



Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on 26th May 2022 at 7:00pm in Rogate Village Hall.
Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Laura Craven (LC), Mike Galley (MG), Zoe Maclehorse (ZM), Elena McCloskey (EM), Gerard McCloskey (GM) and Mairi Rennie (MR).
There were 15 members of the public (MOP) in attendance.
County/District Councillor Kate O’Kelly (KOK). Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Chairman: Max Harwood max.harwood@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk	Vice-Chairman: Adrian Collins adrian.collins@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk	Clerk: Debbie Harknett clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk
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1. **Recording of the meeting** – the Chairman noted the meeting not be recorded.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Steve Williamson-RPC & Rake Hall, Adrian Collins-RPC, Terry Doubleday-Bowling Club, Lucy Petrie-START, Veronica Carter-ERA, Hazel Williams-Gardening Club, Peter Moss-R&THA, Ian Peters-Rogate Society, Susi Batty-Rogate Hall, Simon Ward-Youth Club, Richard Hatfield-Tennis Club.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 April 2019 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Parish Chairman’s Report:**
 - a) MH welcomed everybody to the meeting after a 2-year covid absence though council work has continued on zoom.
 - b) A Community highway traffic calming scheme has been completed in Rake (with thanks to AC).
 - c) The Neighbourhood plan which will help set planning policy in the parish for years to come was adopted in July 2021 after many years of hard work (with thanks to SW).
 - d) The Outdoor Gym at Rogate Recreation Ground was installed at the end of the first lockdown with funding partly from the parish council and local donations.
 - e) Small projects include Oliver’s Piece steps to facility access for less able people; picnic table & oak information board at Fyning Recreation Ground; replacement notice board for Rogate shop. Work continues to ensure playgrounds remain in good condition and to manage our woodlands.
 - f) We have helped Nick Heasman, SDNP create a wildflower area by Parsonage Estate and are hoping ERA will be able to create another area on A272 at Terwick.
 - g) Much of the last 6 months has been dominated by conversations around the future of Rogate & Terwick Housing Association (R&THA) and their proposed transfer to PHA Homes Ltd. The PC sought to answer 2 questions – was the community best served by the transfer and had all options been considered. In summary, our view is that if START had been given the opportunity to be involved earlier they may have been able to play a positive role but given the current situation PHA are probably now the best option. Conversations continue.
 - h) The PC has successfully applied for a reduction in Councillor numbers from 2023 election – reducing from the current 13 councillors to 9 which is more appropriate for this size parish.
 - i) Our precept was unchanged for 7 years but inflation caught up with us this year which resulted in an increase of a little over £7 per annum for a band D property.
 - j) For a small parish we have considered around 50 planning applications in the last year.
 - k) Thanks to councillors and others that have given time over the last few years and please consider new people for next year’s elections.
5. & 6. **County & District Councillor Report** - Kate O’Kelly
 - a) Motorbike noise on A272 has been raised at a lot of meetings and it is hoped WSCC will be getting a decibel camera which will allow some enforcement.
 - b) Cost of living crisis financial help from <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances>. CDC are administering £150 energy bill rebates to council taxpayers bands A-D.
 - c) Rother Valley Together run day activities for older people in Midhurst (with bus collection), have some vacancies, are looking to establish in new areas and are happy to talk to parishes.
 - d) Children’s services were found inadequate by Ofsted in 2019 are making significant progress.
 - e) Food waste will be required to be collected separately; WSCC are investing capital at the treatment plant to allow processing though have to wait for DC’s to start collecting it.
 - f) Climate change WSCC have set themselves target to be net zero by 2030.

- g) Buses new partnership from April 2022 between WSCC and bus operators. The number 54 service, serving north-west Chichester and operated by Stagecoach is subsidised by WSCC is under review and may become a demand responsive service.
- h) Ukraine refugee support is being provided by both WSCC and CDC.
- i) Rother Valley Way cycle path from Petersfield to Pulborough has gather pace with the first phase Petersfield-Nyewood (along railway alignment as much as possible) progressing.

Questions:

- j) A MOP expressed concern that the cost of rural buses makes them prohibitive.
- k) 20 is plenty scheme – speed safety group has been established and it is hoped that a more flexible approach to policy will be introduced.

