



Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on 18th April 2024 at 7:00pm in Rogate Village Hall.
Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Adrian Collins (AC), Laura Craven (LC), Mike Galley (MG), Zoe Maclehose (ZM), Elena McCloskey (EM), Octavia Pollock (OP) and Angie Simonds (AS). Clerk: Debbie Harknett

There were 11 members of the public (MOP) in attendance including representatives from Rogate Village Hall, R&T Magazine, Choral Society, Rogate Tennis Club, Bowling Club and the Rector.

County Councillor: Kate O’Kelly (KOK) District Councillor: Tim O’Kelly (TOK)

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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The meeting started with coffee and cake and provided the opportunity to speak to councillors and representatives from village organisations/charities who had been invited to attend to promote their group and what they do.

- 1) **Recording of the meeting** – the Chairman noted the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Apologies for absence** were received from: Scilla LePla-Knit, Stitch, Natter; Steve Williamson-Rake Hall; Veronic Carter-ERA, Lucy Petrie-START and Robert Trembath.
- 3) **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 20th April 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4) **Parish Chairman’s Report:**
 - a) MH welcomed everybody to the meeting and explained he wanted to make it clear that we are not the police and we have no special powers or authority. We act as a link between local need and West Sussex County and Chichester District Councils, South Downs National Park and other authorities who have power to make changes. We look for small changes that can make life in our parish a little better.
 - b) One of our functions is to represent the parish in commenting on planning applications as the law requires the Parish Council to be consulted on most planning applications made within the parish boundary. We have no ability to adjudicate on decisions, only to make comments as representatives of the parish. When we make a decision, we refer to our neighbourhood plan and strive to be consistent. In 2023 we were consulted on the 46 planning applications having no objections to all but 7 of these applications (though we occasionally asked for specific conditions). About one application a week seems a lot for a small parish. Thanks to our planning committee for all their hard work over the year in giving due consideration to every one of these applications.
 - c) Whilst we do report planning transgressions, responsibility for enforcement is in the hands of SDNP who usually delegate this function to Chichester DC.
 - d) On more general matters, MH highlighted examples of recent Parish Council’s activities:
 - Social Housing – the PC became aware that Hyde (the local social housing provider) was selling houses in Parsonage Estate and other local villages on the open market which effectively reduces social housing availability in the Parish. Together with Trotton, Stedham and Harting PC’s and help from TOK and others we successfully challenged Hyde. This resulted in a change to their policy of selling property when they felt the renovation work would be too costly.
 - Resilience - we worked with Rogate Village Hall to successfully apply for an SSE grant to purchase a generator and associated infrastructure to provide a warm space facility that can be used in the event of prolonged power failure in the village.
 - Speed limits - following on from the Rake community highways scheme (CHS) we have supported the progression of Rogate CHS for 20mph limits on roads within Rogate village centre and the reduction to 30mph limit on the Rogate Road in Hillbrow. Our application for a 20mph limit on Fynning lane was unsuccessful but we will try again for a 30mph when the other schemes have progressed.
 - Operation Watershed - we obtained funding and managed the £73k Landbuild contract for the

installation of new drainage on North Street – many thanks for the input and support from the local residents.

- Spring bulb planting - following a successful CDC Coronation grant application we purchased and planted (with the help of many volunteers) a huge quantity of bulbs throughout the parish. We have all enjoyed the results this spring and will do so in future years.
- e) Other work continues in the background which includes the maintenance of our four parish owned woodland/recreational areas (Fyning Recreation Ground, Terwick Woodland, Oliver's Piece and Rake Recreation Ground at Bull Hill), two children's playgrounds & equipment, outdoor gym, bus shelters, grit bins and Speed Indicator Devices.
- f) We made grants to Rogate and Terwick churchyards, Garbett's wood steps repairs, Rake tennis court resurfacing, coronation events, wildflower planting at Rake; 4Sight (who support parish residents) and Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau.
- g) We welcomed two new Councillors in the year: Octavia Pollock and David Seddon (who sadly, had to resign later in the year because of ill health). We still have a vacancy if anybody is interested.
- h) Finally, a very big thank you to volunteers who help manage and tend to the various amenities in the village and to the councillors (including our district and county councillors) and the Clerk. We look forward to continuing to support the parish in 2024.

