



Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on 11th April 2019 at 7:00pm in Rogate Village Hall.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Steve Williamson (SW), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Fiona Dix (FD), Val Farren (VF), Max Harwood (MH) and Mairi Rennie (MR).

There were 21 members of the public (MOP) in attendance.

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

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

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1. **Recording of the meeting** – the Chairman noted the meeting not be recorded.
2. **Welcome:** SW welcomed everybody to the meeting pleased to have so many attendees.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 April 2018 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Parish Chairman's Report:** SW reported on the Council's year:
 - a) This is the year parish councilors resign and can stand for re-election along with any new candidates. We have 13 members and 8 have stood again along with one new candidate. All 9 have been appointed without an election and we have 4 vacancies to be filled asap.
 - b) He thanked all the councilors for their hard work and support.
 - c) The Council owns four parcels of land – Fyning Recreation Ground, Rake Recreation Ground Terwick Woodland and Oliver's Piece (the viewpoint on London Road between Rake and Hillbrow). During the year we have undertaken general maintenance of the areas including hedge trimming, dealing with fallen trees and clearing undergrowth. In Terwick woodland we have coppiced hazel and removed some holly trees. In Rake recreation ground we have removed the very old swing frame.
 - d) The finance committee have set an unchanged budget for 2019/2020 at £30,925. Last year we spent £4,000 from reserves for items not on the budget – support of the youth worker and Hugo Platt replacement swing.
 - e) We refurbished 3 black and white finger posts, cut back the cemetery hedge as part of the RATA scheme and the redundant bus shelter at Rake has been removed.
 - f) The planning committee considered 49 applications during the year.
 - g) The RATA (shared space traffic scheme for Rogate) was completed by WSCC in May last year though we still have some local amenities (planters, oak posts, etc.) to be installed.
 - h) We still hold WSCC Operation Watershed flooding/drainage funds for the St. Peters Church lane scheme which has proved difficult but a revised scheme has now been agreed and should be implemented during the summer. Further works are planned for the Sandhill Farm scheme.
 - i) We had a successful litter picking weekend at the end of March with about 20 pickers collecting more than 20 bags.
5. **County Councillor Report** - Kate O'Kelly
 - a) Budget of £533 million with adult social care 36%; children & young people 17.4%; highways only 5.7% which is what she receives most questions about.
 - b) She is a member of HASC, PROW, Member Development Group, TFG Buses, Treasury Management Panel.
 - c) HASC scrutiny is looking at WS radiotherapy provision with hope of getting at St. Richards.
 - d) Council working on a bold and ambitious electric vehicle strategy.
 - e) WS soft sand review (4 sites within Midhurst division) consultation results published in July.
 - f) Buses proposed £500k cut was reduced to £300k. Local group meets regularly and she is on the WSCC group looking at mitigation to cuts. Possible framework for partnership so parishes have option to contribute to save buses rather than lose them.
 - g) Midhurst cycle bypass feasibility study are working with Midhurst cycling group and SDNPA.

- h) Hoping 2019 will see progress on Rother Valley Way (Petersfield-Nyewood multi user route).
- i) Velo South is not planned for 2019 and WSCC are working on a major events protocol.

6. District Councillor Report - Kate O'Kelly

- a) Have a budget of £13.8m which is split between the district – 2/3 in the SDNP and 1/3 outside. Planning is also split but decisions are often delegated from SDNP back to CDC.
- b) Policing plans to recruit many more police officers.
- c) Support for Chichester Festival Theatre, Pallant House Gallery and Novium Museum.
- d) Let's talk panel – first to hear consultations and surveys currently has 371 members.
- e) Events officer been appointed to encourage people to visit the city centre.

In response to MOP's questions KOK replied:

- f) Knife crime locally - there have been some incidents in Littlehampton and the 'county lines' are bringing organised crime away from the big cities.
- g) Local GP's are trying to establish a frailty hub at Midhurst Community hospital. Not necessarily with beds but by providing support to prevent admission to hospital.
- h) A27 irrelevant to us as the A272 has a lot of traffic. The Department of Transport doesn't have money available and the scheme is too controversial as there is no one agreed route.

