

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 12TH JULY 2021 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

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 the junction of the High Street and Rode Hill with parked cars near the junction making it difficult to pull out into Rode Hill safely, (see minute 9a below).

A question was raised as to whether there had been any update on the planning application for Barbara's Field or the Inspector's Hearing on the Local Plan Part 2. It was reported that there had been no news from Mendip or the Inspector. Concern was raised that with agency staff being recruited to replace the Planning Officer vacancy this planning application might not get the careful consideration it required. Should the planning application be approved it would still have to go to the Planning Board, if rejected it would not. Cllr Lund agreed to ensure noise from existing businesses was considered by Mendip. It was noted that the Parish Council (PC) had employed a Traffic Consultant to send a holding letter while it gathered further information to submit following Somerset Highways not raising any concerns over traffic exiting from the Barbara's Field development, (see minute 9b below).

The state of The Bell was of concern, it was a listed building that was falling into disrepair.

The width of the pavement on Church Lane up from Nutts Lane was of concern as it was considered too narrow and this should be investigated further, although who was responsible for it was unknown.

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

3. Presentation on West Wiltshire Bypass: Residents from North Bradley presented an outline of the bypass they were promoting to link the A36 with the A350 to take traffic off the A361 around Rode, Southwick and North Bradley. Although most of the road would be in Wiltshire they were seeking support from neighbouring councils that would be affected by this new bypass. A number of questions were raised and they were reminded to consider the wider impact of this road and to address the possible increase in traffic just because it was a better road. The PC, in principle, said it would support the scheme but would reserve its final judgement until the full plans come out, which it realised could be some time.

4. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th June were approved with the following amendment to the final sentence of 9d) which should have read: '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.'

5. Declarations of interest: None.

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund reported that there were new grants available from Mendip for a Community Fund and a Climate and Ecological Fund. Also there had been a large number

of apologies from SWP about missed refuse collections but they were having trouble finding qualified drivers.

7. Actions from the previous meeting:

- i. **Hoedown:** The village Hoedown carried out in June had been partly rained off, but strimming of grass at a number of road junctions had been carried out. The next Hoedown was on 25th July but currently there were only a few volunteers, notices would be posted soon. Matthew Lucas had been employed to trim back some undergrowth around the village and the PC agreed that his services could be used along with Clive Harrington's offer to do major clearance twice a year. The costs of these services were agreed provided these costs did not exceed £3,400 a year; as the Lengthsman was no longer employed. Any additional costs would require further approval. It was agreed the Clerk approach Somerset to get someone out to check on who was responsible for gullies/pavements etc. on Marsh Road, an offer had been made but it had been delayed during lockdown.
The Chairman agreed to approach Cllr Oliver to find a contact to approach at Somerset for possible financial contribution as Rode was undertaking work previously done by SCC.
- ii. **Eagle Ground Maintenance:** The Clerk confirmed that the agreement was for them to only cut the grass down the Barrow Farm path. It was agreed that for the 2022 contract this would be taken off their contract.
- iii. **The Bell:** Contact had been attempted with the manager but no response received. It was agreed AP would check on the requirements, if any, for maintaining a listed building. Further pressure on the manager of The Bell would be considered.
- iv. **Jubilee Clock:** David Hornsey had made contact with Peter Watkinson to carry out repairs but these still had to be done. This would be followed up.
- v. **Trees:** The Clerk had contacted Andy Fussell regarding the trees along Clay Lane but had not had a reply. He agreed to chase this up, with possibly contacting Mendip enforcement. He still had to make contact regarding the tree on The Mead and AP agreed to chase up the report by the tree expert. A branch on the willow on Halfpenny Row had been cut down as it was in a dangerous condition.
- vi. **The Mill:** Tellisford PC had been in contact with the owner regarding furniture on the island and Mendip Enforcement Officer had been informed. The lighting appeared to comply with requirements.
- vii. **Riverwalk sign:** The new signs had been ordered and were to be delivered to Jim Ryan to install.
- viii. **Doctors Practice:** The Clerk had written to the Beckington Practice but had not had a reply. The PC had been approached by Mendip Health Connections asking what was in place in Rode but the Chair had asked her to come to present what she could offer to the PC; this offer would hopefully be taken up in the near future.

8. Climate Emergency: JM reported no progress in forming the Working Party, however we may be setting the bar too high for people to come forward. PT had asked Cllr Lund to make a presentation, in August, to Rode village on Extinction Rebellion. This would hopefully generate interest in the options a Climate Emergency Working Party could get involved in within the village.

