

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 pm**

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**CONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr Andy Pickett (AP) – in the Chair, Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Ann Edney (AE),  
Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Elaine Butler (EB).

**In attendance:** Cllr Linda Oliver, Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 6 Parishioners

**1. Public Participation:**

Deep concern was expressed over the danger the trees on Merfield, that ran alongside The Mead, were causing; a number of branches had come down during storm 'Eunice' two of which fell into the road. Action on these trees was requested.

There was still no 20mph limit within the village and the Parish Council (PC) was asked to chase up its installation.

Parishioners were concerned over the large number of accidents that had occurred at the Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction. There had been five since Christmas 2021 and it had been fortunate there had been no fatalities. This junction had been of concern since 2018.

It was noted that an appeal was to be lodged against the rejection to the planning application to build on Barbara's Field and the PC was asked to continue to oppose this. Church Lane was highlighted as already a problem road before any extra traffic generated from a development.

The question posed to Mendip on 5G did not meet the concerns that had been expressed at the last Parish Council meeting and Rode was requested to endorse a precautionary principal.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Mike Salmon.

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February were approved.

**4. Declarations of interest:** AP said he had interest in planning application 2021/0071/OTS (Barbara's Field) but this had been cleared by the Clerk.

**5. Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Oliver said she had tried to chase up the officer dealing with The Sportsman but he was on holiday until next week. Caroline Murray would be chased up as she had been going to chase up Wessex Water on this issue. This would be put on the next agenda.

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

**7. Actions from previous meeting:**

- i. **Trees: Merfield/The Mead** These trees are on private land and Somerset County Council are unable to do much, but could issue a Section 154 if branches or trees could fall into the road requesting the owner to do something. It was noted the

Somerset arboriculturist had inspected the trees prior to the storm and said no work was required. The branches which came into the road during the storm were significant around 150mm in diameter and 6m long. Cllr Oliver requested photos and the report from the local expert on these trees and she would pursue this with Somerset.

**Parish trees:** Clerk reported that an inspection, by an independent tree expert, had been made and his report was expected soon. Verbally he had reported that the trees were generally in good condition.

- ii. **Clock:** The Clerk had obtained a cheaper quote for scaffolding up to the clock (£650) and the meeting agreed the repairs should now be carried out using this cheaper quote. The Cross Keys had cleared the putting up of the scaffolding.
- iii. **Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** The path was still to be completed and Autograph had agreed to improve the top section which had already flooded. It was hoped this would now be completed by the end of March. Under the S106 agreement a Path Maintenance Committee should be formed and Andy Fussell and Autograph would be reminded of this.
- iv. **5G:** The response from Mendip was noted. Any planning application should include a 50m clearance radius round any 5G mast and if any mast was proposed in Rode this would be ensured. Glastonbury had set up a committee to look into 5G and after two years had not reached a unanimous decision to support 5G, so had agreed to adopt a precautionary principal. It was noted Mendip is to consider two applications at its meeting next week and this would be monitored. After discussion it was agreed that, having only heard one side of the argument on 5G and the PC having limited technical knowledge on the issue, the PC would maintain a watching brief on 5G. The PC would not send any further questions to Mendip.
- v. **Grit bin:** It was reported that the residents of Providence Place were unable to agree a position for this. Therefore, at present this would not be progressed.
- vi. **Mead development:** Further information would be gathered.
- vii. **Coach House, Rode Hill:** No retrospective planning application had been submitted. It was agreed the time limit for doing this would be checked.
- viii. **Fingerposts:** The Clerk reported that the three-finger post could not be refurbished in this financial year and it was agreed to now request all three posts were done together.

## **8. Highways:**

a) **Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction:** Cllr Oliver reported that she had sent information on the recent accidents to the small improvements team and road safety team and awaited to hear from them. It was agreed that the small improvements made by Somerset had not resolved the problem at this junction and the PC agreed that something more should be done. It appeared that some accidents on these crossroads were not reported and those that did not result in injury probably did not get logged. It was agreed that a site meeting with Somerset should be sought with a group from the Parish Council (and The Scrivens) at which the issues could be clearly demonstrated. Cllr Oliver and the Clerk would seek to get this organised.

**b) Memorandum of Understanding:** This still had to be completed and a meeting would be arranged in the near future. An additional SID on the Bradford Road on the Bradford side would also be sought.

## **9. Planning:**

### **i) New applications:**

None

Concern was expressed that Mendip were not automatically sending new applications to those on the contact list surrounding a new application. AE and PR agreed to continue to ensure these people were aware of new applications.

### **ii. Mendip decisions:**

**2021/2641/TCA:** Reduce height of apple and birch tree – 7 Langham Place. Approved

**2021/2867/TCA:** Reduce height and lateral branches of plane, yew, maple, three cherry, hazel and two ash trees – Langham House. Approved.

### **iii. Other:**

It was noted that the Developer was applying for Mendip's refusal of planning application 2021/0071/OTS for 49 houses on 'Barbara's Field' to go to appeal by inquiry. It is up to the appellant to show that Mendip's decision was wrong and they would have to challenge Mendip's reasons for rejection. The Parish Council would keep a close eye on this and would be given time to make further comment. Anyone can comment but it was emphasised the comments should be focused on the reasons for rejection and not to raise other issues.

**10. Climate Emergency Group:** JM reported that questionnaires to ask all resident what they want to do with regard climate change were being printed. These would be hand delivered with residents' names on them to be completed and hopefully returned by the end of the month. The PC agreed to fund the printing of these.

**11. Playing Field Constitution:** AP reported that he had met with the legal advisor and Steve and Amanda Eyles to amend the first draft Constitution and a new draft would be reviewed when available.

**12. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations:** The celebrations to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June on the playing field were discussed and the Parish Council agreed to fund the children's food, mugs and entertainment along with further contributions to a total of £5,000. This type of celebration rarely occurred and it was important to try and ensure it was a success.

**13. British Spring Clean:** Rode had signed up to take part in this event which was taking place between 25<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April and would be organising a village clean-up on the afternoon (2.00pm – 4.00pm) of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, with tea on the playing field afterwards. The PC agreed to fund further litter-pick sticks and bags.

**14. Buses:** PT reported that discussions regarding the funding Somerset is bidding for are still ongoing. However, services should keep going. Worryingly passenger numbers are still low following covid and the rapidly increasing fuel cost are both of concern.

**15. Elections:** Nomination papers are now available for the Parish Council elections and these have to be back to Mendip by 5<sup>th</sup> April. A notice of the elections would go up once the government had finally approved that they could take place a year early.

**16. Annual meeting:** A date could not be agreed at the meeting and the Clerk agreed to check on availability of both the Memorial Hall and the Chapel. [Clerk's Note: I have been informed that due to elections this meeting has to take place between 9<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> May.]

**17. Financial matters:**

**Payments:** The following payments were agreed:

Clerk Salary	£220.62
HMRC PAYE	£55.20
A Edney (PC contribution to Jubilee celebrations)	£5,000.00

**18. Date of next meeting:**

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

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

Print .....

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