



**Open Spaces Committee Meeting -
Minutes
Monday 22nd May 2023**

Meeting held at Rogate Village Hall pavilion starting at 6.00pm.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Laura Craven (LC), Adrian Collins (AC) and Max Harwood (MH).

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

Chairman: Laura Craven

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- 1) **It was noted the meeting would not be recorded.**
- 2) **Appointment of chairman and vice-chairman**
 - a) AC's proposal of LC as Chairman was seconded by MH; LC being willing she took the chair.
 - b) LC's proposal of AC as Vice-Chairman was seconded by MH; AC being willing he was appointed.
- 3) **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Zoe MacLehose (ZM).
- 4) **There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
- 5) **Representation from the public** – none.
- 6) **The minutes of the last meeting** held on Monday 27th March 2023 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 7) **Actions from last meeting (not covered elsewhere) were noted:**
 - a) Diseased Elm trees at bottom of Fyning Lane by bus shelter – Clerk noted she has just received notification from WSCC Highways that they have finally written to the owner.
 - b) Finger post by Terwick Church – LC noted it appears to be missing; Clerk to contact footpath warden to see if they have any information/update.
 - c) Milestone – AC reminded the meeting it was relocated to the National Trust Petworth House during WWII. He has shared photos and information with Rogate Heritage centre. It was agreed that while it would be nice to have back in the village its removal and re-siting would probably be prohibitively expensive and require permission from highways. Therefore, it was agreed to leave with NT.
- 8) **Annual review of terms of reference for Open Spaces Committee** – LC went through these and after reducing the maximum number of committee members from 8 to 6 they were unanimously approved.
- 9) **Woodland management** –
 - a) Terwick Woodland – agreed Clerk to ask Roger Fitter (RF) for an update on the potential thinning of the marked pine trees. MH noted the previously reported snapped trees are not causing any problems.
 - b) Fyning Recreation Ground – MH noted this had again been successfully used as a Forest School by Sheet primary.
 - c) Rake Recreation Ground – AC thinks the conker trees we were concerned about are ok – he will continue to monitor.
 - d) AC reported there is a disease affecting sweet chestnut trees that needs to be looked out for; he will do an information poster for Fyning notice board. LC added that the trees in the Dell had virus few years ago but seemed to have bounced back.
 - e) Woodland management plan for 10 years was completed in 2017 with a review due after 5 years. While it was agreed we haven't done a formal review the woodlands have been walked with RF since. There was some discussion about the aim of our woodland and it was agreed it is to provide pleasant recreational spaces that are safely accessible. MH noted the chestnut trees are growing but won't need further coppicing for another 5 years. After much discussion it was agreed Clerk to contact RF to see if we should review anything.

10) Footpaths –

- a) AC met with the WSCC footpath Ranger and looked at the problems of the boggy area on the path to Black Bridge.
- b) LC noted the footpath from the garage to the Dell was cleared yesterday.
- c) MH reported stinging nettles at Garbett’s wood and noted the area is managed by the Woodland Trust with the help of volunteers. It was agreed to find out if the school still use the site for Forest School and ask our tree warden if he has any concerns as we haven’t had an update from WT for a long time.
- d) LC noted the ploughed footpath across the field at the bottom of Fyning Lane has been re-instated.

11) Coronation bulbs - LC has started to look at what is available but suppliers don’t provide information until after the summer. She received planting location suggests of Parsonage Estate, opposite Parsonage Estate, Haben Bridge and A272 at the bottom of Fyning and would like to think of somewhere in North Street so they are on every road entering the village. AC has put her in contact with Elizabeth Everleigh from Rake to discuss their requirements. Grant is for £500 but if we are able to reclaim VAT it would provide £600 to spend and it was agreed that £200 to purchase bulbs for Rake. There was some discussion about bulbs and it was agreed it was about impact so native daffs where possible with others to extend the flowering period and crocus bulbs for the church.

12) Village planter at East Lodge -

LC thanked AC for planting ahead of the coronation. He informed the meeting after receiving a complaint about the empty planter so had planted red/white/blue plants; East Lodge residents were delighted and happy to water. LC’s offer to keep an eye on it and replant as necessary (with PC covering any plant costs) was welcomed.

13) Play areas/outdoor gym - The committee had reviewed the equipment ahead of the meeting; some recent graffiti had been removed and it was noted the annual inspections are due to be carried out in June. It was agreed that all the equipment needed some wood preservative/paint of barriers and to try and find a local decorator to carry out the work. It wasn’t felt that any equipment needed to be replaced but that plans should be made for the longer-term when considering future budgets.

14) Noticeboard in the village - Clerk reported this had been damaged during a recent spate of vandalism in the village; police have been informed and she has asked the handyman if he can repair.

15) Post box in Fyning Lane - MH reported its muddy location is causing problems for some older residents - he would get photos. Agreed to contact Royal mail to request it being moved to a more accessible location.

16) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 24th July 2023 at Fyning Recreation Ground or, if wet, the Pavilion, Rogate Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.32pm.

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Chairman

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Date