

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via ZOOM) MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 AT 7.30 pm**

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**CONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr Peter Travis – Chair (PT), Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Elaine Butler (EB), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Andy Pickett (AP), Cllr Mike Salmon (MS)

**In attendance:** Cllr B Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 3 members of the public

**1. Public Participation:**

Comment was made that there were a number of trees along Clay Lane that appeared to be dead and that could fall onto the road creating a public hazard. Additionally, water was still running off Barbara's Field onto Clay Lane and it was hoped the adoption of The Sportsman would resolve this.

A question was raised as to whether there had been any update on the Hearings regarding the Local Plan Part 2. The Chair said no report was expected for at least a month, however it was thought Ashford Homes would be challenging the Inspector's removal of The Mead from possible development sites.

A Parishioner said that should development of Brown's Ground go ahead, advice should be sought from a landscape engineer, and one lived in the village who was willing to give advice.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Steve Eyles and Cllr L Oliver

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March were approved.

**4. Declarations of interest:** None.

**5. Report from County Councillor:** A report had been submitted which noted that Somerset had very impressive vaccination rates. There were concerns over the resumption of face-to-face council meetings after 7 May. Somerset was also looking for nominations for the Somerset Medal and was looking for people who had done particularly well with regard to Covid19; nominations closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**6. Report from District Councillor:** Cllr Lund reported that Mendip like Somerset was against the forced re-introduction of face-to-face council meetings and supported the challenge to the Government ruling. Business grants continued to be available. Consultation continued on the new Unitary Authority until mid-April.

In response to a question over the two major planning consultations she said she had no news of either going to the Planning Board but thought it was unlikely either would progress before the LPP2 Hearing Inspector's report.

**7. Actions from the previous meeting:**

- i. **Hoedown:** An article had been put in The Link and also on the village Facebook site. To date there had been expression of interest in taking part from 6 people, with others indicating participation later in the year. MS agreed to repost a call for volunteers before the Hoedown day – 25<sup>th</sup> April.

- ii. **Lengthsman:** Due to injury the Lengthsman had not started work yet but should start in this month. AP reported that it was the landowner's responsibility for keeping footpaths clear, therefore this should not be part of the work required to be done by the Lengthsman.
- iii. **Barrow Farm paths:** It was agreed to check if these paths were public footpaths or not as their status was uncertain. Additionally, concerns were raised over whether the PC owned the grass bank on Lower Street next to the Temperance Garden.
- iv. **Marsh Road:** The site visit was to take place once Covid19 restrictions were eased. The status of the grass edges would also be raised at this meeting with SCC to confirm who was responsible for what.
- v. **The Bell:** No update.
- vi. **Broadband:** It was reported that ultrafast broadband was to be installed in Rode by Voneus and that the work should start in October. Ultrafast would be available to all households.
- vii. **Aerial photographs:** The order for the photograph as a gesture of thanks for the cleaning work done by Clive Harrington had been raised.

**8. Climate Emergency:** JM reported that he had got 5 people interested in joining the working party but he was still looking for younger participants.

### **9. Highways:**

- a) It was agreed the working group would look at the A361 speed and volume data with Patrick Moss later this week.
- b) County Roads had been informed about the concerns over HGVs using Lower Street and the request for speed repeater warnings on Rode Hill; acknowledgement had been received but a further response was awaited. Thanks were given to Cllr Oliver for submitting photographs of warn road markings to SCC.
- c) Cllr Oliver had also got SCC to circulate the proposed speed restriction areas on the A361 past the Church Farm development and the PC agreed to accept the proposal although further extension of the 30mph limit beyond the Parkgate Lane junction would be even better. The PC also agreed that the 'village gates' sign should be similar to the Long Stanton design that had been circulated.

### **10. Planning matters**

#### **a. New applications:**

**2021/0415/HSE:** Erection of second storey extension above existing single storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension – 3 Walnut Close. No objections.

**2021/0418/HSE:** Demolition of single storey extension to rear elevation and demolition of existing garage. Construction of two storey side extension. No objections.

