



**Open Spaces Committee  
Minutes  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Meeting held at Fyning Recreation Ground - 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 not be recorded.**
- 2) **There were no apologies for absence as all the committee were present.**
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest.**
- 4) **Representation from the public – none.**
- 5) **The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 were approved for signing by the Chairman.**
- 6) **Actions from last meeting (not covered elsewhere) were noted**
  - a) Fyning Recreation Ground registration – questions from solicitor been answered and additional information supplied.
  - b) Dell bench – repair complete.
  - c) White Horse footpath – noted the gatepost still in-situ.
  - d) Diseased Elm trees behind Fyning bus shelter – LC to check current condition and talk to local residents to see if they have any idea who owns them.
  - e) Terwick woodland – damaged path been re-built by local resident.
- 7) **Woodland management –**

MH noted that Roger Fitter has said there is still an interest/value in coppiced chestnut; MR is waiting more information as to possible hardstanding and alternatives.
- 8) **Footpaths -**
  - a) MH noted email concerning extraction of water from the River Rother – the sender had included SDNP in the discussion who advised that it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The PC do not know who has licences/riparian rights or the ability to monitor.
  - b) ZM noted water extraction pipes adjacent to the footpath near Black Bridge appear to be leaking – Clerk to contact farmer.
  - c) MH to include request for footpath reports in his next Chairman's R&T letter.
- 9) **Play areas/outdoor gym –**

AC noted the annual Playsafety inspection reports have been received. There are no items requiring urgent repair but several things that need attention. It appears that wooden structures may be less expensive to purchase but have higher maintenance costs as they rot. AC/MH/Clerk to have a zoom discussion to go through reports to see if Handyman/Rachel (who does the weekly inspections) or the playground repair main need to look at the problem and quote as appropriate.
- 10) **Encouraging more wildlife to Fyning Recreation Ground –**
  - a) MR noted she has been granted a Woodland Trust 'copse pack' of 30 trees and guards – rowan/wild cherry and birch – which should flower in the spring and provide berries for wildlife in the autumn. She also had some fox-glove seeds which can be scattered when the trees are planted in the autumn.
  - b) MR had a small waterfall she was hoping could be installed as a mini-pond to encourage wildlife. After much discussion LC's proposal that it is tried for 6 months was seconded by MR and unanimously approved. MG offered to sink it into place.

- c) It was noted the grass and bracken is getting long; Clerk to check when it is going to cut.
- d) MR felt some of the trees were getting too large and the area overgrown – agreed to get some advice from Roger Fitter or Philip Lymbery – AC/MH to walk around with them.
- e) Clerk noted MH received an email asking about ‘heat-wave’ precautions and concern about wildfires. It was noted the entrance sign say’s ‘no fires’. Clerk to put information regarding Fyning water supply and the padlock code onto the Councillor area of the website and remind Councillors of the password.

**11) Dell tidy-up** – LC’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- a) She organised a neighbourhood working party who helped her and her husband cut back overhanging trees, sweep and scrape the path and re-instate the drainage ditches to direct water into the pond area.
- a) The bench has been repaired and looks nice so they cleared the space immediately around it.
- b) Several more neighbours expressed an interest in helping and she hopes to organise another session – the path was once the main road but the banks have grown inward so much that it is a constant battle to prevent it from becoming completely overgrown.
- c) There is a fallen tree that needs clearing. It was agreed the Council could meet the cost – Clerk to obtain quotes.
- d) The railings are scruffy and in need of paint – she thinks they may once have been white and they belong to WSCC Highways. After much discussion it was agreed to repaint them – ZM/LC will look at colours for Open Spaces Committee to approve.

**12) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting** is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Pavilion, Rogate Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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Chairman

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Date