

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 11th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk, Caroline Murray (Calm Engineering) and 2 Parishioners

1. Public Participation:

A comment was made that Rode PC should support Norton St Philip in any challenge to the Mendip Local Plan Part 2.

The SID had been in place on Straight Lane near The Mead and it was questioned whether it was working correctly. It was thought it was and it was agreed the data from it would be asked for to be presented at the next meeting. The frequency of its calibration would also be checked. Again, a request was made for the 20mph limit to be extended to the far side of Crooked Lane.

Queries were raised over the path from Church Farm especially regarding its route through the woods and playing field. A question was raised as to who was to pay for the fencing and its cost. It was agreed this would be investigated.

A question was raised regarding the rubbish on the plot alongside the A361, this was ever increasing. It was pointed out this was on private land but Mendip were aware of it and the PC agreed to raise this again with Mendip to see if any action could be taken.

The Rode Cricket Club was probably starting again this year and therefore more frequent cutting of the playing field might be required during the playing season.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr E Butler and Cllr L Oliver.

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Drainage issues: Caroline Murray reported on the work that Calm Engineering had carried out last year. Currently a schedule of works had been put together and it was out for tender. It was expected that once a tender had been agreed the work, principally on Lower Street and some possibly outside the school, would start but this might not be before June. Some upstream work has already been done to help attenuate water run-off from fields and to reduce silt entering the drainage system. A letter to all residents is planned to update them on the work. The Chair expressed concerns over the hole in the Lower Street pavement and the problems it was causing asking if the work on it could be brought forward. This might be possible under 'emergency work' and Rode PC agreed to highlight this, by email, to Caroline Murray who could then progress.

Concern was raised regarding the water run-off from Barbara's Field onto Clay Lane and whether this was impacting the adoption of The Sportsman by Somerset. It was agreed that a larger settlement pond at the end of the current ditch would help reduce silt entering the highway drainage system. Caroline Murray reported that a site meeting was planned to take place later this month on this issue and it was agreed AP would attend to represent Rode PC. (Further information on Calm's work can be found at: <https://mendip-flood-risk-management-programme-mendip.hub.arcgis.com/apps/c8022cbfc5304de78989370f03284d3a/explore>)

6. Report from County Councillor: In Cllr Oliver's report to Rode PC it was noted that there was a call for the return of health care equipment that had been loaned out. There was also a new direct way, either by phone or computer, to report any highway issues which could be used by all. (<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>). However, concern was expressed that this might not result in any faster action.

7. Report from District Councillor: Cllr had nothing to report.

8. Mendip Local Plan Part 2: Cllr Lund reported that Mendip had approved the Plan at its December meeting. DLA Piper had then submitted a pre-action letter on behalf of Norton St Philip (NSP) stating that NSP would be considering a judicial review (JR). It had been hoped that Mendip might take the approach of not defending the JR but Mendip had replied to DLA Piper on 11th January stating it would defend the JR challenge. NSP PC was due to meet on 12th January to decide whether to proceed with the JR following further discussions with their solicitors. A question was raised whether District Councillors could pass a motion at a Full Council meeting requesting the Council reverse its position.

It was agreed that Rode PC could not make a decision until NSP PC had made its decision and the PC had seen all the relevant documents on the issue.

There was still uncertainty on whether Mendip had a 5-year housing supply and information on this would be circulated to the PC.

9. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Trees:** It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate when the Somerset Arboriculturist was coming to inspect the trees along the side of The Mead bordering on Merfield.
It was agreed that a tree surgeon should check the state of all the trees on parish land and report on their condition.
- ii. **Notic board:** It was agreed the Clerk should order a new notice board to be installed outside the Memorial Hall by the bus stop.
- iii. **Clock:** The Clerk had obtained a quote to scaffold up to the roof to enable a roofer to inspect the roof and bell. It was agreed Grant Slade would be approached regarding contacts for a roofer and scaffolder to quote for the job.
- iv. **Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** This had started and the spur to Church Lane was to be also done as part of the job. Work was due to restart next week. It was noted the sleepers had not been delivered although they had been promised.

- v. **Link – digitalisation:** JM reported that Gill Leonard was investigating this through her contacts. He said a rough quote of £25/copy had been quoted to him. Further information was being sought.
- vi. **Grit bin:** The meeting agreed to purchase a grit bin (approx. £55) for the new development on Lower Street, and would look at sourcing salt/grit. AP agreed to liaise with the requester regarding where to locate the bin. Somerset would be contacted about the new bin and refilling it.

10. Highways:

i) Speed Indicator Devices: A meeting still had to be arranged to progress the completion of a new Memorandum with Somerset.

ii) Speed limits: Somerset had informed Rode PC that the new 20mph speed limit in the village would not be installed in this financial year (to end of March).

11. Planning:

i) New applications:

2021/2323/FUL: Change the use of building from offices to microbrewery – Barrow Farm. No objections.

2021/2867/TCA: Reduce height of plane, reduce lateral branches of yew, reduce height and lateral branches of maple, three cherries, hazel and two ash trees – Langham House, Rode Hill. No objections.

Licence application: Alcohol licence for Fussels Fine Foods – Church Farm. No objections.

ii. Mendip decisions:

2021/2412/TCA: Fell two willows and re-pollard third willow – 33 Lower Street. Approved.

2021/2494/TCA: Fell apple tree, crown lift beech, reduce height of beech hedge, reduce beech and crown lift alder – rear of 16 Lower Street. Approved.

iii. Other:

2020/1686/OTS: Appeal against Mendip's rejection of building 29 dwellings on site of Merfield/The Mead. A date for the Planning inspectorate to consider the appeal had been arranged but it was unknown what the date was.

12. Playing Field: The revision of the Declaration of Trust was in hand but would take a couple more months.

13. Buses: PT reported that although some cuts were planned in services at the end of January none of these should affect Rode. He said that buses were having a bad time due to Covid and the request to work from home. There was considerable concern over services from April onwards when Government funding due to Covid ended. The Government nationwide increased bus funding had not been agreed and would probably not be in place until well after April.

14. Elections: It had been agreed that Councillor elections would take place in May and full information would be available in March. It was agreed that current Councillors would give brief information about themselves for inclusion in the April Link and on the village Facebook site.

15. Financial matters:

i) Grass cutting: It was agreed to continue with Eagle to cut the Parish grassed areas and the Playing Field. It was also agreed that a quote would be obtained for a ‘floating eight extra cuts’ of the Playing Field which could be called on as required during the summer.

ii) Donations: The PC agreed the level of its annual donations (see below) and agreed to review them again next year.

iii) Precept: It was agreed to increase the Precept for Rode for 2022/2023 to £20,000. This reflected a small increase as expenses this year had exceeded the annual Precept.

iv) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

P Travis (frame for photo)	£20.83
Somerset Forge	£1,140.00
Clerk Salary	£220.82
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
T Lynch (power for lights)	£25.00
Rode Chapel (hire for Nov & Dec)	£24.00
Mendip Community Transport	£150.00
Citizens Advice Mendip	£100.00
Hardington Wale PCC	£600.00
Rode Chapel	£250.00

16. Any other business:

a) It was agreed that the Climate Emergency Group should be an official working group under the Parish Council (PC) as its work and reporting to the PC was important in decisions being made by the PC since it had declared a Climate Emergency.

b) The emptying of waste and dog waste bins had recently allowed these to overflow. The situation would be monitored as would the continued putting of dog waste into the general waste bins. If necessary, signage would be considered.

c) Quotes for repainting of the other fingerposts in the village would be obtained.

17. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Memorial Hall on:

Tuesday 8th February at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Signed

Date

Print