

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE CHAPEL  
ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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), Cllr A Pickett (AP)

**In attendance:** Cllr Linda Oliver, Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 1 member of the public

**1. Public Participation:**

Concern was raised that dog waste was being put into the general waste bins in the village and not in the appropriate waste bins.

A large branch had recently been brought down by the wind from a tree in The Mead adjacent to the field. A request was made for this to be raised with the landowner.

Traffic was still speeding on High Street, however it was pointed out the PC was still waiting for a copy of the Memorandum from Somerset as this would clarify how many, and where, speed indicator devices (SIDs) could be installed in Rode and for how long. It was clarified that although Rode Hill and Bradford Road were mentioned in the last minutes as places for use of SIDs these were not restricted to these roads but could be used wherever there was a perceived problem. Cllr Oliver agreed to chase this issue up with her contacts at Somerset.

**2. Apologies for absence:** None

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October were approved.

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

**5. Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Oliver said she had held a number of conversations regarding the adoption of The Sportsman. Discussions were to be held with Wessex Water regarding the drainage of the site; this related mainly to surface water which was compounded by water run-off from the adjacent fields. Somerset had to be satisfied that there was no problem with drainage before they would adopt The Sportsman. She said the Parish Council (PC) should also approach the landowners about this water run-off to see if it could be controlled.

The 20mph speed limit through the village was now waiting for the police to approve the Traffic Regulation Order, and she said she would continue to chase this up with Sara Davis.

With regard to speeding this would be a matter for the police and the PC would need to engage with them if speeding continued.

She said that cars stopping in the slip road from Straight Lane onto the A36 was something that should be taken up again with Highways England; it was added that any photographs of vehicles stopped on the slip road would add weight.

There was still no decision on whether Councillor elections would take place in 2022 or 2023 and a decision was expected in early 2022.

**6. Report form District Councillor:** Cllr Lund reported that Mendip District Council would continue as it is until 1 April 2023 when the Unitary Authority started.

She reported that all Council run car parks would be free for the week before Christmas from 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**7. Climate Emergency:** JM reported that a further meeting had been held and some clarity of what could be done had been reached. Younger people onto the committee were still sought. It was important that any ideas/actions required village wide support to be effective. The group hoped to arrange a number of Zoom presentations over the next year.

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

- i. **Trees:** Reports on the trees on The Mead and Clay Lane had been prepared but currently these could not be opened and Word versions would be requested. The trees on The Mead, with the branch falling off, were of concern and County Roads should be contacted about these. The Clerk agreed to do this.  
The PC agreed no action was required regarding the trees on Halfpenny Row, any cutting back could encourage lorries to use this small road.
- ii. **Dog bin foot of Marsh Road:** This was still to be moved, but there was no urgency until weather got hot again.
- iii. **Fingerpost – Straight Lane:** The Clerk reported that the new finger had now been made and the post would be removed to be cleaned repainted and finger added, hopefully in the next few weeks. (Note: it was removed on following day)
- iv. **Notice board by Memorial Hall:** It was reported that the Memorial Hall had said they did not own the board. Checks would be made to ascertain the owners. It was confirmed it should be replaced.
- v. **Paths Officer:** Cathy and Nick Taylor were the new village Paths Officers. Caro Smith would retain the role of issuing passes.
- vi. **Calm Engineering:** There was no date for work to start. The hole on Lower Street was causing some pedestrians difficulties and this would be investigated.
- vii. **Building in grounds of Coach House:** Checks would be made to see if this was an inhabited building as no planning permission had been given for it to be so.
- viii. **The Bell:** It was reported that possibly some action could be taken on an unoccupied listed building to ensure it did not fall into disrepair, this would be pursued.

**9. Highways:**

**i) Speed Watch:** It was essential that the PC determined if there were any restrictions in using more SIDs in the village and any agreement with Somerset required clarification. Cllr Oliver agreed to make enquiries.

**ii) No idling – Mendip initiative:** Two signs had now been delivered and these would be put up outside the school.

**10. Planning matters:**

**i. New applications: 2021/2329/TCA:** Reduce by 1 to 1.5 all round two yew trees – Rode Chapel. No objections, however it was unclear why this work had been done in two stages, the PC was unwilling to fully fund the second cut.

**2021/2368/TCA:** Reduce magnolia by 1m, reduce plum by 1.5m and reshape apple tree – 5 Lower Street. No objections.

**2021/2412/TCA:** Fell two willow trees and re-pollard third willow tree – 33 Lower Street. No objections.

**2021/2494/TCA:** Fell apple tree, crown lift to 5m beech and alder trees, reduce beech hedge to 2m and reduce east side of beech by 3m – 16 Lower Street. No objections.

**ii. Mendip decisions: 2021/1816/LBC:** Replace existing stormsure profiled windows and panelling with new conservation timber framed windows and panelling – 17B High Street. Approved.

**iii) Local Plan Part 2:** The Mendip District Council Cabinet meeting on 4 October recommended to Full Council that the Local Plan be adopted at next Full Council meeting. Representations not to adopt the Plan were made by Norton St Philip PC and the District Councillor. On 13 October Mendip Planning Board unanimously turned down the application for development of one of the sites allocated in the Local Plan - BK1 in Beckington.

**11. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field:** The path from the site to the playing field was due to finally start during w/c 15 November as the contract has now been let. The cut through to the playing field would need to be made and fencing installed.

The rather dated Memorandum of Understanding between the PC and the Playing Field, which was in places unclear, would be rewritten and circulated to both parties for approval and signatures.

**12. Unitary Authority/Frome:** The Chair reported that Frome, due to its distance from Taunton, had formed a group to include surrounding PCs, giving a body representing 50,000 people. This Local Community Network (LCN) was one of four pilots and was looking at families and younger children issues. However, all this was in early stages and there was uncertainty over these LCNs. Cllr Oliver reported she was on the advisory group and would share relevant information on the pilots.

**13. Grassed areas in Rode:** Currently Eagle maintained these areas around the village, however a pilot rewilding of the area near the Memorial Hall had started with AP and EB and others clearing the area and sowing seed. This area would be taken off the Eagle contract for 2022. Additionally, Barrow Farm paths would be taken off the Eagle contract as they only cut the grass and alternative arrangements with Matt Lucas had been made to cut the grass and trim the undergrowth during the year. The PC agreed to fund the wild meadow seeds etc.

**14. Conservation Area/Neighbourhood Plan:** AP had held discussions with both Mendip and consultant over the Rode Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The Plan was still a living document but its strength depended to some extent on the housing supply that Mendip had: if Mendip had a full 5-year housing supply then the development limits in the NP did not have a 2-year time limit, if Mendip only had a 2-year housing supply then the NP had only a 2-year development limit. SE and AP confirmed that Mendip had at least a 3-year housing supply, which meant a new NP was not required. However, the PC should conduct regular reviews of the NP and the meeting agreed to review it at the next meeting. Further reviews, which should include climate assessments, should be conducted every 1 to 2 years.

Any new Neighbourhood Plan would require extra housing to be identified in Rode, additionally landowners would need to be consulted over potential new development sites. A new NP would necessitate the consultation of the whole village.

AP reported that increasing the Conservation Area within Rode could be an easier option than drawing up a new NP. This was however more of a legalistic process and it was proposed and agreed that an initial sum of £500 could be spent on getting advice on the feasibility of extending the Conservation Area. Again, any proposal would require support from the whole village prior to submission.

**15. Bus services:** PT reported that Somerset had put in a bid for £160 million to improve bus services across the whole county following the work done by the Bus Back Better Group. He said that 80 representatives from across the county had contributed to the Group and thanks were given to Lucy Travis for getting such good participation. Somerset had indicated it was keen to improve services but could not do so without considerable funding. How much would be received was awaited. He added that Frome was planning to introduce an electric bus into service.

**16. Remembrance Day service:** The PC agreed to donate £25.00 to the poppy appeal for the Parish Council wreath and it was agreed the Chair would lay it on Sunday.

**17. Allotments:** There was currently no land available for extra allotments to relieve the waiting list. However, it was agreed to put a request in The Link and on Facebook for possible new land.

**18. Financial matters:**

i) The Clerk reported that the current financial situation (circulated prior to the meeting) indicated the Parish Council should break even or make a small loss for the year.

ii) The following payments were agreed:

The Cross Keys (Remembrance Day food)	£100.00
Heritage Matters	£2,455.20
Downlands Tree Surgery	£360.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£725.12
Clerk salary	£220.82
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance (\$106 land)	£540.00
M Lucas	£35.00
Rode Somerset British Legion Poppy Appeal	£25.00

**19. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be again held in Rode Chapel at:

**7.30 pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

The Meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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

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