

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: H Williams – Clerk, Cllr Adam Boyden (Somerset Councillor) and 2 parishioners

1. Parishioners Participation: The issues Parishioners were present for were specifically on agenda and dealt with below.

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

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February, proposed by PR and seconded by AE were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. PCSO attendance: Two PCSO officers were in attendance and they emphasised the importance of the public reporting crime, traffic incidents etc. to the Police. They said that although often the public felt nothing got done this was not the case and the more data the Police had the more likely action would be taken and criminals caught. They also said that they can be used to help relay incidents to the Police and get action taken. Additionally, they were willing to take traffic data to the Police to get this logged and hopefully used. They were very aware of the problems at the top and bottom of the Bradford Road.

6. Highways issues:

i) **Bradford Road/Rode Hill:** Somerset Highways Safety Officer had met the Chair and Clerk to see yet again the concerns Rode PC has over this junction and again requested further information on the accidents that had taken place over the last few years. The Police data did not collate with the data the PC had.

ii) **Autospeedwatch/SID:** The Autospeedwatch device had now been taken out of action as although it had gathered data on speeding motorists, action had only been taken over one offender. The PCSOs offered to take the data to the Police to see if any action could be taken over repeat offenders. J Findall asked the PC if he could conduct a trial on Bradford Road with the SID to see if a 'blanked' device had less effect than one showing speeds as the SID appeared to force drivers to slow down while the less visible Autospeedwatch device did not slow down drivers. This was agreed. If taking Autospeedwatch data to the Police resulted in action the PC would renew its contract.

7. Somerset Councillor's report: Cllr Boyden reported the Somerset budget had been approved, with two thirds of the budget going to social care for children and adults. Even with the larger Council Tax increase Somerset's rate was still lower than both Dorset and Wiltshire.

He reported that the Local Boundary Changes are likely to result in one Councillor per area with changes in areas to give each one the same population. Rode was likely to be in a rural collection of villages excluding Frome. The changes would come into effect in 2027.

Farleigh Hungerford wild swimming area had failed its water quality checks last year and an action plan was being drawn up to improve the water quality. Most of the pollution was from sewage not agricultural.

8. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Hoedowns:** JB had contacted Clive Harrington but had not had a reply. The ivy/brambles had been removed from the bus shelter and a repaint was planned along with a litter clearance.
- ii. **Grass cutting:** The Clerk reported that he had received a lower quote but after discussion it was agreed to re-employ J H Jones for this year. The Clerk agreed to send a contract to them. A specification would be drawn up for quoting against next year.
- iii. **Village allotments:** AE reported that P Barnes had land which could possibly be used however, it was very wet. This would be relayed to the Rode Gardens Association.
- iv. **Rewilding:** J Osborne said that the field maple on the Marsh Road land was very large and could shade the area too much. It was discussed whether to take this down and plant another tree or to crown lift it. It was agreed to crown lift and J Osborne said he could do this at no cost. The PC thanked him for doing this.
- v. **Christchurch graveyard:** The Diocese had been contacted last year but not responded. It was agreed to retry to contact them to stop the grass cutting of the graveyard.
- vi. **Bin emptying:** Somerset had come back with a quote to empty the 3 dog bins and 3 litter bins that were not on their land. It was agreed to accept the quote.
- vii. **Church Lane pavement:** The trees and brambles had been cut back from the pavement near The Bell. M Moore had started to clear the pavement and this should be finished soon. The PC thanked him for doing this.

9. Footpaths: There appeared to be a Management Company for Church Farm but it only had two members, neither were residents on the estate and it appeared to be dormant. It was agreed to approach the residents on the issue. Photos of the path had been taken and these forwarded by Cllr Denton to Somerset Planning Obligations to investigate as part of the S106 agreement. The Clerk reported he was waiting to hear from A Fussell regarding the 13/1 path.

10. Planning:

i) New applications:

2024/2272/FUL: Formation of EV Vehicle Charging Facility to include access road 2no. car chargers, 4no. parking spaces and erection of substation. There was discussion over the proposed wall that would be built in place of part of the bund bank. It was unclear how high this would be. The meeting agreed to not object to the EV chargers but request retention of the bund bank.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2024/2292/HSE: Two storey extension to form garage and new bedroom – 13 The Mead. Approved.

2025/0106/TCA: Fell poplar tree – 11 Frome Road. Approved.

2025/0150/TCA: Reduce the crowns of 2 sycamore trees by 2m – 19 High Street. Approved.

2025/0151/TCA: Reduce crown of yew by 1m – 1 Red Lion Gardens. Approved.

11. Buses: PT reported that the D2X would revert to a single decker and not go straight up the A36. It would miss Beckington and Rode and then go through Norton and Hinton; it would also not serve the two largest estates in Frome. This could result in these two estates using the D2 and it being full during rush hours coming through Rode. Although these changes, starting on 6th April, were of concern they are financial considerations made by First Bus. The evening D2 services through Rode are being maintained. The meeting agreed to circulate the new timetables when printed.

12. Conservation Plan: AP said he had met with Context and was waiting for them to come back to him. There was some concern that Somerset had indicated they were not interested in Rode amending its Conservation Plan. After discussion it was agreed to get a quote from Context to proceed with a new Conservation Plan along with timescales for the work. It was considered important to proceed to protect the two separate Conservation areas and include other areas.

13. Village hall: Disappointingly there was no update on this proposal.

14. Any Other Business:

Chairman: To add to April agenda.

VE 80th celebration: It was agreed any suggestions for an event should be sent to PR this week.

Parish Council: It was agreed to put together information on what the PC did and to circulate this to the village to make people aware of the work the PC did.

15. Financial matters:

The following payments were agreed:

J H Jones and sons	£809.99
Treecycle	£300.00
Clerk Salary	£270.16
HMRC PAYE	£67.40

16. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 14th April at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed

Date Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council