

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2021 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Cllr B Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 2 members of the public

1. Public Participation:

Concern was expressed over parking on Rode Hill near the junction with the High Street as this was causing problems when pulling out of the High Street especially at present with the tall grass partially obscuring the view. Putting double yellow lines on Rode Hill near the junction would alleviate the problem. There was some concern that the Highways report on traffic generated by the proposed development on Barbara's Field would not cause any traffic issues.

Putting tables on the island by The Mill pub was contrary to the S106 agreement which had allowed development of the patio area and this along with the use of lighting which was not low level should be pointed out to Tellisford Parish Council who were responsible for The Mill.

A request for the SID to be put in place on Straight Lane was made as this had already been agreed at a previous meeting.

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 4th May were approved. It was agreed the Clerk would issue an Action List to councillors along with the minutes.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from County Councillor: The Chair gave highlights of Cllr Oliver's report to the meeting; these were that the Covid rate in Somerset remained low with an R of 0.8 to 1.1. The vaccination rate in Somerset was one of the highest in the country. A decision the make-up of the Unitary Authority for Somerset should be made in July. It was noted that the voting across the county had been two thirds in favour of 2 Unitary Authorities (East and West), although only 25% had voted.

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund reported that a number of key staff had or were about to leave Mendip District Council (MDC), these included the enforcement staff and the key Planning Officer (James O'Dell) but his line manager Simon Trafford would take over his duties while new full-time staff were sought. Currently agency staff were filling enforcement posts.

7. Actions from the previous meeting:

- i. **Hoedown:** The village Hoedown carried out on 30th May had again had a good turnout and a lot of weeds were cleared as well as tidying up the books in the village phone box. A report on the activities was going in The Link and on Facebook. The next Hoedown was planned for 27th June.
- ii. **Lengthsman:** Ben Vowles had done a day's work in May clearing gullies on Marsh Road but had now handed in his notice.

There was discussion over whether garden waste bins could be obtained from Mendip with agreement for their collection by SWP to help dispose of rubbish from the Hoedowns. The footpath on Church Lane was of concern and it was unclear whether Mendip were responsible for clearing it as to do it during a Hoedown was considered too big a job. Cllr Barbi Lund agreed to investigate this with MDC.

- iii. **The Bell:** Contact had been made with the manager but no progress made. It was thought the roof lead had been removed and currently no one was interested in taking it on. Further contact by EB would be tried.
- iv. **Jubilee Clock:** This had been inspected and it had been agreed that Peter Watkinson would carry out a full service (agreed at £185) and evaluate any further work that might be required. It was agreed the Clerk would check with David Hornsey when this work would be done.
- v. **Bus back better:** PT reported that he had had a number of meetings, with Frome Town Council, First Bus and was due to meet with Wells. It was possible that First Bus was going to increase the D2 service through Rode. Wiltshire were considering later running X34 buses and discussions would be held to see if this would extend to Frome. He added that the survey of Rode residents on buses should not be done yet but at a later date.
- vi. **Trees:** The trees along Clay Lane had been evaluated and the dead elms at the Eastern end were not dangerous, however those at the Western end should be felled by a tree surgeon as they were at risk of falling onto the Lane. A letter would be sent to Andy Fussell.
There was a leaning tree on The Mead which was of concern and it could fall onto the road and pavement. A letter should be written to David James and copied to the MDC Enforcement Department to ensure action was taken.
The tree by the allotments was not considered to be an issue.
- vii. **Brown's Ground:** A paper had been prepared outlining possible options for use of the land which could be used by the PC should the land be offered to the village.
- viii. **Riverwalk sign:** The sign by Scutts Bridge had been vandalised and torn down. A replacement was required and it was agreed to get one and try to get a more robust option to avoid repeat damage.

8. Climate Emergency: JM reported that he had only 3 (now 2) people interested in joining the Steering Group which was not sufficient for a meeting. He was proposing to leaflet the village and it was agreed that the leaflet calling for volunteers should include a few ideas of initiatives the Group could do. The PC agreed to fund leaflets up to £200.

