Date of next meeting** – after some discussion and consideration of the risk about the ongoing covid situation and Valentine's night it was agreed to hold the February meeting via zoom while plans for the Annual Parish Meeting will be considered next month. Therefore, next **Full Parish Council Meeting** will be on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 5.00pm via zoom video conferencing.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.48pm.

Chairman:

Max Harwood