

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 pm**

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**CONFIRMED**

**Present:**

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

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

**1. Public Participation:**

The hole in the pavement on Lower Street had been there for over two months and needed repair. It was pointed out that the developer of the new houses on Lower Street had been responsible for repairing this part of the pavement but when he went to repair it, he discovered the culvert was badly damaged. Calm Engineering had taken on this repair as part of their work around Rode and it was agreed they would be contacted on this issue.

The trees along Halfpenny Row were encroaching over the road and the Parish Council (PC) were asked if these could be cut back. It was pointed out that only some were on parish land but it was agreed AP would ask John Osborne to look at the trees.

Concern was expressed over the state of a large fir tree, covered in ivy, at the bottom of Walnut Close. Again, John Osborne would be asked to inspect this and, if necessary, the owner would be alerted to its condition.

A building in the grounds of the Coach House on Rode Hill was thought to be an inhabited building and it was questioned whether planning permission had been given for this. The PC agreed to investigate.

The PC was asked about the councillor elections to which the Chair said that these might be brought forward to May 2022, currently the majority of the parishes in Somerset had voted in favour of this although no final decision had been made. The PC agreed it would advertise these councillor elections, but an election in Rode would only be necessary if more than eight people stood to be councillors.

A request was made for the Parish Council to purchase four automated speed watch devices (currently undergoing approval trials) for use in the village and especially on Rode Hill and Bradford Road. These devices had the ability to photograph cars and record number plates therefore identifying repeat offenders, these would be reported to the police who could use the data to monitor offenders at specific times and places, where the repeat offenders had been identified, and possibly prosecute. The devices and installation would cost around £3,000. It was agreed that once approved by Mendip the PC would purchase these, provided they met the Memorandum of Understanding Rode had with Somerset County Council (SCC) regarding positioning and number of speed devices; a request had been made for a copy of the Memorandum and EB agreed to chase this up with Sara Davis at SCC.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Andy Pickett (AP), Cllr B Lund and Cllr L Oliver

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September were approved.

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

**5. Report from County Councillor:** The report from Cllr Oliver had shown that covid19 cases across Somerset were still very high but fortunately the take up of the vaccine was high too. The ward boundaries within Somerset were under review with a limit of 85 Unitary Councillors to be elected; this process was still ongoing and boundary changes could be made. The new Unitary Authority should start in April 2023.

**6. Climate Emergency:** JM reported that the first meeting had taken place in mid-September with nine participants. Some base actions had been agreed and one of these was for the PC to carry out an audit of its own activities. JM agreed to investigate this and bring a proposal to the next meeting. Encouragement would be given to more younger people to join the Climate Emergency Group.

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

- i. **Hoedown:** The September Hoedown had been the last of the year with litter collecting and weeding carried out.
- ii. **The Mead:** A report of the condition of the trees on The Mead was being chased up.
- iii. **Dog bin foot of Marsh Road:** Grant Slade has agreed to move the bin slightly further up Marsh Road.
- iv. **Fingerpost – Straight Lane:** The Clerk reported that he had ordered the new finger, but its delivery and fitting was unknown. Once repaired new photos would be taken and it would be added to the asset register to be covered by insurance.
- v. **Parish Elections:** It was agreed to advertise for a new Councillor to start from January 2022 to replace Steve Eyles who was stepping down.

**8. Highways:**

**i) Speed Watch:** discussed under Parishioner's Participation.

**ii) Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction:** the Chair had taken up the PC's concerns with Cllr Oliver who had pursued this with Somerset. Initially it was thought the PC would have to pay for a further survey of this junction, however following discussions with the Small Improvements Scheme (SIS) it has been agreed that as they have made improvements to the junction they will carry out a post improvement survey of this junction. The results of this post improvement work will be compared with the survey carried out before the SIS did the work. The survey is to be carried out at the same time of year as the pre-improvement survey. The PC will be given the results of these surveys.

**iii) Village gates and 20mph limit:** Somerset are to send mock-ups of the proposed village gates to go on the A361 for the PC to agree the preferred design. The TRO for the 20mph limit in Rode is still going through the approval process but will be completed before the end of the financial year.

**iv) Cleveland Bridge Bath:** Bath City Council are considering banning lorries from using this bridge when it reopens. The meeting did not think this would make a significant impact on lorries using roads round Rode, as the Cleveland Bridge was within the Bath Clean Air Zone lorries would avoid this bridge anyway.

**v) No idling – Mendip initiative:** It was agreed that provided the school agreed these signs could be put up there, PR agreed to contact the school. It was also proposed to put them up in the layby at the end of Straight Lane.

**vi) The Sportsman:** Cllr Oliver was continuing to chase this up with Somerset.

**9. Planning matters:**

**i. New applications:** None.

ii. **Mendip decisions: 2020/2267/OTA:** Erection of a detached two storey dwelling – 4 Fairfield. Refused.

**10. Broadband:** Voneus had come to the Memorial Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> October to answer residents' questions on their fibre broadband plans for Rode. SE added that although Voneus would be starting installation before the end of the year it was not known which village they would start with, fibre was to be installed in Rode, Beckington, Batcombe, Wanstrow and Trudoxhill.

**11. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field:** The path from the site to the playing field had not started although the Clerk had spoken to and emailed Autograph Homes on the issue. It was agreed the Site Manager should be approached and if nothing happened Mendip Enforcement informed again.

**12. Unitary Authority/Frome:** The Chair reported that Frome and surrounding PCs were in the process of arranging another meeting with the Programme Manger of Somerset County Council to discuss the Unitary Authority plans at the end of the month.

**13. Conservation Area/Neighbourhood Plan:** Discussions on this were held over to the next meeting. However, one key aspect of any plans rested on the status of the housing supply within Mendip and SE agreed to ask Jo Milling to determine whether Mendip had either or both a three year supply plan or a five year supply plan and also what effect moving to a Unitary Authority would have on these.

**14. Bus services:** PT reported that the papers (Bus Service Improvement Plan for Somerset) for the 'Bus Back Better' project were being finalised and that these would be considered by the Scrutiny Board next week.

He said that the D2 bus to Bath in early mornings was over capacity and leaving school children stranded. Requests to First and local authorities had been made for a second bus to come along at the same time. However, with constrained budgets no money was available for this and also drivers were in short supply. But this morning two buses did come along and it would be monitored to see if this continued.

He also asked for the PC to fund printing of new timetables for circulation to all residents in Rode and this was agreed.

**15. Financial matters:** The following payments were agreed:

Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£1,450.24*
Matthew Lucas (mowing)	£20.00
Clerk salary	£228.74
HMRC PAYE	£55.00

\*The August cheque to Eagle had gone missing and so this has to be repaid.

**16. Any other business:**

i) The notice board outside the Memorial Hall was in a very poor state and it should be replaced by a new board. AE agreed to ask Duncan McLellan to request it was replaced; the Clerk agreed to look into the price of a new notice board.

ii) It was reported the burial ground by the church would be full in 2-3 years. The meeting said that the Parish Council had no say in this matter, as it did not own the land, but the vicar should approach the diocese on this issue.

**17. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held in the main hall of the Memorial Hall at:  
**7.30 pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

The Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Website: [rodevillage.com/parish-council/](http://rodevillage.com/parish-council/)*