



**Open Spaces Committee
Minutes
Monday 26th September 2022**

Meeting held at Rogate Village Hall pavilion starting at 6.00pm.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Vice-Chairman Laura Craven (LC), Mike Galley (MG), Max Harwood (MH) and Zoe MacLehose (ZM).

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) **Apologies for absence were received and accepted from** Chairman, Adrian Collins (AC) and Mairi Rennie (MR).
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
- 4) **Representation from the public – none.**
- 5) **The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 25th July 2022 were approved for signing by the Chairman.**
- 6) **Actions from last meeting (not covered elsewhere) were noted:**
 - a) Fyning Recreation Ground – the solicitor has now submitted registration documents to the Land Registry but we understand there is a backlog.
 - b) Diseased Elm trees behind Fyning bus shelter – owner is aware and planning deal with them.
 - c) Finger post (footpath sign) at Terwick – think it's been reinstated LC/MR check.
 - d) ERA – Clerk to ask for an update on 'River watch' following our grant.
 - e) Dell – tidy up done and looking very smart (thanks to LC). Now waiting for the contractor to remove a tree before LC can finished painting the railings. LC will organise a further tidy-up in due course.
- 7) **Woodland management –**
 - a) Clerk to contact Roger Fitter for an update on the options for a hardstanding and requirement for a gate if pine trees are felled at Terwick Woodland.
 - b) MH noted the rhododendron is growing and probably in need of a further treatment to stop its spread.
 - c) MH reported that while cutting the hedge at Bull Hill the tree surgeon had noticed quite a few trees with dead limbs overhanging and he had recommended removing them. MH walked around the site with him to look at the trees and obtained a quote of £1,080+vat. After discussion and agreement that tree surgeons' advice shouldn't be ignored LC's proposal of **resolution 'to appoint APH Tree Surgery to remove the recommended dead branches at a cost of £1,080+vat'** was seconded by MH and unanimously approved. Clerk noted the quote included the removal deadwood but it was this could be left as a wildlife habitat which may reduce the cost.
 - d) MH noted the conifer trees in the middle looked unwell though being mindful of how dry the summer has been it was felt they may come back – agreed to monitor.
- 8) **Footpaths**
 - a) ZM noted the water extraction pipes adjacent to the footpath near Black Bridge have been removed.
 - b) LC noted the rubbish by Trotton bridge and wondered if it would be possible to get a 'Keep Britain tidy' sign. Agreed to include litter with the Chairmans R&T article; Clerk to contact Trotton PC.
- 9) **Play areas/outdoor gym –**

It was noted a repair quote had been received and was on the agenda for the full council to approve.

10) Dangstein Woodland Creation scheme –

- a) LC noted we had received information on the creation of a woodland near Dangstein. Details had been circulated prior to the meeting and passed to our Tree Warden, Philip Lymbery for comment.
- b) After discussion it was agreed to support the proposals, considering the planting of trees in the area would be a welcome development, increasing the amenity value of the area by improving the view and providing a more varied habitat and thereby improved ecosystem services. The proposed tree-planting would provide homes for wildlife and create a more resilient landscape in terms of water and soil conservation. The range of trees suggested is in keeping with the surroundings.

11) Protecting trees in our parish document

LC noted this document created by our Tree Warden had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was felt it was comprehensive and provided advice on the importance of trees and rules surrounding them. LC’s proposal of **resolution ‘to adopt the Protecting trees in our Parish document’** was seconded by MH and unanimously agreed with thanks to PL.

12) Winter plan

- a) Clerk has circulated information about WSCC winter plan and it was agreed to continue as previously.
- b) MH noted the salt bin at bottom of Fyning Lane has been hit by a lorry but is ok – just bent.
- c) LC and MG raised the question of past power cuts in the village (last winter parts of the village were without power for days) and possible outages because of the current power climate as well as the current economic situation which is already causing problems for families in the village.
- d) After much discussion, it was agreed to try to establish a working group to discuss problems, options and ideas with other village organisations (hall, R&T, shop, somebody from Parsonage and Rake). LC to liaise; MG, ZM and MH offered to be involved.
- e) Clerk/EM to try to establish any grants to help with the possible purchase of a generator.
- f) Information on help available (grants, food banks etc) to be put onto noticeboards.

13) Fire signage on our land – it was agreed to leave this item until the next meeting.

14) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 28th November 2022 at the Pavilion, Rogate Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

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Chairman

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Date