7. Report from:

a) Rake Church of England Primary School & b) Rogate Church of England Primary School

Neil Ryder spoke on behalf of both schools who are working together as a partnership to share a head and business manager. Both schools have benefited and saved money which allowed Rogate to appoint an additional teacher and one that was more qualified. The scheme has been extended for another year with the hope to make permanent. Schools are volatile with staff changes and fluctuating pupil numbers – more than one school acting together can be more sustainable. Rogate is recovering from its poor Ofsted report and pupil numbers are increasing. They have just held a very successful joint day which the MP attended.

- MOP raised the problems of cars parking on Parsonage Estate and ongoing problems. School and RATA agree to look at again.

c) Rogate Village Hall Committee

Susi Batty, Chair reported they have a new, vibrant committee. New fire alarm, fire doors, entry system, boiler and steps have been installed during the last year. They are looking at signs to prevent dog fouling and actively trying to get a football and cricket team. They have plans to improve the youth club toilets.

- MOP raised the issue of dangerous pot holes in the car park towards the White Horse; unfortunately, it would be too expensive to tarmac the carpark.
- MOP asked about parking for the bowls club.

d) Rake Village Hall Committee

SW - bookings and therefore income is improved on previous years but running expenses continue to take up most of the income.

- A group has been set up to provide a children's playground within the village hall grounds. Due to significant efforts of the group leader fund-raising and grants totaling over £80k have been generated, final design agreed and planning permission obtained. Hoped scheme will be implemented in June or July. They thanked Rogate PC for its generous grant.
- The parquet flooring problems may have been solved following refurbishment and the installation of roof insulation which appears to have reduced condensation.
- Their orchard is blossoming and they had a good crop of apples last year.

e) Rogate and Rake Neighbourhood Plan

SW – plan work has continued and they have completed two accompanying documents: Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement. They were about to submit when SDNPA informed us of legal problems involving all NPs nationally. SDNPA now have to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment which it is organising so matters are out of our hands.

- MOP was disappointed the plan still not adopted and wondered if policies were still relevant 5 years later; SW reassured the meeting they were.

f) Rogate Parish Churches

On behalf of Rev. Edward Doyle - they had an exciting year and achieved much in terms of drawing people together. The churches continue to be appreciated by parishioners and many others as a space for life events from baptism through marriage and funerals which are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

- 2018 was designated 'Year of prayer'. A 6-foot willow cross at Rogate School was blessed by the Bishop of Horsham in a special service and the school holds services at St. Bartholomew's.
- St Bartz Kids innovation is attracting young people to church and Little Angels parent and toddler group provides support for young families.
- The Rogate Vicar's discretionary fund supports those who require a little financial help in a time of need and they are also seeing an increase in the local need of food banks.
- The Church run 'Knit & Natter' continues to meet at East Lodge.
- The Royal British Legion commemorated the 100th anniversary of those who lost their life during the First World War and plaques of the names of those remembered were placed in our churches, WW1 silhouettes in pews and services held.
- The Rogation walk and service was well attended and the switching on of the Christmas lights and carol service attracted more than 100 people.
- Rogate Church 20/20 project is a vision for the future with proposals for upgrading and a stewardship scheme was launched in March in the hope of moving forward.
- Terwick Church have been working with the PC to improve the access road.
- MOP noted the work the vicar does for the whole community, often outside of the Church.

g) Rogate Youth Club

On behalf of Ann Arnold – they have a fall in numbers, mainly due to members becoming young adults and moving on but they hope the summer months will encourage new members. They are grateful to the PC for the financial support enabling them to appoint a new youth leader, Kim, who provides an enthusiastic presence and support for the youngsters. Donations have enabled them to have a couple of outings.

h) Rogate Society

On behalf of Ian Peters – they are struggling with members and getting new speakers they can afford. However, they are having a recruitment drive to encourage new members.

i) The Heritage Centre

Mairi Rennie – the usual cataloguing and collecting has continued and she is saving funeral service booklets and programmes from local events. They had 3 exhibitions – 150th anniversary of the school; 50th anniversary of East Lodge & 25th anniversary of Hugo Platt and, most importantly, the WW1 armistice in November. They plan to host a Petersfield Museum road-show in October. The centre opens Thursday mornings or by appointment.

j) Rogate and Terwick News

Stephen Berendt, Editor – the magazine continues to thrive and provide useful information. They have updated its subscription collection system and created a database though the effort was out of proportion for the £5 annual magazine subscription.

