

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

At our March meeting we heard about a new scheme to alleviate the flooding outside Sandhill Farm in Habin and we are currently awaiting costs. We are also close to commencing the long-awaited flood alleviation scheme on the lane to St Peter's Church in Terwick – we just need one landowner's final permission.

We heard about large HGVs with trailers that continue to use Habin Hill to make deliveries in Nyewood. These types of vehicles have previously damaged the ancient Habin Bridge and the hedgerows along the road. The idea of a trans-shipment location to transfer the loads to smaller vehicles was put forward.

We undertook to update our infrastructure project list to get it ready for any new grant monies that come available. We are very keen to include schemes that will benefit young children and teenagers and may undertake a survey of local children. However in the meantime, if you have children in your household please ask them what local facilities they would like to see and let me or the Clerk know – if you don't ask, you don't get!

We spent some time discussing the proposal to add or expand soft sand quarries in West Sussex, principally in the National Park area and importantly at:

- East of West Heath Common - south of A272 at Durleigh Marsh – new site near existing site
- Minsted West – south of A272 opposite Stedham – extension of existing site
- Several East and West – south of A272 and west of Midhurst – new sites currently forestry and wildlife sanctuary.

The council questioned why quarries were allowed at all within the National Park when the New Forest NP has none (they are all just outside). All these sites will increase the HGV movements along the A272 and over the Grade 1 Scheduled Monument of Trotton Bridge and through Rogate's Conservation Area. SSSI wildlife habitats will be affected and the overall tranquillity of the Rother Valley will be degraded. I mentioned it last month and I hope that some of you will have objected to WSCC which is undertaking a consultation. The Parish Council will be submitting a strongly-worded objection.

Parish councillor Fred Fosberry has decided to resign from the council, and we thank him for his work and support. Consequently, we will be needing at least one new councillor. Election day is Thursday 2 May 2019 and all current parish councillors wishing to continue will be up for re-election plus anyone else who puts themselves forward. Please consider whether you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a parish councillor. Nomination documents are available from Rogate Village Shop but **be quick as closing date for delivering nominations to CDC in Chichester is 4pm on Wednesday 4 April.**

Finally, we reviewed and approved a number of financial procedures and controls and made payments to those that help keep areas of the villages and parish areas clean and tidy.