

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT RODE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL ON
TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2019 AT 7.30pm**

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr T Morrow - Chair (TM)	Cllr P Travis (PT)	Cllr A Cllr A Edney (AE)
Cllr P Restorick (PR)	Cllr P Banwell (PB)	Cllr E Butler (EB)

In attendance:

Joy Book - Clerk 1 member of the public
Cllr Linda Oliver – County and District Councillor (LO)
David Baker – prospective District Councillor
Adrian (Ady) Humphries – Motorbike Speed Enforcement Officer, Avon and Somerset Police
Tim Gibbs – Auto Speed Watch Unit developer

1. Parishioners' Participation:

- i. **Speed Enforcement (Community Speed Unit – CSU):** Ady explained that Avon and Somerset has 600 authorised speed enforcement sites which are covered by civilian police staff on motorbikes or in vans. CSU staff cannot stop or caution drivers but their photographic evidence can be used in court. CSU prefers to use education rather than penalties where possible and is therefore part funded by Speed Awareness courses. CSU cover two types of sites. Those that have a history of collision with a fatality or serious injury and those that the community has raised as an issue. The latter should be reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team (PCSO – Michael Storey) who will then forward the enquiry to the team. All CSU enforcement sites must have active TRO's and the correct signage (adequate guidance) before a site can be approved. LO to investigate a query raised about Straight Lane signage.

Tim Gibbs reported that he had met with Avon and Somerset Police who have given nominal approval for the usage of the units subject to legislative issues concerning GDPR. Initially the data collection will focus on catching repeat offenders and those driving at excessive speeds (too much data for processing would be generated if all low end offenders were targeted). The ultimate goal is to change driver behaviour.

David Baker asked Ady if it was correct that Highways only record accidents where there is a passenger in the car rather than just the driver. Ady was unable to confirm this but explained that the Police would only attend if there was injury, damage to road furniture or issue of access for other road users.

When the Auto Speed Watch Units has been fully approved by Highways and the Police the PC will look into locations/numbers and consider placing an order.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr A Hooker
3. **Councillor's Declarations of Interests in Items on Agenda:** None
4. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2019:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.
5. **County and District Councillors reports:** (LO also commented on items as they arose)
 - i. **Streetlights – turning off between 1am until dawn to improve carbon impact:** LO has contacted Abigail Lamberti, SCC for further information and is awaiting a response. TM presented information on SCC's policy for Reduction of Street Lighting in Somerset. LO advised that the PC needs to engage the parishioners to establish whether there is support for this or not. If there is sufficient support, SCC would then be approached.

LO is standing down as District Councillor. A vote of thanks from everyone was passed to her for all her help over the last few years which has been invaluable.

6. **Traffic calming - Bradford Road/Rode Hill:** No further information.
7. **Streetlights – turning off between 1am until dawn to improve carbon impact:** As 5. i.
8. **Allotment Rent:** Clerk reported that the rent had not been changed for 5 years. PT will investigate the cost of other local allotments.
9. **Actions from the previous meeting:**
 - i. **Playing Field: Adoption of gifted S106 land - Transfer Deed approval and signing:** PB is waiting to hear from MDC's legal department. LO will follow up. All were in favour of PB and AE being the signatories for the Deed.
 - ii. **PC owned land – identifying and registering:** No further information.
 - iii. **Service Level Agreement for TAG:** A separate meeting will be held between some members of the PC, TAG and LO to discuss all the highway issues, the way forward and the possibility of a Service Level Agreement.
 - iv. **Dog waste bin – The Mill:** Clerk has sent a request to the contractor to approve the site. No response to date. Clerk to chase. *Post meeting note: Contractor has approved site. Clerk will order bin at a total cost of £350.54 inc VAT.*

10. **Planning matters:**

New applications:

2019/0658/TCA: Fell beech tree to be replaced with field maple – Belmont, Halfpenny Row. No objections.

2019/0620/REM: Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2015/1431/OTS redevelopment to replace existing dwelling and garage with 5 No. new dwellings and associated garages. Matters of access/appearance/Landscaping/layout/scale to be determined – 6 Frome Road. The submitted plans are not very detailed so it is not possible to assess the size of the bedrooms etc. The plans appear to show the properties as barn style which would be in keeping with other properties in the vicinity. There appears to be adequate landscaping shown however a request for the planting of a copper beech to replace the one removed from its prominent position at the front of the development will be added to the PC comments. The two accesses were approved in the appeal decision notes although concerns were still raised about the one on the bend. The development has now been configured to allow all properties to access/egress from both access points whereas the previous plans restricted properties to the use of only one access. The render is noted as being natural coloured (varied) which raised concerns. As there is no nearby on street parking capability, the parking on site needs to be adequate. The PC will compare the plans with the NP to see if it meets the character assessment criteria before making formal comment on the application.

Mendip decisions:

2019/0160/HSE: Proposed single storey rear extension. Retrospective garage conversion to kitchen and additional off street parking – 1 The Sportsman. Approved

2018/1451/FUL & 2018/1452/LBC: Construction of 2 No. 2 bed flats and external works to existing outbuilding – 12 Lower Street. Approved

Other planning matters:

Outline proposal for land at Merfield: Five members of the PC had met with David James on 28 March to discuss the possibility of two small developments near Merfield. A developer is keen to maximise the sites but Mr James recognises that the need identified in the NP did not require large-scale development which the developer is proposing (up to 80 dwellings). The NP recognises that more market housing is required that is specifically designed for older people currently resident in Rode village. Mr James has expressed a willingness to help meet this need.

One of the sites (proposal 6-9 bungalows) is adjacent to the let bungalows and is already included in the NP. Mr James wants to build them in such a way or place a covenant on the land it would prevent future development. The second site (12-15 max 18 specifically for over 55's of modest level so not to impinge too much on The Mead) is in the field near The Mead which is closer to the village and therefore would be more accessible for the type of properties proposed. This site is favoured by the developer but, as it is not included in the NP, any development on that site would need a planning application as an exception site which would require PC support.

Mr James suggested limiting development to 6 – 9 dwellings on each site and further suggested that the development on the site by The Mead could be constructed to ensure the site could not be expanded at a later date. He was aware that the over 55's in Rode may want to downsize and he would be happy to offer a discount to parishioners wishing to do this.

A pathway from the site nearest Merfield could be made along the old drive down through the field to safely link to the main village.

It was acknowledged that Merfield will be sold at some point in the future and that the future of the land would then become uncertain. A couple of councillors expressed concerns over the proposals so no firm decision was made but further exploration was agreed and discussions with MDC and the community will be undertaken.

11. Highway issues:

- i. **Speeding vehicles - High Street/Straight Lane – extension of 20mph/30mph zone:** No further information.
- ii. **Damage to Halfpenny Row road surface and verge:** Developer of 14 Lower Street had been invited again to attend this meeting but had not responded. Clerk to invite developer to the May meeting.
- iii. **Cars parking on pavement – The Mead:** PT had met with the owners of the vehicles and they will now park on the road. LO pointed it that no parking on the pavement within the village should be supported.

12. Correspondence:

- i. **Pediment repair:** The contractor has had to delay the repairs due to having been called away to deal with emergency storm repairs. It is hoped the works will start before the end of April.

13. Financial matters / Financial Position at March 2019

- i. **NatWest Reserve Account – £34,308.60 NatWest Current Account £10.00**

Clerk's salary (March)	£222.96
HMRC PAYE (Period 1)	£52.20

- i. **Receipts:** Interest: £5.36
- ii. **Confirmed year end total:** £34,238.60
- iii. **VAT refund:** Clerk has submitted a claim for £806.75.

14. Items for next agenda / Items to report:

- i. **Resignation of Clerk:** After 12 years in post, the clerk has tendered her resignation and given the required 12 weeks notice (last day 25th June subject to a replacement being found). Clerk will put together an application pack, contact clerks from surrounding parishes regarding the vacancy and post an advert on the SALC website. Members of the Parish Council thanked Joy for her years of hard and conscientious work preparing for and recording meetings and following up actions. She was told she would be greatly missed and that the PC very much appreciated her assistance in finding a replacement.
- ii. **Church Farm development:** Autograph Homes is holding a presentation in the Crosskeys on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm to showcase their development and offer Rode residents the opportunity to reserve a property before they go on general sale.

- iv. **Village grass cutting:** PB wanted to acknowledge the quality of the work being carried out by Eagle Grounds and Maintenance Ltd.
- v. **Apologies:** PB offered her apologies for the May meeting.
- vi. **Litter pick:** Clerk to write to Helen Sparey to thank her for arranging the recent litter pick again.
- vii. **Parishioners comments on this PC meeting:**
 - a) **Proposed Merfield developments:** Would it be possible to gift the remaining land to the parish to prevent further development.
 - b) **Developments on A361:** The Church Farm and 6 Frome Road developments are likely to cause traffic issues. What traffic management plans will be put in place.
 - c) **Carbon impact reduction:** A survey of the carbon usage in the village should be undertaken to see if there are any ways the community can reduce its consumption.

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Joy Book

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

Signed _____

Date: _____

Print: _____

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th May 2019 at **7.00pm** – to include Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – ALL VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND