

Rogate Parish Council – Chairman's letter

It is that time of the month again.

In this month's letter I can advise that Steve Williamson has resigned from the council. Steve has been a councillor for ten years and was chair for five. He represented the Rake area and was active in preparing the neighbourhood plan and ensuring it got to the end. His wisdom will be greatly missed. Thank you Steve for your invaluable support and best wishes for the future.

Steve's departure does leave a vacancy, so if you feel that you can lend a little time to support the parish please talk to me or Debbie the clerk. You don't need any special skills everyone can make a contribution.

I would also like to thank the Councillors, Clerk and many people who have helped during the year. We have had lots of support from those with projects to those who help with the recreation areas and the many things that keep the parish looking good and safe. Thank you.

Rogate and Terwick Housing Association have now held the fourth and final vote on the transfer to PHA Homes Ltd with a result of 17 in favour/5 against the transfer is now free to proceed. We wish PHA well.

The project to make Rogate Village Hall into an emergency hub has continued. We have a couple of issues to resolve and then, subject to all being well, we should be able to progress with the work to install the necessary infrastructure to allow a generator to be hired/used in extreme power outages.

The December meeting tried to keep the budget increase as low as possible and have agreed an increase of £1.74 for each band D property.

You may be aware that the Boundary Commission propose our part of the downs including Rogate and Rake move from Chichester constituency to Arundel and South Downs. This is an exercise in balancing the number of voters. Would stress this is a change of MP but our council services will still be supplied by Chichester. We and many Parish Councils in the area have suggested calling the reshaped constituency South Downs as it covers a large part of the downs and Arundel is not the largest town. More news in the New Year.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council