7. Reports from:

a) **Rake Church of England Primary School & b) Rogate Church of England Primary School**

Neil Ryder, co-chair of governors noted Rogate went through a crisis period but is in recovery now since it federated with Rake allowing resources and expertise to be shared; Compton has since joined the federation strengthening it for all three school. In the last couple of weeks the government has announced all school have to be academies by 2030. They no longer consider this the threat it was 12 years ago as they will have the opportunity to be run by a specialist not-for-profit organisation and they are working hard to be in the best position possible for transition.

b) **Rogate and Rake Neighbourhood Plan**

On behalf of SW the referendum was held in Rogate and Rake village halls on 1 July 2021 with disappointing a turnout of 19.5%. 78.8% YES / 21.2% NO from 113 postal votes, 81 Rogate polling station; 45 Rake polling station – total of 239 votes from 1,226 on electoral role.

The referendum was the culmination of eight years of work by the Steering Committee and Parish Council during which the Plan was subject to several consultation processes and changes resulting from continuously evolving SDNPA planning policies. The Plan defines local planning policies and regulations to be applied until 2033 in conjunction with the SDNPA Local Plan and national legislation. Copies available from the Parish Council and SDNPA websites and a paper copy is held in the Rogate Heritage Centre

c) **Rogate Parish Churches**

Rev. Edward Doyle – the churches are at the centre of the community. As well as weekly services, marriages and funerals there are ‘Little Angels’, ‘Knit & Natter’ activities bringing people together. Links with the school are strong with weekly visits and they are working with the community for Jubilee celebrations.

- The church has helped funding of a Family support worker for the Midhurst/Petworth area who has been providing support to families within the school.
- He noted the school is in financial need with funds needed for books and materials. He also reported that Liss food bank, along with Petersfield and Midhurst, are being used by residents from all parts of the village. He is concerned about the rising cost of electricity and public transport costs.
- He thanked the PC for their help in maintaining the churchyard which is looking good but noted it would become a PC responsibility if it closed.

d) **Bowls Club –**

Mike Gadd, Chairman reported the club is operational again following covid. They need more members and would especially welcome any from Rogate as there is currently only one from the village.

e) **Choral Society**

Gerard McCloskey – despite the pandemic they are doing very well, have a new music director Giles White with enthusiasm, new programmes and more and younger singers. They recently held a very successful concert in Trotton Church; their future looks bright.

f) **Community Land Trust/START (Stedham, Trotton And Rogate community Trust)**

Neil Ryder (though he has stood down) reported on behalf of Lucy Petrie, Chairman. They started three years ago with hopes to provide affordable housing but the reality has been more challenging as we are in a National Park (practically no brown-field sites available); SDNP local plan requires 50% affordable housing for developments of 11 or more units which means there is not enough financial incentive for landowners/developers; agricultural land remains at a premium and green field sites can only be built on under ‘Rural exception sites’ where there is little or no prospect of market housing. The alternative of finding an old/redundant building where a redevelopment could incorporate affordable elements is more likely to succeed.

- He was disappointed that R&THA are proposing to give away Hugo Platt/East Lodge to an out of county housing association and felt if START had been involved earlier it could have been

avoided. As a CLT they can enforce local connections to a smaller geographic area than a housing association thereby it can be truly mandated for local residents and their families. He hoped they, together with the PC, have helped clarify the situation for residents.

- He noted while START haven't been involved in discussions about the White Horse they haven't given up and a meeting is planned in the next few weeks.

g) Eco Rother Action (ERA)

On behalf of Veronica Carter – a busy year including some talks, working with Trotton PC on Chairman's meadow at Dumpford; with Milland PC to organize Milland Green Fare; Rogate PC wildflower verge on A272 at Terwick; Rogate Hall wildflower area on Rec and setting up Freshwater watch group to monitor health of River Rother.

h) Gardening club

On behalf of Hazel Williams – membership is still dropping. She and Janet are standing down as joint chair in November so need somebody to take over or club may well close.

i) George Street Trust - no report received

j) The Heritage Centre

Mairi Rennie – thanked contributors and reminded the meeting the centre is open on Thursday mornings or by appointment.