9. Highways:

- a) A meeting with Sara Davis had been arranged for 21st June and along with Cllr Linda Oliver, MS, JM and EB would take part. The group would look at the proposed sighting of the 30mph speed signs and village gateways on the A361; possible 20mph restrictions on Marsh Road, High Street (including beyond Crooked Lane) and Church Lane; any signage on Lower Street; and roundels or repeater speed signs on Rode Hill. Also, the possibility of putting SID signs on brow of Rode Hill. The meeting agreed to push for the 20mph speed restriction on as large an area of the village as possible.
- b) Some pavement photographs had been taken, others were still to be done.
- c) The Clerk had emailed Somerset Development Engineering regarding the adoption of The Sportsman but had not received a response, he agreed to chase this up.
- d) The meeting agreed the Highways report on traffic from the proposed Barbara's Field development was of concern. Discussion was held over the best way to challenge this as the report had only concentrated on traffic turning left from the site onto the A361 and not seriously considered traffic going through the village or appreciated the narrowness of Church

Lane in both directions. It was agreed that a draft response should be prepared based on data and then this be checked by a transport consultant (funding for this was agreed) prior to submission to Highways and Mendip. AP agreed to prepare the response. An offer of an email exchange with the Highways (Ben Sunderland) had been agreed by Cllr Oliver and it was agreed to accept this and include members of the PC and interested residents.

10. Planning matters

a. New applications:

2021/1001/HSE: Erection of garden pod – 3 Stable Close. No objections, leave to planning officer.

2021/1212/VCR: Application to vary condition 1 (plans list) of planning permission 2018/2015/VCR to allow for material alterations of approved plans and alter some materials of approved boundary materials – 3 Frome Road. No objections, leave to planning officer.

b. Mendip decisions:

2021/0807/TCA: Works to trees in conservation area: 3 beech, 1 ash, 7 lime, 6 horse chestnut and 1 yew – Langham House. Approved.

2021/0858/FUL: Erection of detached dwelling including associated alterations to 9 The Mead and provision of 2 car parking spaces – 9 The Mead. Approved with conditions.

11. Calm Engineering and drainage: JM reported that all the survey work had been completed and that modelling was being carried out. Discussions were to be held with landowners and the proposals should be published soon.

12. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field: AP agreed to follow up the progress of the path from the site to the playing field.

It was reported that the Playing Field Trustees were to meet tomorrow and were expected to approve the proposed plans for the S106 land. A new Declaration of Trust to include the S106 land would then be drawn up for agreement.

13. Parish Council website: A virtual meeting had been held with George Berry but to date nothing had been done. This would be progressed.

14. Unitary Authority: The Chair had attended a virtual meeting hosted by Frome Town Council with all the surrounding 10 parishes attending. This had been held to see if this group could be successfully formed to represent around 50,000 people which could be one of the 'devolved bodies' that had been proposed to be formed under either Unitary Authority for Somerset. A spreadsheet of issues was to be circulated and a further meeting held – probably not until mid/late July.

15. Conservation Area/Neighbourhood Plan: Currently there were two Conservation Areas one covering the centre of Rode and the area along the A361 near The Bell. It was proposed that the whole village should be covered as a number of listed buildings fell outside the Conservation Areas and if the whole village was covered it would add strength to protection of the village against development. With future planning likely to split areas into: Growth, Regeneration and Protection it was important to get Rode into a Protection area. There was agreement this should be pursued with AP taking a lead and hopefully with help from Peter Harris and others. The Neighbourhood Plan would be a good starting point but it raised the concern that each year this became slightly less useful. A revision of it could be considered but any new Neighbourhood Plan would have to offer land for housing development and there was no enthusiasm for this. Cllr Lund warned that Norton's Neighbourhood Plan was still under

legal challenge and it was 2 years since it had been finished but was still not in force. It was agreed further discussion would be held at the next PC meeting.

16. Financial matters:

- i) The meeting agreed to meet the shortfall (£215) for Life Education to bring its health and well-being programme to Rode School.
- ii) The Clerk had submitted the VAT reclaim to HMRC and awaited repayment.
- iii) The Certificate of Exemption for the AGAR had been submitted and the notice posted.
- iv) The following payments were agreed:

BHIB (insurance)	£681.42
Glasdon (new dog waste bin)	£301.75
A Aked (accountant)	£25.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£725.12
Clerk salary	£224.32
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
Elaine Butler (materials for Hoedown)	£172.58
A Edney (contribution to village day)	£500.00

17. Any other business:

i) Doctors Surgery: It was very difficult to get a face-to-face appointment and even getting a telephone appointment was not easy. It was agreed a letter of concern should be sent to the Beckington practice as the situation had still not improved now most lockdown restrictions had been relaxed.

ii) Village get together: AE asked the Parish Council if it could make a contribution to the village day to be held on the playing field on 30th August. This event was to bring the village together after Covid19. Marquees and bouncy castle and entertainers were being sought and there was a funding shortfall. The PC agreed to donate £500 towards this.

iii) Dog waste bin Rode Hill: A request had been made to move this slightly down the hill as the smell was affecting residents. It was agreed this could be done and Grant Slade would relocate it.

18. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be a physical meeting in the main hall of the Memorial Hall at:

7.30pm on Monday 12th July.

Please note the change of day for the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Print: _____