

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 5th APRIL 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 Linda Oliver, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 2 Parishioners

1. Public Participation:

Concern was expressed over the appeal to build on Barbara's Field as the Inspector had rejected the Merfield application mainly on heritage grounds, which were not present for Barbara's Field. However, traffic in the village was of concern; with a Frome application was on hold due to traffic concerns, additionally building on prime agricultural land should count against development in the current climate with locally produced crops a priority.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Elaine Butler and Cllr Barbi Lund (District Councillor).

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th March were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Oliver reported that she had spoken to Somerset County Council regarding adoption of The Sportsman and had been given a specific email address to chase this up (this was given to the Clerk). With regard to the potential development of Barbara's Field she added that National Highways had already noted concerns over the A36, particularly the two roundabouts round Beckington and any development would need to provide S106 funds to improve these.

This was Cllr Oliver's last meeting and thanks were given to her for all the help, assistance and guidance she had given the Parish Council over the years.

6. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Trees: Merfield/The Mead** These trees are on private land and Somerset County Council arboriculturist had revisited the site but said as these were on private land little could be done. The owner should be approached and ensured he had public liability insurance for them. A registered letter would be sent, with the report from a local tree expert, requesting action. A tree expert contact number had been given.
Parish trees: Clerk said the report from the independent tree expert, had been chased up and would be chased again.
- ii. **Clock:** The Clerk had received an offer from Peter Watkinson, who had made repairs in August, to come and see if he could get the striking working again from inside the Cross Keys. He hoped to come sometime in April and it was agreed to put on hold any repairs via the roof.

Additionally, it was agreed that a new maintenance person should be sought for the clock due to David Hornsey's ill health.

- iii. **Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** The path was still of considerable concern. A bridge had been put in over the ditch but this was currently surfaced in large stones which were already falling into the ditch. There had been some work done on the path but its condition was still unacceptable, one key point was that the drainage required improving. Cllr Oliver suggested the S106 Planning Officer at Mendip should be contacted. Mendip Planning Enforcement had been made aware of the concerns over the path but the specific S106 Officer could well be of help. The Clerk would make contact.

It was reported that the undergrowth in the small wood was to be cleared by the playing field and the meeting agreed that initially the path through this small wood would be left without surfacing. Discussions over further fencing along the path within the S106 land were held and it was agreed quotes from Richard Arney would be obtained for general fencing and 'dog-proof' fencing.

- iv. **Mead development:** This had been reported and Mendip Planning Enforcement had registered it.
- v. **Spring Clean:** Plans were in place for this to take place on Sunday 10th April. It was advertised on the Village Facebook and teas would be available in the Pavilion.

7. Climate Emergency Group: JM reported that 198 questionnaires had been returned and these indicated a high level of awareness and concern over climate change within Rode. The return rate had been far better than expected and the results would be publicised to the village. The Group would now consider possible actions.

8. Highways:

a) **Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction:** A meeting at the crossroads with Sara Davis had been arranged to take place on 12th April.

b) **Memorandum of Understanding:** This still had to be completed and it was suggested the meeting to finalise the Memorandum took place after the crossroads meeting.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/0557/TPO: To crown lift holm oak and cut down cypress – 16 High Street. No objection.

2022/0482/HSE: Two storey rear and side extension with front elevational changes and associated works – 11 The Mead. No objection.

ii. Mendip decisions:

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

iii. Other:

2021/0071/OTS: There had been no progress with the appeal and the Clerk was waiting to hear from Mendip. An offer had been made by Simon Steel-Perkins to meet to discuss possible S106 requirements. There was concern that it would be necessary to ensure this meeting was without prejudice and in confidence; and that he understood the PC was still against the development. Again, the S106 Officer at Mendip should be consulted prior to the meeting for guidance. However, there was agreement that a meeting should be held.

10. Playing Field Constitution: AP reported that a new draft had been drawn up which appeared to be satisfactory. It was up to the Playing Field to progress and to ensure the Charity Commission cleared the new agreement.

11. Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations: The plans for the day were progressing well, a further meeting of the organising committee was planned for the following day. The committee were very grateful to the PC for its generous contribution. It was noted that currently neighbouring villages had not planned any events for this weekend.

12. Death of a Senior National Figure: The meeting agreed a separate Rode book of condolence would be used and that, providing it was agreed, be placed in Rode Chapel when required.

13. Elections: It was reported that seven nominations for Councillors for the Parish Council had been submitted – today being the deadline. This would mean there would be no election in Rode but there was still a vacancy for co-option. The Unitary Authority elections would take place in 5th May with two vacancies for the Frome North area.

14. Buses: PT reported that Somerset had been given £11.9m funding (compared to the £160m requested), although this would be of help it would not enable the plans to be implemented fully. Concern remained with bus occupancy still at only 75%. He asked for PC funding (about £150) to produce a new bus timetable for Rode residents and this was agreed. The Bus Back Better group had prepared a manifesto to send to electoral candidates and asked for PC endorsement. As this had only just been circulated and all had not seen it this would be put on the May agenda.

15. Annual meeting: It was agreed to hold this meeting on Monday 9th May at 7.30pm in Rode Chapel.

17. Financial matters:

i) Asset Register: This was approved.

ii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

J McAuliffe (climate questionnaires)	£130.00
P D Watkinson (clock repair)	£130.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£777.40
Somerset Association of Local Councils (training)	£20.00
Clerk Salary	£266.54
HMRC PAYE	£66.40

18. Date of next meeting:

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

Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council