

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7.30 pm**

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**CONFIRMED**

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr Barbi Lund, Cllr Adam Boyden, Cllr Dawn Denton, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 1 parishioner.

**1. Public Participation:** Concerns were expressed that Somerset was not listening to the concerns local people had over housing developments and in particular that Somerset Highways never came out against a development. It was also reported that Mendip rarely went to public appeal over any planning application.

A warning was issued to those thinking of signing up to the proposed ultrafast broadband services that were coming to the village as the providers were asking for 18 to 24 month commitment and would not give a rebate should you move out of the area.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr J McAuliffe

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June were approved.

**4. Declarations of interest:** None.

**5. New Councillor:** The Chair nominated Jonathan Bowler (JB) to be co-opted as a new councillor onto Rode Parish Council to fill the vacancy. This was unanimously approved by all Councillors present. It was noted that Elaine Butler had accepted the six month sabbatical.

**6. Report from County Councillors:** It was reported that the Local Community Network (LCN) should be set up formally at the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. This should enable Frome and surrounding villages to speak with one voice; however, concerns remained that the requirements of a town (Frome) would differ to the surrounding villages. Cllr Boyden reported he had spoken with Somerset Highways regarding the Rode Hill/Bradford Road junction and he said a further improvement scheme, which included vehicle activated signs for vehicles approaching the junction from Wingfield, was being drawn up and this would come out for consultation.

It was reported that arts and culture were being promoted in this area. Also, there were schemes on the Somerset website which could help those struggling to pay bills (also advertised on Parish noticeboard).

**7. Report from District Councillor:** Cllr Lund reported that there was a website (<https://someset.thinktravel.info>) which allowed you to plan public transport journeys in Somerset. Initial trials showed it worked well although it would need to be kept up to date when companies changed their bus or train schedules.

## **8. Actions from previous meeting:**

- i. **Trees: Merfield/The Mead:** Cllr Lund reported she had raised the issue with Bo Walsh at Mendip and he had just reported back, following an inspection, that the trees were not dangerous but Mendip should write to the owner pointing out his legal responsibilities. However, there was some contradiction in his email in that the trees were likely to shed branches but were not apparently dangerous. Cllr Lund agreed to go back and seek clarification.
- ii. **Tree on The Mead near allotments:** The Clerk had received a quote for removal of dead branches and the meeting agreed this should be done.
- iii. **Clock:** The Clerk reported that he had tried to make contact with Peter Watkinson again and he had left voicemail messages but had had no response. He agreed to pursue.
- iv. **Ultrafast broadband:** There were now three possible suppliers bring this to Rode. Voneus looked to be the first but now Gigaclear had mail shot the village and there would be a virtual meeting between them and members of the PC on 20<sup>th</sup> July to get further information. Openreach were also planning on bringing ultrafast broadband to the village, their system could allow all providers to access it whereas the other would tie people into their own system. PT agreed to speak to Mike Rigby at Somerset regarding concerns over disruption that could be caused by a number of separate operators digging up roads to install broadband.

## **9. Highways:**

**a) Memorandum of understanding** – this had now been agreed and signed off by Somerset. There was still a requirement for Somerset to provide posts for the SID on Bradford Road and up Rode Hill from Trowbridge as had been agreed by Sara Davis in April.

**b) The Sportsman** – a response had been received which now indicated that the adoption of The Sportsman should be completed in the autumn. Surveys of the drainage system had been completed. There was concern expressed that there could still be surface water on Clay Lane coming off the fields prior to reaching The Sportsman. It was agreed the Clerk should enquire whether Somerset were resolving this as part of the adoption of The Sportsman and also Calm Engineering should be requested to provide details of their scheme to increase the settling ponds to prevent soil run off from Barbara's Field into the drainage system.

## **10. Planning:**

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

**2022/1170/HSE:** Erection of single storey side extension – 4 Bradford Road. No objections.

**2022/1196/TPO:** Elm, removal of dead wood and remove/reduce overhanging lateral branches – 9 Langham Place. No objections.

**2022/1260/CLE:** Application for certificate of lawful existing development for use as a separate dwelling house – The Annex, Monkley Stables. No objections.

**2022/1265/TCA:** Eucalyptus, reduce by 2m; acer reduce roadside by 0.5m – 5 Lower Street. No objections.

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

**2022/0218/VCR:** Variation of condition 2 of permission 2019/0620/REM to replace existing dwelling and garage with 5 new dwellings and associated garages – 6 Frome Road. Approved.

**2022/0801/HSE:** Replacement of existing conservatory – 3 Orneage Close. Approved.

### **iii. Other:**

Concerns were expressed over a number of buildings that were appearing in the village, in particular a large construction at 14 Nutts Lane which appeared to breach planning regulations. Also, the building at The Old Coach House which did not have planning permission had been inspected by Mendip and a retrospective planning application should have been put in within 28 days from an inspection in February but nothing had happened. It was agreed the Clerk would give Cllr Barbi Lund a list of 'questionable' constructions in Rode for her to take up with Mendip Enforcement.

**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, however the name of the officer handling this at Mendip was now known (Nicky White). It was agreed questions the PC might want to raise regarding the appeal would be sent to AP before the next meeting and these would be considered and DLA Piper approached over the best way forward to approach the appeal.

**11. Playing Field Constitution:** It was reported that the simplification of the Constitution had raised a number of legal issues over the state of the Playing Field Trustees and the role of the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed that Andy Pickett would meet with Steve Eyles and the lawyer to clarify outstanding issues.

**12. Church Farm:** It was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the offer of a new date from Autograph for a meeting and agreed this should take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July with the main issue being the path connecting the site with the village.

**13. Memorial Hall:** The Parish Council should be represented on the Memorial Hall Committee and it was agreed Ann Edney would attend its AGM on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. It was thought unnecessary to amend the Constitution.

**14. Code of Conduct:** The revised Code of Conduct, based on the template prepared by SALC, previously circulated was agreed and adopted.

**15. Buses:** PT reported that bus companies were facing considerable problems with passenger numbers down and fuel costs steeply up, but their biggest problem was a driver shortage. It was likely that further cuts to services could come to Rode.

**16. Allotments:** A request had been made by the Allotment Society for the land at the end of The Mead be made into allotments – possibly 2 or 3 half plots. It was agreed MS and JB would inspect the drains on this land and report to the next meeting.

### **17. Financial matters:**

**i) Fencing of S106 land in Playing Field:** The PC agreed to pay the invoice and charge half of it to the Playing Field.

**ii) Draft budget:** The meeting agreed the previously circulated draft budget for 2022/23

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

Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£777.40
M Lucas (grass cutting)	£48.00
H Williams (computer security for PC)	£49.99
W and R Arney (fencing)	£2,280.00

Clerk Salary £224.58  
HMRC PAYE £56.00

**iv) Jubilee day refund:** A surplus of £480.00 was returned to the Parish Council.

**18. Other business:** A complaint about emissions from wood burners had been received and residents were reminded that flues should be checked and that chimneys should be swept annually. This should be done as failure to do so invalidated house insurance. Article to be added to The Link.

**19. Date of next meeting:**

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

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

Print .....

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