

Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

This is the first letter of our new term as councillors. We must congratulate Tim O'Kelly on being elected district councillor, we look forward to working with him and Kate as our county councillor. A little nearer home and the Parish Council we say a sad farewell to Gerard McCloskey and Mairi Rennie, many thanks for all your work. We welcome Angie Simonds and thank you for stepping forward. Otherwise, the makeup of the Parish Council remains unchanged. We have 2 vacancies and look forward to hearing from you - information available from myself or the clerk.

As part of the councils' responsibilities, we hold an annual parish meeting. This is not a parish council meeting but an opportunity for village organisation to present their activities during the year and a showcase for those organisations to gain greater support. We changed the format this year. It might be just me but it did feel like a more positive event, which was made sweeter with hot drinks and cakes made by Laura Craven; many thanks Laura. Please make a diary note for the annual parish meeting on Thursday 18th April 2024 – the more groups that attend the more successful it will be for the village.

It was good to hear about the successful coronation events in both Rogate and Rake – thanks and congratulations to all those involved in their organisation.

We have received disappointing reports of graffiti and criminal damage in the village. Much of the damage has been cleared away but in a low crime area we should be mindful of such acts. We have contacted the Chichester District Police Commander expressing our concerns and requested a more visible police presence in the village. We understand from his reply this is under consideration.

Potholes in Fyning Lane, it seems like a long time ago in early March when we walked the lane on a wet, cold morning with Highways photographing and logging the potholes. In addition, I know a lot of people have written in. The good news the holes have been filled. In addition, the traffic calming group have started to put up speed signs. The traffic regulation order has now been submitted and we are answering questions around the submission. As we have never applied for a TRO before it is tricky to predict the next steps or how long it will take to get a decision.

In our last letter we referenced the operation watershed project in North Street, which is intended to resolve the flash flooding that occurs in heavy rain. The cost of the work will be around £72,000 for which we have successfully applied for a grant. Whilst we are still awaiting confirmation of dates and details of the road closures we expect to work to be carried out during the summer holidays.

Each year, in April, the Parish Council is audited and it is a pleasure to report we received a clean bill of health with no matters of concern. This year we changed auditors to one specialising in local government. They examined a complete range of the council's operation and found nothing wanting. This is largely to the efficiency of our Parish Clerk. Well done Debbie!

Remember only two vacancies left – got your applications in quickly or you might lose out!

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council