

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 3rd MAY 2022 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

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) and Cllr Elaine Butler (EB)

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Hugh Williams – Clerk

1. Public Participation: None

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Linda Oliver (County Councillor).

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th April were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Oliver had given an update on Somerset buses but this would be covered by PT (see minute 14)

6. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. Trees: Merfield/The Mead:** The Clerk had sent a registered letter (including the tree report from J Osborne) to the owner requesting he had the trees assessed and respond to the PC. However, nothing had been heard. Discussion was held over what other action could be taken but apart from notifying Somerset and Mendip of the PC's continuing concerns it was felt little more could be done.

Parish trees: The report had been received and circulated, generally all trees were in good condition. It was agreed that the Norway Maple near the allotments should be inspected by a tree surgeon regarding removal of dead wood.

It was reported that there were two dead trees, one on Rode Hill and another by the Rode Hill and Bradford Road crossroads that need to be reported to County Roads as these could endanger the highway.
- ii. Clock:** The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Peter Watkinson regarding repairing the striking mechanism and he would hopefully be over in the near future. The sad news that David Hornsey had died meant that there was now no one in the village to regularly look after the clock. It was agreed the PC would look for a replacement to wind, check the time keeping and make other maintenance checks on the clock.
- iii. Footpath from Church Farm to Playing field:** The path was still of considerable concern. Exchange of emails with Autograph had made little progress. There had been no feedback from Mendip on this issue. It was reported the previous S106 officer at Mendip had been very helpful. Discussion was held over the best way forward not only on the path but other S106 requirements that appeared not to be implemented by Autograph. It was agreed

that the Parish Council would seek a meeting with Autograph on the S106 issues and maybe include Mendip, Andy Fussell and all other partners in the S106 agreement.

On the issue of S106s it was agreed Mendip Planning should be approached regarding future S106s to discuss potential requirements.

Quotes for the extra fencing by the path in the playing field were still awaited.

The clearance through the small wood was still to be done and the Playing Field Committee was arranging this.

- iv. **Spring Clean:** This had taken place on 10th April and teams had cleared a considerable amount of litter from around the village. Thanks were given to AE and PR for doing the teas in the pavilion.

Future Hoedowns and litter clearances were discussed and it was tentatively agreed a village Hoedown would be arranged for the end of June. EB agreed to circulate an email thanking those who had joined the spring clean and encourage future clean-ups; also including those who had participated in previous Hoedowns.

- v. **Waste site on A361:** This had been largely cleared and Mendip had requested that anyone seeing vehicles either clearing (or dumping at) the site to report any details to them. The threat of enforcement action by Mendip appeared to have had an effect.

7. Climate Emergency Group: JM reported that a joint meeting with Beckington and Norton St Philip had been held. This had been useful in exchanging ideas and information. He said that the key issue from the Rode village survey had been to improve bus services. There was some new government funding coming on the installation of communal Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and Rode could apply as there was a lot of on-street parking and a large number of properties unsuited to having EVs, possible locations would need to be determined.

It was reported that the grass in the church yard at Christchurch was being cut too often and Cllr Lund agreed to let JM know who to contact at Mendip to allow the rewilding of this.

8. Highways:

a) **Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction:** A meeting at the crossroads with Sara Davis had taken place and possible improvements were to be put forward by Sara Davis to Somerset. Although there had been a number of accidents this was not considered a high priority junction by Somerset. The meeting also agreed new SID locations and amendment of others.

It was agreed to contact Sara Davis with regard to the double yellow lines that had been agreed near the junction of the High Street and Rode Hill, to ensure they were included in the implementation of the 20mph village speed limit and village gates work.

b) **Memorandum of Understanding:** This still had to be completed and the precise SID locations (using what3words) had to be inserted into the document, once completed it was agreed the Chair would sign it and be submitted to Somerset for counter signature.

c) **The Sportsman:** An email had been sent to the address given by Cllr Oliver but no response had been received yet.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/0218/VCR: Variation of condition 2 of permission 2019/0620/REM application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2015/1431/OTS to replace existing dwelling with 5 new dwellings and associated garages – 6 Frome Road. No objections

2022/0579/HSE: Erection of single storey extension – 41 Marsh Road. No objections

ii. Mendip decisions:

2022/0557/TPO: To crown lift holm oak and cut down cypress – 16 High Street. Approved

iii. Other:

2021/0071/OTS: There had been no progress with the appeal, this still had not been assigned to the Planning Inspectorate to start the appeal. It was noted that since the planning application had been made Mendip had now adopted a net zero policy for all developments in the area. This could be raised as an additional objection point in the appeal for the development.

Nether Stowey: The Parish Council had been approached to see if it was willing to join a forum of parish council across Somerset that were concerned over developers not delivering the affordable houses they promised. It was agreed Rode would join the forum with the Chair being the main contact.

10. Playing Field Constitution: No further progress had been made.

11. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: The plans for the day were progressing well, a Jubilee mug was circulated and these are to be given, free, to all under 12 children in the village. A plea for first aid cover for the day was made.

13. Elections: It was agreed that the residents on Church Farm could be approached to fill the vacancy, by co-option, on the Parish Council.

14. Buses: PT reported that Somerset had been given £11.9m funding by the Department for Transport (DfT) but before releasing the money the DfT has to approve the plan Somerset has for using this money. He said that £8m would be used to install bus lanes in Taunton, with the justification that this would be an easily demonstratable use of the money and should allow for future funding money for further bus improvements.

The new Rode bus timetable would be printed shortly and distributed to households.

15. Annual meeting: It was noted this meeting would take place on Monday 9th May at 7.30pm in Rode Chapel, reports would be sought from the playing field and memorial hall committees.

16. Financial matters:

i) Allotment charge: It was agreed to increase the annual charge to £55.00 and the Clerk would invoice Mrs Bird.

ii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

J McAuliffe (climate change training)	£38.93
Atworth Arboriculture	£360.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£777.40
Flagmakers (Ukraine flag)	£78.67
Clerk Salary	£247.18
HMRC PAYE	£56.00
BHIB (insurance)	£681.42
E Butler (clean-up equipment)	£67.86

iii) Turnover: Rode Parish Council had a turnover of more than £25,000 for the year 2021/22 therefore the accounts will require both an internal and external audit for the AGAR return (Annual Governance and Accountability Return). The Clerk would arrange an internal audit prior to approving the returns for external audit.

17. Date of next meeting:

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

Tuesday 14th June at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed

Date

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Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council