**2021/0534/TCA:** 4 pleached hornbeams, reduce height by 1-1.5 metres – 17 High Street. No objections.

**2021/0569/TCA:** Reduce height of ash by 2 metres and its spread by 1.5 metres – 1 Halfpenny Row. No objections.

#### **b. Mendip decisions:**

**2020/2328/FUL:** Forestry building with seasonal retail element and forestry office – Hillside Farm, Marsh Road. Approved with conditions

**2021/0025/HSE:** Erection of solar panels on garage roof – 18 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions

**2021/0139/HSE:** Extension of single garage to form double garage – 1 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions

**2021/0141/HSE:** Erection of double garage rather than single garage and car port – 9 St Lawrence Lane. Approved with conditions.

**2021/0178/HSE:** Insertion of garage door to existing car port and erection of a garden room for home office – 16 St Lawrence Lane. Approved

**2021/0293/TCA:** Goat willow – re-pollard at previous pruning points – Cheap Street. TPO not required.

c. Other planning matters:

**2021/0071/OTS:** Application for outline planning permission for the erection of up to 49 dwellings etc. Noted the submission of rejection by PC.

The Clerk reported that Mendip had changed their policy of informing Parish Councils of planning decisions. The PC agreed this should be challenged and the Clerk agreed to write to Mendip on the issue.

**11. Calm Engineering and drainage:** JM reported that the survey of the village had been completed with minimal disruption and thanks went to all residents for their co-operation. The results of the survey should be available in a couple of weeks. An update would be sent to all residents and an article would be put in The Link. Two issues had been identified, these were: partially collapsed drain outside the school and fragile structure in danger of collapse in Lower Street opposite the new houses. A plan of action would be drawn up to minimise flooding and carrying out mitigation works. It was reported that Bristol and Avon River Trust were on part of Earthwatch Europe looking for groups to take river water samples and it was hoped the village school could do this. Samples taken in September had indicated high levels of phosphate pollution in the Frome at Rode.

**12. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field:** The hoggin path had still not been started and it was agreed representatives of the PC would initially email Autograph Homes with a view to meet them to progress this.

**13. Parish Council website:** An outline proposal had been circulated by the Chair and the meeting agreed this should form the basis of a new website. A simple site with links to information was favoured. The Chair and Clerk agreed to progress this.

**14. Cycling and Walking:** The Frome area for the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) was funded but to include other villages parishes would need to fund it themselves, and the figure for Rode would be £2,400. It was agreed this would not be currently pursued and this would be an item for the Climate Emergency Group to consider in the future.

**15. Police Beat Manager:** The monthly report was noted.

**16. Village assets:** Thanks were given to Keith Sharman for photographing the village assets. The Clerk would complete the listing and circulate this. It was agreed that finger posts and milestones should be included in the asset register.

**17. Back to bus:** A Government Strategy Paper had been published which was very supportive of improving bus transport across the country. Boris Johnson was very keen on buses and they were seen as a way of reducing transport costs and positively impacting on the climate emergency. This could result in a significant change in Somerset's approach to bus services. It was agreed the PC

would fund (approx. £150) for a village survey of bus use and requirements to help push the local case for increased bus services.

**18. Financial matters:**

i) The Clerk reported that he had still not heard back from the NatWest, but hoped the new signatories (EB and MS) had been approved.

ii) The accounts status to the end of March was noted and the Clerk informed the meeting he would be completing the AGAR forms for approval at the May meeting.

ii) The following payments were agreed:

Rode Scout Group (Donation following road clean)	£1,750.00
Rode Playing Field (Donation following road clean)	£1,250.00
Moss Naylor Young (Barbara's Field transport study)	£960.00
Somerset Association of Local Councils (training)	£70.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£725.12
Clerk salary	£220.82
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
Peter Travis (Zoom subscription)	£14.39

**17. Other items:**

**Trees – The Mead and Clay Lane:** A report that there were trees leaning unsafely on The Mead had been received along with concerns expressed earlier in this meeting about trees along Clay Lane. It was agreed these were the responsibility of the landowners, however before the PC contacted them an expert would be asked to look at them to assess their state.

**Date of Next Meeting (virtual via Zoom):** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at **7.30 pm**

**Date of AGM/Parish Meeting (Virtual via Zoom):** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at **7.00 pm**

Note the Chairman has indicated he would like to stand down at this meeting and new Chairman be elected along with a Vice-Chairman.

The Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_