

Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

We are fast approaching the end of the current council period, with elections on the 4th May. If you are going to vote please remember to take photographic identification - though it can be out of date provided the photo is still a good likeness. No identification, no vote!

So first up, a big thank you to Mairi Rennie, 10 years a councillor and Gerald McClosky, 4 years a councillor, for their support and the work they have done. They are standing down at this election.

The election on the 4th May will be for the District councillor. It would have included the Parish Council, but despite reducing the number of councillors from 13 to 9 we only had 5 candidates put their names forward – all current councillors. Hence everyone who put their name forward is automatically elected. We will have 4 vacancies at the start of the new council year. It is a sad that none of the parishes in the Chichester District had enough candidates to warrant an election.

What is the value of the Parish Council? It is the link between the community and the County and District Councils. We can pick up on local issues - as recent examples, we have applied for significant funds to resolve the flooding in North Street and we met with WSCC representatives from highways and the person responsible for footpath maintenance to look at issues of concern in our parish. Of course, we have speed indicator devices to help with traffic calming. At this point it would be possible to produce a long list of all the items covered previously in this article every month. We also have direct responsibility for the 4 open spaces we own and 2 well used playgrounds. We help maintain the churchyards through grants. We are also part of the planning process. Generally, these are not big things but they are things that help with the enjoyment of our area and for the good of the community. If anyone feels they can make a contribution to the function of the Parish Council by becoming a councillor - new people, new ideas and new projects - you can be assured of a very warm welcome. It is also that time of the year we are will be looking at our budget for projects that need funding in 2024 so do please, get in touch.

Our ability to link our Parish to the District and County council is greatly helped by the close working relationship we have with Kate O'Kelly, our current District and County Councillor. She has always been supportive of our parish and the needs we have.

Thank you to Laura and Zoe for arranging the litter pick which turned out be a well-supported and very successful event.

We have again chased the repair of the craters in Fyning Lane. The emailed replies suggest that the work has been booked. The traffic regulation order for a speed limit in Fyning Lane has been submitted. Footpath clearance is scheduled for May.

Our coronation grant request for £500 from Chichester District Council has been accepted and we are planning to plant spring bulbs around the parish. Suggestions please on where the bulbs can be placed.

To conclude by repeating our plea for more councillors. We need new people with new ideas and new energy.

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council