5) Statutory reports from local charities – reports received were distributed at the meeting and added to the RPC website. These were received from:

ERA (Eco Rother Action)
Knit, Stitch and Natter
Little Angels
Pop-up lunch
Rake Village Hall
R&T News
Rogate Tennis Club
START

6) County Councillor Report - Kate O'Kelly's (KOK) report was distributed and added to PC website.

- a) KOK explained nearly all WSCC budget is spent on children and adult services to support those in need though the most communication is with highways. The recent, continual unprecedented weather has caused a lot of damage to the road and highways are operating on crisis management carrying out safety repairs but hope to get an additional patch-repairer vehicle to facilitate more efficient longer-term repairs.
- b) KOK noted the capital funds for Operation Watershed can effect significant changes with the help of parishes and residents who know where the drainage problems are.
- c) She noted success in obtaining a Community Highways Scheme (CHS) is a testament to the tenacity of applicant and parish support as they take years and a lot of work to achieve.

7) District Councillor Report - Tim O'Kelly's (TOK) report was distributed and added to PC website.

- a) TOK noted that he has just completed his first year as a district councillor and much of the communication he receives is around rubbish and planning. CDC gets 8% of the council tax but provides a lot of services. They, unlike many district councils, are not operating with a deficit.
- b) Food waste collection will start being rolled out from 2025 – it has been mandated by the government but they haven't provided the full funding so will be an expense for CDC.
- c) He has been involved in the housing discussions with Hyde and with SDNP who understand the need for 2-bed affordable homes within the NP.
- d) Change of parliamentary boundaries – in response to a question he noted the new boundaries (which will come into force at the next general election) will no longer align with Chichester District Council area and our MP will cover Arundel and the South Downs but it won't affect where council tax is paid to or the services they provide.

8) Public participation:

- a) A MOP addressed the meeting to explain the plans for Rogate village 20mph CHS which adopted in January (proposal on PC website). He added that he has been working on the scheme for years but a change in circumstances and policy seems to have made it acceptable now. Since then we have met with surveyors and there has been various measuring and data collecting in the area. It is hoped that it will be planned in 2024/25 and implemented in 2025/26. When a scheme design is received for consultation the PC will consider and share with the wider parish who are encouraged to lodge their support.

- b) A MOP asked if there is any action being taken about motorcycle noise as discussed previously. AC explained that monitoring noise is complicated, it requires multi-agency enforcement and the equipment is expensive. Gillian Keegan did apply for a trial of the combined acoustic speed cameras but was unsuccessful though Hampshire were successful and have since purchased equipment which operates along with the average speed cameras along the A272.
- c) A MOP asked for village gateways to be installed at each entrance to the village along the A272 noting that Liss PC has installed some very nice oak gateways that incorporate the speed limit sign. AC explained these were purchased (at an approx. cost of £5,000 pair) with CIL funds (paid when houses are built) and we do not have access to any of those parish specific funds. We had applied for a grant from general funds but were not successful. Each gateway requires permission from WSCC, has to be of a specific design/construction and installed by a specialist contractor with traffic management – which means each gateway costs approx. £1,000 so to install 2 each end of the village would cost approx. £4,000. Hillbrow gateways were installed after donations from local residents and the single Rake gateway was the PC contribution to that CHS scheme. When we have a design for the Rogate village CHS the inclusion of gateways will be considered and we will continue to seek funding.
- d) A MOP added that years ago a large chestnut tree from Terwick Woodland was going to be used to make gateways and locations had been decided. AC explained that unfortunately, these would no longer be acceptable though we would be interested to know the suggested locations – there will always be conflicting views on where to site gateways on the approach to Rogate.
- e) AC noted the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are effective and thanked the volunteers though he needs another volunteer for Rake.
- f) A MOP noted concern about social housing being sold on the open market affecting not just the availability of homes now and in the future but that it also has a significant impact on the school.
- g) A MOP thanked the council for arranging the annual ‘Litter pick’ event as it really makes an impact.
- h) A MOP thanked the PC for all their work on behalf of the village; a sentiment that was echoed throughout.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm with thanks to all for attending and LC/AS for coffee and cake.

Chairman:

Date: