

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 AT 7.30 pm**

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**CONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – Chair, Cllr Andy Pickett (AP), Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB) and Cllr Moira Punt (MP)

**In attendance:** Hugh Williams – Clerk, Cllr Adam Boyden (County Councillor) and 11 parishioners.

**1. Parishioners Participation:** Thanks were given for moving the SID to the top end of the High Street and a request was made for the data to be made available. A question on moving the 20mph limit to beyond Crooked Lane was raised to which the Chair said that he had just heard from Somerset that this could be done provided the hedge was cut and the Police agreed.

A number of Parishioners were attending the meeting to express their concerns over the proposed licensing changes applied for by Butcombe (application gives it as Butcome) for The Mill. A notice in the hedge had been seen which alerted them to a proposal to change to layout of The Mill, use of 'the island' and to host an increased number of outdoor events (from 3 to 10) which could run until 1.00am on Friday and Saturday evenings and to midnight on Monday to Thursday inclusive. Currently outdoor events could not run beyond 11.00pm, be run concurrently and also had to have two weekends between them, the new license would remove these restrictions if granted. The use of 'the island' was of concern (no tables, chairs or other structures are allowed on this land) as it was protected under an S106 agreement for wildlife/environmental reasons and had been hard won many years ago in exchange for a patio area outside The Mill. A deadline for comment was 21<sup>st</sup> July. It was disappointing that only Tellisford PC had been made aware of these changes, not local residents or Rode PC. The license changes would also allow for indoor events (up to 75 including the 10 outside) with doors and windows open. It was mentioned that already advertising for a 4-day cinema event in September was available, indicating that Butcombe assumed the licensing changes would be waved through. A request was made for Rode Parish council to support the local residents in opposing these changes which would create noise that could be heard across the village and impact on other businesses. The meeting agreed to oppose the proposed new license and to ask Tellisford if it could request an extension to the comment deadline. AP and Grant Slade agreed to draft initial comment opposing the license changes for agreement for submission. (Clerk's Note: No extension is allowed and all comments must use the Representation Form).

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr J McAuliffe and Cllr D Denton (County Councillor)

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June were approved.

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

**5. Wessex Water:**

Marc Chalk was welcomed to the meeting and he gave an update on the work that was being carried out at the Rode Water Recycling Centre. This was part of a £3 million upgrade of the facility to meet phosphorus limits and increase flow capacity of the site to meet the growing population. The work should be completed by 2025. The changes made had converted the site from a gravity system to a pumped site with increased power supply and new back-up generator. The pumped system generated more sludge and therefore increased tankers taking this away for treatment and eventual

agricultural use. Currently new biological treatment equipment was being installed. The area still had a combined sewage and surface water set up which could lead to some overflow in cases of prolonged heavy rain. A site visit later in the year would be offered to the Parish Council.

**6. County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Adam Boyden reported that the Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction should have the vehicle activated signs installed soon on Bradford Road and the Wingfield Road. He said an internal enquiry on the efficiency of Highways responses had started at Somerset.

He asked if there were any issues to raise with Low Carbon on the proposed solar farm as a meeting was planned. Comment was made that residents were hopeful the area on the Bradford Road could be taken out of the scheme and information on how the agricultural land had been assessed needed to be supplied and possibly independently assessed.

He said that the High Court had asked the Mendip area how it was going to meet its 505-house shortfall that had been taken out of the Local Plan Part 2 and that sites had to be called for development, this would start later this month. These sites would have to be put forward for consultation. Consultation on the proposed sites should then start in early 2024.

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

- i. **Christchurch graveyard:** To be chased up
- ii. **Hoedown:** Further work had been done in June and it had been agreed a contractor was needed to clear the grass etc. on the orchard area on the S106 land. Another Hoedown was planned for 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- iii. **Defibrillator:** Following the last meeting it had appeared that the defibrillator was not working and reports had not been submitted to The Community Heartbeat Trust. This had resulted in the defibrillator being decommissioned by them. Email correspondence within the PC had agreed a new defibrillator and pads should be ordered and installed in the phone box. The Clerk reported that a new defibrillator should be delivered tomorrow. This would become a Parish Council asset and the PC would be responsible for it.
- iv. **Path from Barrow Farm to allotments:** Matthew has cut this but it requires further cutting and meeting agreed this should be done.
- v. **Dog bin near Playing Field:** A request for a dog waste bin to be put near the playing field had been made. The meeting approved this but the location needed to be specified. There were already bins further up Church Lane and at the bottom of Marsh Road.
- vi. **A361 Grass verge:** The Clerk reported that Somerset should be cutting the grass verge between Churchfields and Bradford Road as the grass was currently blocking the view onto the A361.
- vii. **Path from Church Farm:** The maintenance of this was still to be explored with Somerset.

**8. Climate Change Group:** The meeting agreed to meet the outstanding costs (£166) for advertising the event. This might be split with Norton St Phillip.

### **9. Highways:**

- i. **20mph speed limit and village gates:** The Chair had spoken to Sara Davis (Somerset Highways) regarding the delays and had been informed that contact with Simon Taylor at Autograph had been made regarding the funding of the gates but this would not be discussed fully for a couple of weeks due to his holidays.
- ii. **Street Lights:** The Clerk reported that the Police had no objections and that the decision remained with Somerset. However, discussions with Somerset indicated that if some lights in a road were to be turned off at midnight then all the lights in that road should go off. This had not been clear at the start of discussions. There was some concern over this and it was agreed the Clerk and Cllr Adam Boyden should clarify this with Somerset before proceeding.
- iii. **A36 Slip Road:** Still chasing this up with National Highways.

**10. Planning:**

**i) New applications:**

None

**ii. Somerset decisions:**

None

**Other:**

A request to have the large copper beech by the garages on The Mead be cut back due to its size causing light problems to the houses nearby. It was agreed to get a quote to cut the tree back by 3-4 metres all round.

**11. Buses:** A new timetable for the bus services should come out in September. PT agreed to remain in contact with the bus companies to ensure the good service was maintained.

**12. Playing Field:** It was reported that the Osbornes had offered to cut back the grass and weeds on the S106 land and this was greatly appreciated. The repainted pavilion was now fully operational but its life expectancy was limited.

**13. Financial matters:**

**i. Income and expenditure:** The revised income and expenditure for 2023-24 had been circulated and was noted.

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

Community Heartbeat Trust (new defibrillator)	£1,296.00
Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£990.00
Clerk Salary including computer virus protection	£296.84
HMRC PAYE	£60.40

**14. Date of next meeting:**

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

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

Print .....

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