



Open Spaces Committee Meeting - Minutes Monday 24th July 2023

Meeting held in Rogate Village Hall Pavilion starting at 6.00pm.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Laura Craven (LC), Adrian Collins (AC) and Zoe MacLehose (ZM).

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) **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Max Harwood (MH).
- 3) **There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
- 4) **Representation from the public** – none.
- 5) **The minutes of the last meeting** held on Monday 22nd May 2023 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 6) **Actions from last meeting (not covered elsewhere):**
 - a) Diseased Elm trees at bottom of Fyning Lane by bus shelter – AC was pleased to report these have now been felled.
 - b) Finger post by Terwick Church – footpath warden is aware.
 - c) Bus shelter notice board and other equipment maintenance – there was some discussion about handy men but with no obvious candidate except ZM's suggestion of looking at 'Local Treasurers', a Petersfield based service; Clerk will investigate.
 - d) LC noted the bus shelter at Terwick needs cleaning.
 - e) LC updated meeting on Recreation play-ground bin use which prompted a review of its emptying service. This month's full council meeting agreed to the purchase/installation of CDC bin and their weekly bin emptying service and it is hoped the hall will do the same.
- 7) **Woodland management** –
 - a) LC reminded members that following the last Open Spaces meeting she and MH met with Roger Fitter in Terwick woodland and all agreed it would benefit from thinning the pine trees. Full council approved this good woodland management with lorry loading access to be created via removal of some scrub holly, temporary removal of part of the earth bund and use of a temporary loading surface with the sale of the wood expected to more than cover this cost. She provided an access sketch so we can check if there are any planning requirements. Clerk has already contacted Highways to check their permissions.
 - b) Dead pine tree at Terwick Woodland – quote from Simon Amott (who has previously felled trees for the Council) has been received. MH had noted he thought the tree should be felled though it was unlikely to fall because of danger of branches falling and thought the price was acceptable so LC's proposal of **resolution 'to appoint Simon Amott to fell dead pine tree at a cost of £220+vat'** was seconded by AC and approved by ZM.
 - c) AC noted he wasn't aware of any woodland concerns at Oliver's Piece (which is well managed by a neighbour) or Rake Recreation ground though it would soon be time to cut this hedge.
- 8) **Play areas/outdoor gym** – AC noted the annual inspection reports had been received today; he will look at them and report to the full council meeting. Clerk added she had quickly scanned and didn't see any red warnings which need urgent attention. Clerk noted we arrange and pay for the Rake playground inspection and have been thanked by their Chair, Steve Williamson.

9) Footpaths –

- a) LC noted the footpath to Terwick Church is accessible but needs to be used to maintain it as the corn grows higher. The path that had been ploughed is now trodden down and accessible.
- b) ZM noted the path by Black Bridge is very overgrown with brambles and nettles – she will give Clerk What3Words so it can be reported.
- c) AC previously met with the WSCC Ranger to look at the Black Bridge boggy path – Clerk to ask Ranger for update on possibility of creating a boardwalk.
Post meeting note: Ranger confirmed is on their volunteers list but she has now moved areas and we await information on her replacement.
- d) AC reported the footpath along B2070 from Drovers to Flying Bull is so overgrown you can no longer see the tarmac in places and it is forcing people onto the road; he will report to WSCC.
- e) AC noted a large amount of litter along this road (which he collected) and fly tipping next to the bus shelter which he reported.

10) Coronation bulbs - LC had circulated bulb options from different suppliers. The resident from Rake who is organising their planting has provided details of their requirements and Rogate church have said they would like daffodils as opposed to more crocus bulbs to extend the flowering season. There was some discussion about different bulbs, their height, how much they spread, how long they flower and purchase options. LC's proposal of **resolution 'to purchase a variety of bulbs from Kiss my Grass to a maximum value of £500+vat'** was seconded by ZM and agreed by AC.

- LC noted the grant requirement for a plaque and, after discussion, it was unanimously agreed to add a small brass plaque to the bench at The Dell as it already has one for the jubilee. Clerk to check CDC plaque requirements as part of the grant.

11) Terwick National Trust Lupins - LC noted there had been a lot of lupins but the surrounding vegetation was tall which over-shadowed them. She also noted the National Trust is struggling with volunteers since covid; Clerk had previously suggested to them that an appeal for local volunteers could be made through the R&T. There was some discussion but it wasn't felt appropriate for the PC to become involved at this time.

12) Grit bin replacement – Fyning Lane – LC reminded the meeting this bin had been damaged and a neighbour had volunteered to dig one out in the bank opposite (for which highways have already agreed). Clerk explained we need to dispose of the contents of the current bin and the bin as well as purchasing a new bin ready to be filled in the autumn. LC to check contents and its current condition (pierced or dented) and if the local resident still able to install.

- Clerk noted it is the time to check contents of all the grit bins so WSCC know which to fill – AC, LC and ZM divided the list between themselves.

13) Garbett's Wood – LC reported our tree warden recently visited the wood but found it very overgrown and inaccessible. Clerk reported to Woodland Trust whose representative had recently been hospitalised, hence the delay in clearing. Reassurance was given that it would be cleared soon and the access steps checked. Clerk added that some parents have asked MH about access from the school side and have reported these steps need some repair work but are the responsibility of the school. They have asked if they are able to establish a working party if the PC may be able to help with funding; we await further information/request.

14) The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 25th September in, the Pavilion, Rogate Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

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Chairman

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Date