

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 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), Cllr Elaine Butler (EB).

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk and 10 Parishioners

1. Public Participation:

Parishioners had been approached by Voneus asking them to sign up to ultrafast fibre broadband which was due to start coming to Rode in May/June. It was agreed no commitment should be made as superfast fibre was coming to Rode either via Voneus or Openreach and it was too early to enter into any agreements.

Old maps indicated there used to be two ponds on Barbara's Field and to reinstate these would help reduce flooding around Clay Lane. There were now grants for rewilding and the farmer could be encouraged to do this.

An issue over the safety of 5G was raised and the Parish Council (PC) was strongly encouraged to back other councils in Mendip asking for ten questions regarding the safety of 5G masts laid out in document circulated to the PC to be endorsed by the PC. Following discussion, it was agreed that this issue should be held over to the next meeting while Councillors made further investigations. There was some concern that Councillors did not have sufficient knowledge of 5G and only one side of the argument was being made.

The path from Church Farm had resulted in a number of glass bottles being dug up and left, these were dangerous and should be removed. It was questioned whether the black plastic on the sides was to be left as it is.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr B Lund and Cllr L Oliver.

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from County Councillor: In Cllr Oliver's report to Rode PC it was noted that Somerset was ranked number one Council in England for taking the lead on climate change.

6. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund's report had nothing specific for Rode.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Trees:** The Clerk reported that an inspection, by an independent tree expert, of the trees on Parish Council land was to be carried out on the next day.
- ii. **Notic board:** The Clerk still had to order the new board.

- iii. **Clock:** It was reported a roofer had given a quote for around £200 to investigate and repair the roof to free the clock mechanism. The meeting agreed a second quote for scaffolding should be obtained prior to progressing the work.
- iv. **Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** The path is progressing and in place of the sleepers it had been proposed and agreed by the PC that a large diameter pipe in the drainage ditch would be used and the path continued over this. The gate and fence at the far end of the playing field were due to be installed in the next couple of weeks. Concern was expressed over the 'loose' plastic edging especially on the ploughed field side of the path and it was agreed the owner would be contacted to ensure an edge would be kept between the path and the ploughed field.
- v. **Building in grounds of Coach House:** Information had been passed to Mendip District Council by Cllr Lund and Enforcement had given the owners 28 days to submit retrospective planning application for the new building.
- vi. **Link:** Gill Leonard, the Editor, has been investigating the potential to create an on-line library of The Link and described the work to date in the February edition of the magazine. Coincidentally the issue of preserving old copies had been raised on the village Facebook site, and Jim McAuliffe had separately sought a quote for digitisation. The option of retaining a hard copy archive at Frome Museum was also raised. JM will revert to Gill Leonard, who is seeking feedback in relation to her ideas.
- vii. **Grit bin:** Discussions had been held with a resident of Providence Place and a possible site identified for a grit bin, however the site would need to be levelled. Confirmation of a suitable site from the residents was awaited before a bin was purchased.
- viii. **Fingerposts:** The quotes for refurbishing the three remaining fingerposts were considered and it was agreed to proceed with refurbishing the one at the end of the High Street. The other two would be done in the next financial year and the Clerk agreed to progress this and request the quoted prices were maintained for this year.

8. Playing field: A new draft Constitution had been drawn up and thanks were given to Steve and Amanda Eyles and Peter Harris for doing this. The PC had a number of questions on this, most of which were addressed at the meeting. The draft had been drawn up closely following the Charities Commission's model; but a few points required clarification and the solicitor who had been involved in the draft would be consulted over these. It was agreed this should be finalised at the March PC meeting.

9. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: Plans were already being made to have celebration held on Saturday 4th June on the playing field. There was support for the village putting on a major event for residents. The Parish Council agreed to make a considerable donation to the event. It was agreed that following a further meeting of the organising committee, to agree the programme of events and their costs, the PC contribution could be agreed by email to avoid any delays.

10. Highways:

i) Speed Indicator Devices: The data from the SID installed on Straight Lane in December had been circulated to the PC and these indicated that during the month there had been good compliance with the speed limit and minimal speeding.

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, this also included the work to install the new village signs and speed restriction changes on the A361.

iii) Drainage on Lower Street: Calm were aware of the issue and more cones had been put in place to protect any further damage to the drain; however, the repairs still had to be done.

11. Planning:

i) New applications:

2021/2921/HSE: Conversion of existing garage to form an annex – 69A High Street. Concerns had been expressed by parishioners over this application and it was agreed some Councillors would visit the site to determine the PC's position. [Note: After the site visit it was agreed Rode Parish Council would recommend rejection of the planning application.]

2022/0136/TCA: Pollard willow, reduce canopy of holm oak and sycamore, reduce height of a cypress and cut another down, prune magnolia and reduce height of birch – 16 High Street. No objections.

ii. Mendip decisions:

None

iii. Other:

Mendip Local Plan Part 2: Norton St Philip (NSP) had proceeded with the Judicial Review of Mendip's decision to include areas in NSP and Beckington in the LPP2 plans. Mendip had decided to defend their position against the Judicial Review. It was agreed PT would maintain contact with NSP on this issue and the PC would defer any decision at present.

Currently Mendip had a three and a half year housing supply; an update on this was due to be published later this month.

12. Climate Emergency: JM reported the working group had recently met and it had been agreed to survey residents to find out how seriously they take the issue and what they want to do regarding climate change. The working group would like people to plant more trees round the village as part of the Queen's Canopy initiative.

Mendip were currently consulting on a planning document to ensure more sustainable and reduced climate impact of any new buildings in the area.

He added that a recent seminar run by Somerset on climate change had highlighted the fact that non-political Parish Councils could do more than political town and district councils with regard to climate change initiatives.

13. Conservation area: AP reported he planned to circulate a proposal paper to the Parish Council for approval, probably for the April meeting. This would, after agreement, be submitted to a consultant for comment.

14. Buses: PT reported that he was active in the Bus Users and Stakeholders group which was working with Somerset to obtain government funding for improved bus services. Local buses through Rode had only had very minor time changes in January; a revised timetable could

come in during April and if so, he asked for support to issue new timetables to all householders. This was agreed.

15. Financial matters:

Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Clerk Salary	£220.82
HMRC PAYE	£55.00
W and R Arney (fencing)	£1502.40

16. Any other business:

- a) It was agreed Planning Enforcement should be alerted to the buildings constructed on The Mead which appeared not to comply with planning regulations.
- b) Due to lack of technical knowledge by members of the Parish Council on the issue of 5G the meeting further agreed that Rode PC should question Mendip over their safety guidelines on the installation of 5G masts.

17. Date of next meeting:

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

Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council