

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We had a hectic meeting in May as we had to start with a secret ballot to co-opt four new councillors from the five applications we had received. Inevitably it took longer than planned and was a very close result. Anyway, the result is that we have four new councillors: Carolyn Butler; Adrian Collins; Gerard McCloskey; and Clare Jardine Paterson.

As it is the start of a new council, we elected the chairman and vice-chairman and as I continue to write this letter to the R&T News, you can surmise that I was re-elected as Chairman and will continue to be ably supported by Elizabeth Brown as Vice-Chairman. We also allocated councillors to the three Committees: Planning, Finance and Open Spaces; and three Working Groups: RATA (Transport), Grants and Projects, and Standards and Policies.

On the financial front we approved the accounts for the year 2018/19 and considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement – both of which will be published on our noticeboards and on our website.

Talking of our website, it went down on 10 May along with our Clerk's email and at the time of writing (18 May) it looks likely it will take some time to get them up and running again. In the meantime, our Clerk Debbie can be reached at harknettbookkeeping@virginmedia.com

James Stock has been maintaining the defibrillator at Rogate Village Hall for the Parish Council for some time and we are extremely grateful for his services. He has decided to hand on the baton and Marcus Batty has stepped in to take over.

With five new councillors it was decided to undertake some in-house training sessions in addition to the external courses that councillors are able to attend.

If you have any ideas for new projects and improvements that the council could undertake or help with, then our Grants and Projects Working Group would like to hear about them – please contact me or our Clerk, Debbie.

Steve Williamson 18 May 2019 01730 890225 or steve@thestepsrake.co.uk