9. Highways:

- a) A meeting with Sara Davis had taken place on 21st June, with Cllr Oliver, MS, JM and EB. This had been a very productive meeting with the group walking the village. The following had been agreed:

i) positioning of 30mph speed limit signs and village gateway sign 50m before the Parkgate Lane junction on the A361

ii) 20mph speed restriction within the village to cover: High Street, Lower Street, Marsh Road, Church Lane, Clay Lane, Fairfield, Walnut Close and Nutts Lane. The meeting confirmed its support for this and the Chair would relay this to Sara Davis who would then approach the police for their support.

iii) Agreement for extra 30mph signs on Rode Hill, along with new post for SID. Additionally, double yellow lines on both Rode Hill and the High Street for 25 metres around their junction. There should be a memorandum of understanding between Rode PC and SCC regarding the use of SID within the village, it was agreed to ask Sara Davis for a copy of this.

There was currently no agreement to extend the 20mph limit beyond the Crooked Lane junction on Straight Lane.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Oliver for setting up this meeting.

- b) AP reported that new data had been collected at 5 periods for traffic along the A361 and entering and exiting the village on Church Lane. This showed far more traffic came into the village by this road than exited it. Increased traffic from the proposed Barbara's Field development would severely impact on access from the A361 into the village due to width of Church Lane. It was agreed the PC would review the proposed letter by the Traffic Consultant and if no objections were received this would be submitted to SCC and Mendip Planning.
- c) The Clerk had again emailed SCC regarding the adoption of The Sportsman, but had not had a response. It was agreed he would contact Cllr Oliver to see if she knew of a more senior person at SCC to contact on this issue.
- d) During the meeting with Sara Davis it had been noted that a sign on the fingerpost at Straight Lane/Parkgate Lane was broken. It was the responsibility of the PC to get this repaired if not SCC could remove the sign. It was agreed this should be repaired and it would be investigated further.

10. Planning matters

a. New applications:

2021/1212/VCR: Application to vary condition of planning permission 2018/2015/VCR to allow for variation of some elements of approved boundary materials – 3 Frome Road. No objections.

2021/1295/HSE: Erection of free-standing carport and formation of associated access – 41A Church Lane. No objections, leave to planning officer.

2021/1402/HSE: Installation of garage door to carport – 6 St Lawrence Lane. No objections, leave to planning officer.

b. Mendip decisions:

2021/1001/HSE: Erection of garden pod – 3 Stable Close. Approved with conditions.

11. Calm Engineering and drainage: JM reported that there was an update by Calm Engineering in The Link, which said modelling of the drainage capacity was underway. There had also been a request from Calm for any further information on water flow/flooding in the village from residents.

12. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field: The path from the site to the playing field was still to be started although Autograph had said it would be complete by mid-July. It was agreed that if the path was not completed within 10 days a letter (prepared by AP and EB) would be sent (by the Clerk) to Autograph and copied to Mendip.

A meeting of the Playing Field Committee was to be held on the following evening and the situation regarding the Declaration of Trust would be raised.

13. Parish Council website: The village website (rodevillage.com) has been amended to include a Parish Council section and the Clerk was to be given a lesson later this week on how to update this section by George Berry.

14. Unitary Authority: The Chair reported no decision had been made yet. The spreadsheet being prepared by Frome Council had still to be circulated.

15. Conservation Area/Neighbourhood Plan: To be progressed

16. Bus services: PT reported that Somerset had received a government grant to develop a bus improvement plan and had appointed consultants to do this. A meeting was due to be held tomorrow with 30 parishes from across Somerset attending and should anyone be interested they were encouraged to attend. A meeting with the Somerset consultants was to take place next week.

17. Financial matters:

- i) The current balance stood at around £50,000
- ii) The VAT reclaim (£2,141.63) from the HMRC had been received.
- iii) The following payments were agreed:

Life Education Wessex	£215.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£725.12
Clerk salary	£228.74
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
Matthew Lucas (path clearing)	£25.00
Downlands (Willow branch removal)	£324.00
SALC (annual subscription)	£290.22
H Williams (computer security)	£49.99

18. Any other business:

i) **Rode in bloom:** This was to be held on Sunday 8th August and a request had been received to use the village green for a stall and information point. The meeting agreed this was OK.

ii) **Grass cutting:** A proposal would be put forward to leave some areas uncut.

19. Date of Next Meeting:

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

7.30pm on Wednesday 11th August

Please note the change of day for the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Print: _____