



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 23rd May 2022**

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

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Chairman: Adrian Collins

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- 1) **It was noted the meeting would be recorded with recording kept until minutes produced.**
- 2) **Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
 - a) LC's proposal that AC take over the Chairmanship was seconded by MR and unanimously agreed. With no other nominations AC accepted and took the chair.
 - b) MR's proposal that LC take over as Vice-Chair was seconded by MG and unanimously agreed, with no other nominations LC accepted.
- 3) **There were no apologies for absence as all the committee were present.**
- 4) **There were no declarations of interest.**
- 5) **Representation from the public – none.**
- 6) **The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022 were approved for signing by the Chairman.**
- 7) **Actions from last meeting (not covered elsewhere) were noted**
 - a) Dell bench – after finding the price to repair with hardwood was too high it has been agreed the handyman should go ahead using well treated soft wood.
 - b) Elm trees behind Fyning bus shelter – Clerk to get update from WSCC highways report with possible future ideas of fixing notices on the trees or marking them with a white cross.
 - c) Terwick woodland – agreed to leave the planned felling and sale of wood until value increase.
 - d) MH noted concerns have been raised about horses using Terwick woodland and damaging the narrow path. MH/LC have put up some temporary signs and will continue to monitor. MR added the property conveyance excludes horses from the woodland.
 - e) Wooden finger post (footpath sign) at Terwick church still not repaired – Clerk chase.
 - f) AC noted the finger post (road sign) at Hillbrow is overgrown – he will mention to the Rogate Road Residents Association who are good at caring for the area.
 - g) New fence at Rake adjacent to the footpath – AC noted that it appears to be within planning rules and has now been treated so appears more subdued.
 - h) ERA – freshwater watch – full council awarded a £160 grant. Ask them for an update.
 - i) ERA wildflower meadow – Clerk to seek permission from WSCC Highways.
- 8) **Annual review of terms of reference for Open Spaces Committee**

Having previously been circulated, after updating 8a) responsibility for the care of properties owned or managed by the Parish Council to include the Outdoor Gym, LC's proposal of **resolution 'to accept revised terms of reference for the Open Spaces Committee'** was seconded by MR and unanimously approved.
- 9) **Woodland management** – LC noted she has still not received a response from the school about posters for Fyning information board and perhaps we should encourage the wider community. AC had lots of ideas, including some that provide an opportunity to learn and perhaps to create a calendar of characteristics of the site. Agree AC to share his ideas; MR to share the ecology report and historical uses of the site and LC to look at creating a changing program of information including trees, wildlife and birds.

10) Footpaths:

- a) LC noted the planted diagonal path across from Fyning to bluebell wood has been cropped.
- b) In response to AC’s question the Clerk noted our application to register the footpath across the White Horse carpark has been accepted by WSCC but is unlikely to be actioned for some time as they are still working on applications from 2018/19.

11) Play areas/outdoor gym – Clerk noted the annual inspections are due to be carried out in June. LC & MG noted the playground is well kept and well used. It was felt that some encouragement is needed to increase use of the outdoor gym.

12) Trees in the parish

- a) Update from Forestry Commission meeting – MH and AC attended a meeting at Alice Holt with the Forestry Commission, Kate O’Kelly, Nick Heasman SDNP, Henry Whitby CDC tree officer and Philip Lymbery (PL) who has offered to be our tree warden. The FC have admitted they incorrectly informed the landowner a licence wasn’t required to fell the trees at Fyning and should have inspected the site; they have learnt lessons. MH hoped to learn more about preventing trees being cut down in the future but felt the meeting was disappointing. The FC suggested a comprehensive tree plan be created with local support but it was felt to be a lot of work for a small parish with a lot of woodland, much of it belonging to the FC with other being owned by private individuals and farmers. PL offer to write a short report for the parish with information as to what to do if a similar felling situation recurs was welcomed. AC added they are two old pieces of legislation governing trees which are no longer suitable. TPOs are the responsibility of CDC and control individual trees and conservation areas. Felling licence legislation goes back decades when it was used to manage timber production and the FC are aware of its limitations as it doesn’t really cover everyday management of woodland and is difficult to police. New legislation is required but will take a long time.
- b) MH noted that Philip Lymbery has offered to become Tree Warden for the parish council; terms of reference had been circulated. After discussion, it was agreed this was a good idea so LC’s proposal of **resolution ‘to appoint Philip Lymbery as Rogate Parish Council Tree Warden’** was seconded by MH and unanimously approved.
- c) Protecting trees in the parish – no further action to be taken at this time.

13) Encouraging more wildlife to Fyning Recreation Ground - MR had circulated ideas including planting native rowan/cherry trees in the autumn creating a small wet area. These were welcomed - MR to obtain costings; Clerk investigate grants; MG/LC volunteered to help with planting.

14) Dell tidy-up - LC noted the young offender’s group didn’t respond any further with their offer to help. The council have arranged for the bench to be repaired but she noted the land is owned by WSCC. The path is overgrown and muddy so almost invisible, some trees are out of control and the pond is choked. Her suggestion of a working party to see what locals are able to do to identify what is beyond self-help was welcomed; she will arrange and report back. AC added Oliver’s Piece and Rake Recreation Ground are maintained by locals; perhaps starting the Dell will help encourage self-help and also the restored bench/area improvements will encourage people to walk and thereby help traffic calming.

15) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.30pm on Monday 25th July 2022 at Fyning Recreation Ground, weather permitting or via Zoom video conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.43pm.

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Chairman

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Date