- They currently print 420 copies a month and have recruited a new distribution coordinator.
- They have been involved in creating a community-wide database (currently 375 email addresses) so they can send out 'alerts' reminding people of events in the parish.
- The phone box at Parsonage has been renovated and is being turned into an information point with a local map and leaflets.
- They supported the Christmas lights, are looking at the possibility of providing a PDF magazine via email and are organizing a 'newcomers' event on Sussex Day in June.
- Tribute was paid to John Moore (aka Eric Piper) the weather reporter for last 22 years.

k) Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Limited

On behalf of Peter Moss – Association continues to operate sheltered housing at East Lodge and social housing at Hugo Platt. In September it reached its 50th anniversary and celebrated with a tea party. They had almost full occupancy during the year with overall income higher, largely because expenditure on repairs was lower.

- East Lodge replacement windows took longer than expected to arrange so work has been delayed until 2019.
- Hugo Platt had routine repairs apart from one unit during a void period.
- New scheme of arranging outings for residents using Tandem minibus.
- Renewed 5-year contract with PHA Homes who manage both sites with great efficiency.

l) Fyning, Terwick & Borden Wood Residents Association – is now disbanded

m) George Street Trust

On behalf of Anne Alderman – trust was established from proceeds of the sale of Rake Chapel and subsequent club room with a remit to help those in need who live in either the hamlet of Rake, the ecclesiastical parishes of St. Luke's Milland and Rogate, either individually or through

other charitable institutions. The trustees meet twice a year and awarded grants totaling £17,000 in 2018.

n) Milland, Rake and Borden Wood Nursing Association Ltd

Elizabeth Eveleigh – the charity was established with the proceeds of the sale of Nightingale cottage where the District Nurse used to live. Its remit is ‘the relief of sickness’ and they provide help for disabled/infirm to alleviate sickness and aid recovery. The committee meet twice a year but applications can be made via Burley and Geach solicitors at any time.

o) Rake and Hillbrow Traffic calming

Elizabeth Everleigh – the group have been established to try to reduce speed of traffic through the village and get the 40mph at Rake School reduced to 30mph as part of a Community Highways Scheme. They have established a speedwatch and plan a public meeting for May.

- FD noted the Parish Council have been asked to re-consider the idea of a 20mph along North Street and will try to progress. The PC did consider a speedwatch in Rogate village but there were no volunteers.
- MOP noted the bottom of Fyning Lane is very dangerous with traffic regularly exceeding the 40mph limit.

p) Lunch Club

On behalf of Jenny Peters – the club continues to flourish and is well attended with numbers growing with village folk and their guests enjoying a home-cooked two-course lunch plus coffee for £4. The hall provides excellent facilities and they have retained their Environmental Health 5-star rating.

q) Tennis Club

Amanda Farren – the LTA registered club has been in existence since 1982 and currently has 115 members. They have a lease from the recreation ground and raise their own funds. The club is very successful despite a lack of access to some facilities and a small hut. They have some reserves but are likely to need to resurface the courts in 2022 at a cost of over £25,000 which will exceed their funds.

r) Community Land Trust

Neil Ryder – START (Stedham, Trotton And Rogate Together) Community Trust has now been established and registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. It's a new type of non-profit, community based organisation run by volunteers to develop truly affordable housing for local people that will be owned by the CLT forever. They are able to buy pieces of land others may be unable to develop and get government and other grants to build low-cost housing with permanent rules about who is allowed to rent or lease them. They can also create shops, post offices, pubs, car parks, leisure facilities and almost anything else the community needs though housing is their initial priority.

- A CLT it owned and run by its members, which will be restricted to the three parishes. Shares will be £1 each and though multiple can be purchased it is one member one vote.
- Rogate established the first group and agreed to join with Trotton and Stedham to get a strong enough group of volunteers to share expertise and establish themselves.
- Information leaflets were made available and they will create a website in due course.

s) Choral Society

On behalf of Gerard McCloskey – they have been singing for nearly 100 years – since at least 1908. They have 40 members and as well as weekly singing sessions they hold an annual carol concert and summer celebration.

t) Gardeners Club

On behalf of Janet Crates – the club has experienced a drop in membership in last few years with 14 active members and some who wish to remain associated but cannot attend monthly meetings. They have changed the style of the programme to try to accommodate with no evening meetings and reduced the number of meetings. They continue to enjoy visits to local gardens and further afield.

u) Thursday Club – no report.

v) Bowls Club – needs new members.

8. Public Participation: questions had been answered during discussion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.04 with thanks for attending.