k) Pop-up Lunches

Mary-Anne Berendt thanked her team and reported the club reopened under covid restrictions providing socially distanced lunch for groups of 12 but is now providing lunches for 40/50 people from all areas of the village. They have retained their Environmental Health 5-star rating. Lunch is on the first Wednesday of each month at a cost of £5 and they collect donations for Midhurst food bank. They are running the jubilee 'Big lunch' with 100 lunches planned in marquee on rec.

l) Milland, Rake and Borden Wood Nursing Association Ltd – no report received

m) Rake speedwatch

On behalf of AC - Rake Community Highways Scheme was initiated in November 2018 with aim to calm traffic in residential areas on B2070 in Rake & Hillbrow and Rogate Road with emphasis on Rake primary school. The project was accepted by WSCC Highways with a £300k budget and completed in October 2021. It included visually narrowing roads, junction modification at Flying Bull crossroads, pavements and marked pedestrian crossings and central island crossing opposite the school. The changes were designed to alter the character from 'old A3' to a road passing through a residential area and were important to support a reduction of speed limit to 30mph. There were also improvements to 40mph signage and the completed scheme has been well accepted by the residents. Elements to demonstrate community support were the formation of Rake speedwatch group; deployment of Speed indicator devices and village gateway installation. The PC initially procured a single SID and obtained the necessary consent for its operation in 7 locations. Its positive effect was clearly demonstrated and the PC purchased a second SID before a third was funded entirely by Rogate Road Residents Association donations who have also funded the village gateways on that road. The SIDs rely on community volunteers to deploy and operate them and we are grateful for their support.

- Traffic noise/speed on A272 is a well recognized problem, particular noisy motorcycles which SID has no impact on. We continue to liaise with the police and others on this issue.

n) Rake Village Hall Committee

On behalf of SW – the hall had to cease operations during Covid and hence lost all income but government financial support kept it solvent. Since restrictions lifted earlier year bookings have slowly increased. The children's playground is well used and the orchard continues to flourish.

o) Rogate and Terwick Housing Association Limited

On behalf of Peter Moss, Chairman- the association has continued to provide sheltered accommodation at East Lodge and general needs housing at Hugo Platt; both managed on their behalf by PHA (Homes) Ltd. The Association has progressed the transfer of engagements to PHA but progress has been protracted, partly because of covid restrictions and partly by community discussions. Together with the latter they have examined options for continuing operation of the Associations assets, but the board remains clear the interests of its tenants are best serviced by seeing through the transfer. The board is convinced the increasing burden of regulation affecting the social housing sector is beyond the skills and expertise of a part-time voluntary board and is best dealt with by a larger, registered housing provider with professional staff. PHA has shown itself able to do this on their behalf and they believe it represents the safest pair of hands for continued compliance. They are expecting to put the agreement to a Special Shareholders General Meeting before the end of June 2022.

A point raised by the PC and START was the prospect of redevelopment of East Lodge site – the position of R&THA and PHA has been and remains that there is no intention to redevelop as long

as East Lodge is viable and investment in improvements being made is witness to that. Three flats and communal facilities have been refurbished and further work includes 5 kitchens and external works. Some kitchens and bathrooms at Hugo Platt are also being refurbished.

p) **Rogate and Terwick News**

Stephen Berendt, Editor – they have continued to print and, with willing distributors, deliver the magazine throughout the lockdown periods. With the help of a new treasurer they have created a new database providing a better handle on subscribers. They print 385 copies a month. Magazine is largely funded by advertising. Each magazine costs about £1.40/£1.50 (depending on number of pages) so £7 annual subscription only makes a small contribution. One consequence of lockdown is advertising held little value to the advertiser so they extended their 12-month advertising agreement by 6 months which resulted in a significant drop in their income which had to be covered by reserves. They are faced with significant increases in printing costs (because of doubling paper cost & rise in electricity) and it may be time to formalize and monetise online version of the magazine which is available on the village website.

