

Public Participation:

- i. *Village Green:* Resident asked whether the PC would consider moving the bin on the green away from the seat as it is used by dog walkers and the smell is unpleasant for anyone sitting on the bench. PC will look into this. PC will also arrange for the plant pots to be maintained.
- ii. *Overflowing Effluent Pipe – Barrow Farm:* The previously installed tank and pipework is inadequate. Various works have been carried out over the years but have not rectified the problem. Clerk to write to Wessex Water and Environment agency.
- iii. *Rode Bridge:* The RTA damage has been repaired and wooden bollards installed. The works are incomplete as the coping stones which were scheduled to be repaired are still looking precarious. Clerk to contact Paul Tucker, SCC to ask for the works to be completed as per schedule.
- iv. *Diamond Jubilee:* Keith Sharman asked whether any further consideration had been given to a memorial bench. In principle, the purchase of a bench was agreed subject to funding. PC are currently raising money for a village event and one business has offered sponsorship. AE will approach other businesses for sponsorship. Jumble sale arranged for 10 March.

Councillor's Declarations of Interests in Items on Agenda: SE declared his interest in the Church Farm development.

Matters Arising:

- i. **Wellhead Pump:** Planning permission has been granted. SE will talk to Keith Sharman about how to take this forward.
- ii. **Queen's Diamond Jubilee:** As above.
- iii. **Speedwatch:** Clerk has failed to make contact with Woolverton and has enlisted the help of PCSO Darren Golay to move this forward.

Church Farm Development:

SE and Cllr M Ellis met Laura McKay of Mendip Council Planning department on Monday 6th February, regarding Church Farm Development. Laura McKay indicated that such a major development will likely to be a 13 weeks process application and as such a lot of detail has to be evaluated. An extension has been granted for received comments until 9th March and the consultation is likely to run until at least the end of April.

SE presented the Rode Parish Plan and in particular the recent survey (Dec 2011) highlighting the preferences of the village regarding development, in particular, areas of Rode that the vast majority felt should be protected.

The application was discussed and Laura McKay said that until the planning department had fully evaluated all aspects of the application; including affordable housing on a Greenfield site, Business premises on a Greenfield site and a significant housing development; it would be difficult at this stage to make any real comments.

LM asked that a copy of the Parish Plan be sent to her and will certainly consider it in conjunction of the application. (Sent 9th February 2012). LM also indicated that MDC take more notice of the number of issues with an application rather than the number of letters received.

A draft letter of the planning application response from the PC to Mendip planning had been drafted and circulated amongst the PC for comments. SD raised various points and will add them for consideration.

PC will make plans available at an Open 'Drop in' Meeting on Sunday 19 February between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. A limited number of CD's with the planning application on will be available for those having difficulty accessing the information online.

Water/Effluent Overflow – Barrow Farm: As above. PT presented a plan of the water courses in the High Street.

Request for Gate on Bridleway:

Resident has been in contact with SCC who agree that a gate would be beneficial but do not have funding. SCC have advised the resident to contact Mendip Bridleways and Byways. No Action.

Woodland Trust – Diamond Jubilee Tree Packs:

The Woodland Trust are making available tree packs for small copses or hedgerows. SD to look into this in more detail. Clerk raised concerns about who would be responsible for them and if placement was near a road or on highways land a licence would possibly be required.

Allotment Rent:

It was agreed to keep the rent at £25 per annum.

Parish Plan – Local Development Section:

Under the government directive, the parish plan will be developed into a Neighbourhood Plan which will give greater authority and power. PT pointed out that producing the new NP will require considerable effort and resource. MDC however can assist with the creation of the new plan. The PC will evaluate the feasibility of creating this new plan.

Financial Position:

- i. **NatWest Reserve account balance** at 25 January – £14,214.78 (Current Account £10.00).
- | | | |
|------------|--|---------|
| Cheque 879 | Clerk's Salary and Expenses (December) | £175.22 |
| Cheque 880 | Rode & District Memorial Hall | £18.00 |
- ii. **Gritting – Risk Assessment:** Andy Fussell has produced a risk assessment which was approved by all those present.

Any Other Business:

- i. *Grit Bins:* During the recent snow a resident was spotted using the grit bins to grit pavements and footways to individuals houses. Reminder to residents that the supplied grit should only be used on the road.
- ii. *Phone box:* PC will give consideration to using the phone box as a book exchange/library.
- iii. *Rode School:* SE/PB/AE had attended the school's Governors meeting and agreed that communication between both parties could be improved. LB agreed to take on the role of co-ordinator of the PC's information for both the school and pre-school. SE will contact the school to request the name of a contact.
- iii. *Fibre-optic:* The school already have fibre-optic internet access. PT will write an article for the LINK to encourage residents to sign up on the Somerset and Devon website. This will also be brought to the attention of residents at the Open Meeting.
- iv. Thanks were extended to Cllr Ellis by SE and seconded by PT, for his help and attendance at the recent meetings.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 7.00pm at the Rode & District Memorial Hall

Joy Book
Clerk to Rode Parish Council