



Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7:00pm in Rogate Village Hall.

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

There were 12 members of the public (MOP) in attendance including representatives from Rogate Village Hall, Eco Rother Action, R&T Magazine and the Rector.

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

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

<b>Chairman:</b> Max Harwood <a href="mailto:max.harwood@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk">max.harwood@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>Vice-Chairman:</b> Adrian Collins <a href="mailto:adrian.collins@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk">adrian.collins@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	<b>Clerk:</b> Debbie Harknett <a href="mailto:clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b><a href="http://www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk</a></b>		

The meeting started with coffee and cake and provided the opportunity to speak to councillors and representatives from village organisations/charities who had been invited to attend to promote their group and what they do.

- 1) **Recording of the meeting** – the Chairman noted the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Apologies for absence** were received from: Richard Hatfield-Tennis Club; David Bertwhistle-Rake & Rogate Schools; Philippa Hill-Home Library; Scilla LePla-Knit, Stitch, Natter; Steve Williamson-Rake Hall; Stephen Berendt-R&T.
- 3) **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4) **Parish Chairman's Report:**
  - a) MH welcomed everybody to the meeting and reported Steve Williamson had stood down as a Councillor during the year and we are sorry to be losing Mairi Rennie and Gerard McCloskey who are standing down at the end of this council term in May. He thanked them all for their work.
  - b) Developments with Rogate & Terwick Housing Association (East Lodge/Hugo Platt) were in the forefront of our minds last year and we believed the final phase of the transfer to PHA Homes Ltd would have completed last April; however, legal requirements required additional voting and the transfer finally took place in December. While the PC still believes there should have been more due diligence that stage is now past. We succeeded in obtaining a number of assurances from PHA and Prof John Craven has been appointed to their board to represent Rogate; thank you John. He is supported by a group of 4 people from the village looking at East Lodge re-development plans. We understand pre-application planning advice has been sought but we are not statutory consultees at this stage. We remain mindful of the situation and will organise a village meeting when redevelopment plans become clearer.
  - c) Last year's meeting discussed the felling of trees south of the A272 Fyning/Garbetts Lane – we confirmed the farmer had obtained the necessary permission but the Forestry Commission had potentially not followed normal procedure. We, together with KOK, attended a meeting with Forestry England and have posted information on our website as to how to check if permission has been obtained. We have also appointed Philip Lymbery as Tree Warden and thank him for his involvement.
  - d) Residents of Hillbrow funded a Speed Indicator Device on Rogate Road (near NT car park) and a set of village gateways to reinforce drivers are entering a 40mph limit; these gateways work well with SID devices to calm the traffic. There is a further gateway near Oliver's Piece installed as part of our contribution to the Rake Community Highways Scheme. After a long wait (because of covid), the WSCC Volunteers have installed a bus shelter at London Road, Rake for Bohunt pupils (our cost was for materials and a donation) - many thanks to the volunteers and AC for seeing the project through.
  - e) The planning committee have considered over 60 applications, a high number for a small parish in the National Park. The committee work to guidelines set out in our Neighbourhood Plan and often carry out a site visit to obtain a better understanding of plans and their potential impact.

- f) North Street flooding – we have been working with residents, WSCC and Landbuild to apply for an ‘Operation Watershed’ grant of over £70,000 to carry out necessary drainage works. We are waiting for a decision but if the work goes ahead there will be disruption in the village for a number of weeks, probably over the summer holidays.
- g) We have been working with Rogate Village Hall committee to provide an emergency site in the event of a sustained power cut. Plans are in place with the generous offer of a shared generator; we await a final quote before the necessary changes to the electrical supply to be able to use a generator can be made. We spoke to Rake VH but they didn’t feel it was appropriate for their hall.
- h) We remain committed to helping residents, with this in mind ‘Cost of living’ information leaflets were produced and two ‘Supporting You’ events were held in Rogate Village Hall with benefit specialists from Chichester District Council who were able to advise residents on benefits they could claim. There is now a new centre opened in Midhurst which we recommend to residents.
- i) Last year’s precept was increased by just under 20% (approx. £7.85 per band D property), this was after 7 years of no increases and, in simple terms, inflation caught up with us. Additional costs were incurred repairing two aging playgrounds, bus shelters, Council owned land, increased wages and associated costs. It is our intention to maintain a reserve of around 1 year’s precept.
- j) We are looking forward to 2023 closing some of the existing projects (not least the potholes in Fyning Lane which are waiting for a visit from the ‘jet patcher’) and working on new projects as they arise. Working with local residents we have just made an application to WSCC for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) with the hope of reducing the speed in Fyning Lane to 20mph. We have also supported the group by helping with costs of installing some self-help signs.
- k) MH thanked individuals and groups around the village who work with the PC and KOK who has been very supportive and helpful getting projects done.

**5) Statutory reports from local charities** – reports received were distributed at the meeting and added to the RPC website. These came from:

Rogate Tennis Club  
 Rev Edward Doyle – Rogate & Terwick Churches  
 R&T News

**6) County & District Councillor Report - Kate O’Kelly (KOK)**

- a) KOK explained that nearly all WSCC budget is spent on children and adult services to support those in need though the most communication is with highways.
- b) Midhurst – the fire at The Angel Hotel has had an immense impact on the town, residents, businesses, schools and health care. The community rallied around to help the Ukrainian residents of the hotel who are now being cared for elsewhere in the district. CDC have established a grant scheme but businesses really need public support – Midhurst is still open! Organisations are working together to get the main road opened as soon as it is safe to do so.
- c) TRO application process has been made more flexible with a rolling scheme, using small amounts of money rather than requiring a specific budget. The requirements for obtaining a TRO are more need focused and, if not successful, an applicant could try again.
- d) Cycling member group has asked for the policy on active travel to use the KPI measure of miles used rather than new miles created to help with maintenance budget of existing paths – there is no point creating new paths if the existing paths are not maintained.
- e) Dentistry in the NHS is a real problem for the nation; they continue to lobby. Ambulance response times – improvements have been made but ambulances are often kept waiting by MFD (Medically fit to be discharged) who have nowhere to go and block hospital beds.
- f) Stroke service – new specialist 24-7 centre will be established at St Richards.

**7) Public participation:**

- a) A MOP asked about SID locations; AC explained they can only be installed in WSCC Highways approved locations. He thanked the volunteers who managed local the SIDS – moving them as necessary and charging their batteries.
- b) A MOP asked about 30mph repeater signs near Flying Bull; AC explained they meet Highways requirements and we can’t have any more though he will enquire about the possible installation ‘new speed limit in force’ reminder signs.
- c) A MOP expressed concern over the A272 flooding near Westmark Barn in Adhurst St. Mary which had caused a cyclist to fall recently. MH explained the problem is over the border into Hampshire where the ditch overflows but it was re-dug a couple of years ago.

- d) A MOP asked about the monitoring of sound from noisy motorcyclists passing through the village. AC explained it is extremely difficult to assess the amount of noise / issue a penalty notice / confiscate bikes. Hampshire Police trialed a new acoustic/speed camera with limited success and we understand our MP unsuccessfully applied for one; we remain aware of the problem and in contact with Sussex Police and have suggested they publicise convictions as a deterrent to others. Another MOP reported that about 25 motorbikes were stopped by the police outside the village last Easter which was encouraging.
- e) A MOP thanked the PC for their donation to R&T and another thanked the PC for donations to the much-used Liss and Midhurst food banks and towards the churchyards.
- f) A MOP thanked the PC for all their work on behalf of the village; a sentiment that was echoed throughout.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm with thanks to all for attending and LC for coffee and cake.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....