- Community alerts have been sent out about 80 times since May 2020 to a database of over 450. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine they used it to appeal for donations which was well supported by the community and beyond with van loads of goods taken to Gosport for transportation to Ukraine.
- They continue to support the village Christmas lights and look after the Parsonage phone box which is used as an information point providing walk leaflets.

q) **Rogate Society**

On behalf of Ian Peters – they have had interesting & varied year despite pandemic but are finding it hard to get new members with just 30 remaining.

r) **Rogate Village Hall Committee**

On behalf of Susi Batty, Chair - many regular users were slow to return after covid restrictions resulting in a loss of income for some time. New committee members have been recruited; pavilion carpet tiles replaced; improvements made to central heating; kitchen electric shutter; old ceiling light in main hall replaced; thick insulation installed; basketball court cleared of debris; extensive repairs carried out to old cricket pavilion; repairs to the rear car park; wild flower seed planted on northern boundary & wild daffodils along strip adjacent eastern boundary; dead/dying trees replanted; 'user-friendly' dog signs erected; new goal posts; helped facilitate the popular pop-up pub; awarded £3,000 grant to tennis club and updated their 'rules' with the trustees and policies.

- A MOP noted the new dog signs are putting dog walkers off; MR explained dog fouling was a problem and prevents play if there is any on the football pitch.

s) **Rogate Youth Club**

On behalf of Simon Ward, Trustee Rogate Village Hall – the registered charity, Sussex Clubs for Young People will provide a youth worker and support worker to run the club on the basis they will manage and recruit new volunteers in due course. Hall trustees are ready to offer a licence for the youth club space as soon as SCYP are in a position to take on all responsibility for the delivery and management of the youth club. Some updating and redecorating of the space is needed and SCYP are optimistic of securing external funding for this. The continuing support of the PC remains an important element towards the sustainability of this important resource for young people.

- MR added that it is vital to get people to help the club.
- A MOP noted there are 4 Ukraine youngsters living in the village that may welcome a safe, neutral place to meet away from their mothers.

t) **Tennis Club**

On behalf of Richard Hatfield, Secretary – the club continues to offer social and friendly competitive tennis at affordable prices for local families throughout the year. Membership has held up and coaching has continued. To secure the future of tennis in the village they have reached agreement on terms for a new 30-year lease and raised funds for the replacement of the two hard courts which should be laid in August.

u) **Thursday Club** – this club has folded.

v) **Any other reports** - none

8. **Public Participation:** three matters of concern were raised in relation to one landowner -

Car boot site planning application

a) A MOP asked about current situation of the planning application for the car boot site.

b) KOK explained she has spoken to the planning officer who is talking to their legal team as the application is complex. There is no conclusion yet and it may need to go to committee.

- c) Landowner confirmed the car boot has been operational for 17 years with no reported problems and the pumpkin patch had been successful and grown over recent years.
- d) MOP noted while the car boot operation was supported the impact its permission could have on Pumpkin Patch and other events was of concern to residents – noise, litter and traffic issues with the growing attractions.
- e) Clerk confirmed RPC remain in conversation with CDC about the display of planning application notices and neighbour notification letters. PC is aware that some applications miss the R&T deadline but this is out of everybody's (PC's, R&Ts & applicants) control. She recommended checking the RPC website and explained people can register on SDNP website to receive notifications of applications within their defined area.

Felling of trees at Fyning

- f) MH/KOK attended meeting with Forestry Commission who had told the applicant a felling licence wasn't required and admitted they should have visited the site to check. Therefore landowner was acting legally when he felled the trees.
- g) A MOP noted there was confusion because the landowner and his contractor incorrectly said they had a felling licence.
- h) MH noted the PC and their tree warden are going to put together guidance of what to do should a similar situation occur again.

Motorbikes at Canada Cottage

- i) A MOP reported concern about the noise generated by motocross bikes.
- j) The landowner explained he had informed local residents that two of his workers wanted to ride their bikes and had received no comments so he had permitted it on a couple more occasions. As concerns had now been raised it wouldn't happen again.

Outcome: The Landowner felt communication was important and invited residents to talk to him. He was happy to accept KOK's offer to chair a meeting with a small group of interested people.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07 with thanks for to all for attending and the landowner for coming and answering questions.

Chairman:

Date: