

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT RODE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL ON  
TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2019 AT 7.30pm**

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**UNCONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr P Banwell – Chair	(PB)	Cllr T Morrow	(TM)	Cllr A Edney	(AE)
Cllr A Hooker	(AH)	Cllr E Butler	(EB)		

**In attendance:** Joy Book – retiring Clerk 2 members of the public  
Zoe Symonds (new Clerk)  
Cllr Barbi Lund – District Councillor

**1. Public Participation:**

- i. **PC reserves:** Resident noted that the reserves had been accrued for the Neighbourhood Plan and felt strongly that they should not be used towards funding highway signage etc as this is already paid for via taxes.
- ii. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Resident raised concerns that at the Annual Parish Meeting there seemed to be three different angles given by councillors regarding the land at Merfield. Resident stated that the PC should not be engaging with developers if the land was outside the village boundary as this would lead to other developers trying to do the same and any discussion on these matters should be at an open meeting. TM responded that the PC had met with the developer at their request and no decisions were made. The PC would only make a decision when plans were formally submitted and the NP would be consulted against the plans.
- iii. **Straight Lane SID figures:** Resident was interested to know what the figures were for the recent monitoring at the end of the High Street/Straight Lane. PB reported that the average had been around 18 miles/hr with one car being registered as doing 40+.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr P Travis, Cllr P Restorick, Cllr Linda Oliver – County Councillor (LO)

**3. Councillor's Declarations of Interests in Items on Agenda:** AH declared in an interest in planning application 2019/1212/TCA.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2019:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**5. Report from County Councillor:** (County Councillor's comments on agenda items previously sent and inserted as appropriate).

**6. Report from District Councillor:** Cllr Barbi Lund was welcomed to the meeting. She explained that MDC is going through a process of establishing a new council due to the significant changes that have recently taken place as a result of the elections. Cllr Lund reported that she will be on the Scrutiny Board which oversees proposed policies etc before approval and a substitute on the Planning Board. Portfolios are yet to be decided. She explained that she hoped to attend alternate meetings.

**7. Traffic calming - Bradford Road/Rode Hill:** The SIS is slowly progressing and works are possibly scheduled for October. Funding is available for other SIS schemes via SCC but Rode is unable to access it until the works on Bradford Road have been completed and the impact assessed.

**8. Formal appointment of new Clerk – Zoe Symonds:** Zoe has an extensive background in administration and book keeping and had been interviewed prior to the meeting. Zoe was welcomed as the new Clerk.

**9. Grievance Panel:** Clerk had circulated a policy. PB noted that the current policy needed to be changed so the Clerk would report to the PC. Clerk to make these changes.

10. **Appeals Panel:** PB and AE agreed to be on the panel.

11. **Adoption of Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity:** It was decided that this policy was not necessary for the PC.

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

- i. **Playing Field - Adoption of gifted S106 land:** MDC are unhappy with the current proposal. The PC solicitor has approached Mr Fussell's solicitor to find a resolution.
- ii. **PC owned land – identifying and registering:** No further information. Clerk will forward list of land to new Clerk.
- iii. **Service Level Agreement for TAG:** No funding has been set aside for this in the current budget. It was generally felt that such an agreement was not required as any reasonable request would be considered and funds released if necessary.
- iv. **Streetlights – turning off between 1am until dawn to improve carbon impact:** Cllr Oliver is following up. Cllr Lund has a particular interest in green issues and was given the background as to why this item was on the agenda.
- v. **Pediment repair:** MDC has not responded. Some repair works have been undertaken.
- vi. **Co-option of Councillor:** This is being advertised but no applications/interest has been received to date.
- vii. **Election of Officer – Parish Environment, Conservation & History:** AE proposed and AH seconded PB. PB accepted the role.
- viii. **Weeds around the village – lengthsman:** Clerk had contacted Norton and Hinton PC's. Both responded that their lengthsman were not interested in undertaking more work. It was agreed that Eagle would be approached in the first instance if additional works were required.

Some privately owned hedges have become so overgrown that pedestrians are having to walk in the road to avoid them. EB will approach one resident. Clerk to write an article for the Link. Clerk also to request that SCC cuts back the verge in Church Lane which is already an issue this year.

13. **Planning matters:**

New applications:

**2019/1039/LBC & 2019/1038/HSE:** Retrospective erection of a barbecue lodge – 8 High Street. No objections. *(Post meeting note: MDC notified that the application has been withdrawn)*

*(AH removed himself from the meeting and took no part in the discussion)*

**2019/1212/TCA:** Cedar Lebanon, reduce height and crown by one third – Christchurch House, Rode Hill. No objections.

*(AH returned to the meeting)*

**2019/1094/HSE:** Proposed two storey side extension – 15 The Mead. No objections.

**2019/1232/TCA:** Birch, reduce split limb by 2-3m – The Ivy House, 22 High Street. No objections.

Mendip decisions:

**2019/0658/TCA:** Beech tree – fell. Replacement planting with a standard field maple – Belmont, Halfpenny Row – No objections

**2019/0873/HSE:** Conversion of existing integral garage to ancillary use and erect a new detached garage and garden store – Wessex Wedge, 35 Church Lane. Approved

Other planning matters: None

14. **Highway and TAG issues:**

PT had met with TAG and is keen to have regular meetings. The next one is pencilled in for beginning of July. PT will work closely with Cllr Oliver and Rex Eastment to find out how to get the speed restrictions changed.

- i. **Speeding vehicles - High Street/Straight Lane – extension of 20mph/30mph zone:** See 1. iii. It has been noticed that the school sign at the entrance to Straight Lane is missing and the 20/30mph signs are obscured by vegetation. TM to report missing sign and TM and AH to remove vegetation. Clerk will

report the faded zig zag lines by the school. TAG wonder whether 'gates' at each end of the village will be installed in addition to the signage when the 30/40mph zone is changed on the A361.

- ii. **Wales and West roadworks 24<sup>th</sup> June for approximately 3 weeks** (*this depends on ground conditions and whether they can tunnel or have to dig up the road*).

PT had contacted many authorities before he had passed the issue to TM. TM has spoken to Wales and West, Project Manager who explained that the work is to provide extra capacity and will involve installing a new 250mm diameter gas pipe line. It is part of a strategy for improving the capacity of the network and is not directly related to the Church Farm development. The works will run from 2 Frome Road, in front of the The Bell and to just beyond the entrance of Church Lane. There will be 3 way traffic lights. SCC will put out advance warning signs for HGVs. The bus will be re-routed via the school which will cause issues during school drop off times. The following will also be carried out:-

- warning notices, warning of the expected disruption will be put up Friday 7<sup>th</sup>
- notice in the local paper
- actively manage the traffic lights during peak times
- request "extended hours" working to try to minimise the total time for the work

Thanks were extended to both PT and TM for all their communications with the agencies.

TAG has requested 'Access Only' signs for the village entrances. This is being looked into but SCC do not support them. It was felt most people would ignore them although after a day or two of getting stuck in the High Street they may avoid doing so. Clerk to contact PCSO Mike Storey to request he attends the High Street on a couple of mornings during the works.

Farleigh Hungerford saw a distinct increase traffic during the recent works as people tried to divert around them.

**Speedwatch:** PT is actively seeking more volunteers as there are currently only 3 and they need to go out in pairs. They also require more equipment.

**Auto Speedwatch:** EB asked whether the PC would be willing to purchase a couple of units now to start gaining figures. It was agreed it would be better to wait until the units are fully approved by the Police and SCC before going ahead.

#### 15. Correspondence:

- i. **Email from resident – village rat run:** Clerk has responded that the PC is continually trying to improve the traffic through the village.

#### 16. Financial matters / Financial Position at 25 May 2019

- i. **NatWest Reserve Account – £49,608.63 NatWest Current Account £10.00**

Clerk's salary (May + back to April) + memory stick (£7.99)	£250.72
HMRC PAYE (Period 3)	£57.00
Mrs P Banwell – flowers for war memorial pots	£12.37

- ii. **Receipts:** Interest - £7.91, Allotment rent - £50.00, VAT refund - £806.75

- iii. **Reserves Policy:** This needs to reviewed and adopted.

#### 17. Items for next agenda / Items to report:

- i. **Training:** Clerk to forward details of Chair and Councillor training.
- ii. **Presentation to retiring Clerk:** The meeting concluded with a presentation to Joy who was leaving after 12 years. She was thanked for everything she had done over the years. Joy then thanked everyone for their lovely words and gift and wished Zoe well in her new role.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Joy Book

Clerk to Rode Parish Council

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm**