

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 14th JULY 2025 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: H Williams – Clerk and 1 Parishioner

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr J McAuliffe, and Cllr A Boyden and Cllr D Denton (Somerset Councillors)

2. Parishioners Participation: Concerns were raised over the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council and whether these were held at right time of year. There should also be an item on Parish land in the Parish Meeting. The Clerk agreed to clarify this.

The grass on the verge on Rode Hill outside the Memorial Hall was obscuring the view when pulling out, it was questioned who should cut this. (Clerk's Note: This area should be cut by the Parish Council (PC) grass cutting contractor – note sent to remind them).

The emptying of the dog waste bin outside The Mill should be the responsibility of Tellisford as it is not within Rode. This was discussed.

Final point raised was concern over the prior approval for the barn at junction of Straight Lane and Crooked Lane to be converted into housing. The PC agreed that full discussion would be held when the actual planning application was submitted.

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th May were approved. It was agreed that the meeting notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in June would be published in The Link.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Somerset Councillor's report: The previously circulated report from Cllr Denton was noted. Additionally, it was reported that Low Carbon (solar farm project) had been taken over by TotalEnergies.

6. Highways issues:

i) **Speeding:** Concerns had been raised over speeding on Marsh Road. There was discussion on what could be done and whether it would be possible to get an officer to do a speed camera check.

ii) **Somerset Highways Maintenance:** Information had been circulated but it was considered an expensive programme and more suited to town councils and not villages.

iii) **Parking:** There are growing concerns over parking particularly in The Mead by especially during school pick up times. Cars are parking on the double yellow lines at the road junction and across people's drives. It was agreed this would be raised with the school and with Sara Davis at Somerset to see if enforcement action can be taken.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

i) **Drainage:** It is hoped some action on Straight Lane/Crooked Lane can be taken this year.

ii) **Church Farm paths:** There is some ongoing discussion between Autograph and Somerset.

8. Planning:

i) New applications:

2025/0950/TPO: Wych elm – raise canopy by 2-3m, removing the crudely cut lowest limb at 4m and removing all epicormic growth and other scrub limb growing towards roof of the southern neighbouring property and deadwood in the process of inspecting the main unions and cable bracing – 9 Langham Place. No objections.

2025/1053/TCA: Complete removal of hawthorn and common hazel – 20-22 Lower Street. No objections.

2025/1234/TCA: Birch, reduce height by up to 4m and spread by up to 2.5m on all sides. General pruning to round over and balance the tree's shape – 45 High Street. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2025/0862/TCA: Remove cherry tree – 33 Lower Street. Approved.

2025/0916/PAA: Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 4no. dwelling houses (class 3) and for associated operational development – Barn at junction of Straight Lane and Crooked Lane. Approved.

9. Sewage outfall: A report had indicated that both Beckington and Rode sewage works were over capacity and contaminating the River Frome. Wessex Water have indicated that it will introduce a UV disinfection scheme at Rode sewage works although this is unlikely to completely solve the problem. Separating storm water run-off should be done. Additionally, a new storage tank is to be installed at the Rode works. It was agreed to take up Wessex Water's offer to visit the site.

10. Village Hall: It was reported that the open afternoon to display the new outline plans for a new facility had around 70 attendees (slightly disappointing) and that those attending were 80/20 in favour. Main concerns were parking and too much space for the Scouts. A separate meeting was to be held for the residents of Orneage Close to hear their concerns.

A further meeting was planned for the next day to progress the project. The situation was that the PC, Memorial Hall Committee and Playing Field Committee all had to agree the final plans to progress the project and the village would be consulted seeking a yes/no vote to progress to a full planning application.

Investigations had found that the PC owned the land on which the current Memorial Hall stood and therefore could, following approval, sell the land.

The formation of a specialist trust would require a solicitor to draw up the Charitable Incorporated Trust and the meeting agreed to fund this (approx. £2,500).

Some concerns were expressed over the current membership of the Committee driving the project forward and the future composition of the Charitable Trust membership.

11. Buses: PT reported there would be a revised timetable for the D2 starting on 31 August which would mean a few extra daytime buses coming through Rode. This was a result of slowly phasing out the D2X. It was confirmed the PC would fund and distribute the new timetables.

12. Emergency Plan: The initial draft had been circulated and there was a request for comment and information on who could help in an emergency; although the emergency services would do the bulk of the work.

13. Conservation Plan: Emails had been exchanged with Context Planning but direct contact still had to be made to progress work.

14. Financial matters:

i) **NatWest bank account:** The meeting confirmed that only two signatures should be used for cheques. There was agreement that the Clerk and Mike Salmon should be added as signatories to the bank account. Also, Pat Banwell and Terry Morrow should be removed as signatories as they had left the PC some years ago. The Parish Council address for banking should be the Clerk's address.

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

Community Heartbeat Trust	£89.94
P Travis (Village hall flyers)	£165.00
J H Jones and sons*	£3,647.98
S Whitehead	£60.00
Clerk Salary (including computer security)	£340.15
HMRC PAYE	£67.40
G Jacobs	£123.89
(Payments agreed in June:	
J H Jones and sons	£809.99
Clerk salary	£277.12
HMRC PAYE	£67.40)

* includes the replacement of June cheque – lost.

15. Any other business:

i) **Boundary Review of Somerset:** It was agreed to recirculate the email from Cllr Boyden and there was encouragement to comment again on the proposals to reduce the number of Councillors and the areas they would have to cover.

ii) **Bus shelter/hoedowns:** It was reported efforts were still being made to source replacement windows. Contact had been made and C Harrington was reluctant to resweep the gutters. An article would be put in The Link on hoedowns.

16. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held at **7.30pm on Monday 11th August** in the Committee Room in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council