

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 14th APRIL 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), Cllr Peter Travis (PT) and Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM)

In attendance: H Williams – Clerk, Cllr Adam Boyden (Somerset Councillor) and 6 parishioners

1. Parishioners Participation: Parishioners from Church Farm were present and gave an update on the Management Company and paths. They confirmed the creation of the Management Company but this had been dormant following each household making its initial payment, however new invoices for the coming year had just been issued and a meeting was to take place between Autograph Homes, 3Sixty Management and residents. To date no meeting date had been set. Currently there were outstanding issues that required resolution before residents would sign up as directors of the Management Company; although two residents had signed up as directors. 3Sixty would carry out the work required by the residents. It was reported that the pathway had been purchased by Autograph from Andy Fussell and this would be signed over to the Management Company as a permissive way. The Chair was able to inform the meeting that Somerset Council were in contact with Autograph about improving the pathway. The Parish Council (PC) were asked to push for any outstanding S106 be completed, in particular, the access to Church Farm and the installation of a path towards the Church on the estate side of the A361.

Other Parishioners were concerned over the new application for a house next to 4 The Mead, the proposal would have as much impact as the previously proposed semi-detached house; ruining the street scene, not following the street line and being too close to 6 The Mead. The PC would note these comments in its decision on the planning application.

A request was made for last year's Parish AGM minutes to be available for this year's AGM meeting and to give information on Parish interests. There needed to be more input from Parishioners in this meeting.

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

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

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Highways issues:

Autospeedwatch/SID: The trial of the SID covered and uncovered on Bradford Road had not shown any difference in vehicle speeds at the 85th percentile. A request was made for speeds of those above this. Information on speeding had been passed to the PCSOs who forwarded this to the police who came and caught a driver doing 45mph on Rode Hill but failed to get its number plate.

After discussion it was agreed to re-activate the Autospeedwatch device again.

7. Somerset Councillor's report: Cllr Boyden said there was little to report apart from two LCN meeting on 22nd April, one of which was on highways. JM asked if he could also chase up the drainage works on Crooked Lane/Straight Lane as it was now 2 years since these should have been done.

8. Chair of Rode Parish Council:

The Chair said he would stand down at the AGM, but remain a Councillor. After a long discussion it was agreed that Peter Travis would take the Chair for 6 months.

It was further agreed that a new Councillor would be sought who would hopefully take the Chair in the near future (the Clerk was to check whether the number of Councillors could be varied from the current 8). To help raise the profile of the Parish Council it was agreed that the 'what the PC did' would form part of a leaflet drop to the villagers giving the date of the Annual Parish Meeting (which would be separate from the AGM and Council meeting). This leaflet would also encourage attendance and ask for input on what residents wanted the PC to do and encourage people to join the PC. The agreed date was Monday 9th June.

9. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Village Hall:** The Working Group had been updated on progress, which was that Somerset were due to reply to the preplanning application within a couple of weeks; apparently preplanning was of lower priority as targets were given to Councils for processing planning applications but not preplanning. AP said a meeting should be called before the end of the month.
- ii. **Bin emptying:** Somerset had come back clarifying which 3 dog bins and 3 litter bins were not its land and would be charged for emptying. The charge for the year will be £2,435.

10. Planning:

i) New applications:

2025/0487/FUL: Erection of detached dwelling – 4 The Mead. The PC agreed to reaffirm its objection to this application as it still ruined the building line, did not preserve the wall and was too close to 6 The Mead.

2025/0543/TCA: Crown lift oak by 6m and dead wood – Langham House. No objection.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2024/2272/FUL: Formation of EV Vehicle Charging Facility to include access road 2no. car chargers, 4no. parking spaces and erection of substation. Approved

11. Buses: PT reported there could be issues over the D2X not serving the main housing estates in Frome and after the Easter holidays the D2 could arrive full in Rode at peak times. Both the D2 and D2X were still under pressure as they lost money.

12. Emergency Plan: Thanks were given to JB for circulating a draft. There were still a large number of decisions to be made to complete the plan. Further consultation was required and the formation of a small team to gather information was agreed.

13. Conservation Plan: AP reported he had received a scoping document from Context Planning. However, he said he was surprised to receive an invoice at the same time. He agreed to go back to Context and request a breakdown of costing for each stage of work. The scoping document however, did look useful.

13. Aircraft noise: A complaint had been received. The meeting agreed that the PC could do nothing about aircraft noise and all agreed that there was very little noise over Rode anyway.

14. Financial matters:

i) **Complaint over Precept increase:** A parishioner had raised concerns over both the Council tax by Somerset and the tax increase from Rode. It was agreed that he should approach Somerset directly over its increase. AP had gathered information regarding the Rode Precept increase which was partly a result of services being transferred from Somerset to local Councils, the need to keep sufficient reserves and ongoing work which was increasing in cost. AP agreed to respond to him.

The following payments were agreed:

J H Jones and sons	£809.99
SALC (subscription)	£544.73
Clerk Salary	£276.96
HMRC PAYE	£67.40

15. Date of next meeting:

The Annual Parish Council AGM would be held on **Monday 12th May at 7.00pm** in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall and this would be followed by the next Parish Council meeting **at 7.30pm**. **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Monday 9th June at 7.00pm** in the Cross Keys pub.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed

Date

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