

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 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 Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Andy Pickett (AP) and Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB).

In attendance: Cllr Adam Boyden (Somerset Councillor) H Williams – Clerk and two Parishioners.

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

2. Parishioners Participation: The Parish Councillors and in particular JM were thanked for successfully objecting to the proposed development on Crooked Lane and a request was made for the PC to store the objections that have been made along with the Mendip/Somerset responses so these could be used in future planning applications. This was agreed and could possibly be stored in a secure area on the village website.

The other point discussed was the results of the Autospeedwatch and SID data collected over the last few months. It was noted that a fairly large number of vehicles (some being repeat offenders) had been caught speeding on Rode Hill, with speeds of over 60mph (double the speed limit). John Flindall reported that he had sent the data to PCSO to see if he could do anything as Somerset did not officially recognise Autospeedwatch. It was reported that if a speeding vehicle had a company name or other identifying mark this could be reported to the company with a request for them to action. It was thought that over 10% of vehicles were speeding on Rode Hill and therefore a letter should be written to the Police Commissioner asking for Police presence/action.

Discussion was held over possible placement of the SID on Marsh Road, it was agreed to make initial enquiries as the process of getting approval for post and siting of SID takes around 18 months. There is also a requirement for 200m clear visibility of the SID.

The Speed Watch team is currently inactive and a request has been made for the return of the equipment for the mobile speed watch. Initial enquiries over reforming would be made but if the data was not acted on it would be pointless to reform. Anyone involved would also require training.

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th August were approved with the following amendment the part of sentence 'JM declared a possible conflict' should not be under item 9 but under 8iii).

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Somerset Councillor's report: Cllr Denton's report was noted in particular that the flood prevention work was still included in Somerset's work schedule for 2025/26 and it had priority over new work. Cllr Boyden reported that there was a consultation on NHS hospitals on moving patients out of local hospitals to care in the community – the consultation would be forwarded to the PC. There was an LCN meeting on Thursday to discuss the Local Transport Plan. It is probable that the Sunday parking charges in Frome would not be a flat rate but the same as weekdays, and car parks in Somerset that did not charge would do so in the future.

The results of the Somerset Boundary Commission review should be known by the end of the year, but it was certain that there would only be one Councillor for each area.

6. Highways issues:

i) Signage on A361 near Parkgate Lane: At the meeting with Sara Davies agreement had been made to move the sign on the A361 to give a clearer view.

ii) Parking: There had been discussion with the residents of Orneage Close regarding access to the proposed new village hall and it was not certain if double yellow lines down one side of the Close would improve access unless residents had designated parking on the new hall site.

(re Orneage Close see also minute 11 Village Hall)

It was agreed the PCSO should be approached when next in the shop in Rode to go and look at parking which was blocking the pavements in The Mead and PR would do this.

The double yellow lines on Rode Hill would be extended 20m further down to prevent parking opposite the Halfpenny Row junction.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

i) Drainage: See Somerset Councillors above.

ii) Grit bins: The Clerk reported that Somerset had requested update on state of bins; only one required topping up.

iii) Norway Maple – near allotments: This had been inspected and it was in good condition, pruning was not recommended as it would encourage growth. It was agreed to ask John Osborne to inspect it and evaluate root spread and any necessary action.

iv) Dogs and playing field: The PC agreed to fund any necessary new signage but it was up to the Playing Field Committee to decide what was required to prevent dogs going on the actual field. An article should be put in The Link.

8. Planning:

i) New applications:

2025/1446/TCA: Magnolia – reduce by 2m – 5 Lower Street. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2025/1234/TCA: Birch – reduce height by up to 4m and spread by up to 2.5 on all sides. General pruning to round over and balance tree. Conifer – to reduce height by up to 2.5m. High Street. Approved.

2025/1320/TCA: Sycamore – reduce height by 2m – Mayfield Court, High Street. Approved.

2025/1342/PIP and 2025/1343/PIP: Permission in Principle for phased development of 1 self-build dwellinghouse and Permission in Principle for up to 3 self-build dwellinghouses on land at Crooked Lane. Refused.

9. Sewage outfall:

A visit to the Rode sewage works on either October 2nd or 3rd had been proposed, it was agreed that the 2nd was the best day and as late in the afternoon as possible. The Chair agreed to arrange.

10 Hoedowns: There was a need for more participation from residents but if the Parish Council was involved in organising these training would be required. There was a possibility to get professionals involved, but this would result in a cost. JB agreed to put an article in The Link explaining the issues. AP offered to re-putty the windows of the bus shelter by The Bell and he was thanked for the offer.

11. Village Hall: A meeting had been held with the residents in Orneage Close following their concerns over access to and layout of the new hall. Some changes had been made to the plans and a further meeting is to be held. The CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is being set up by the

solicitors and this will avoid any personal liabilities. Once set up all the organisations involved would need to approve it and then the planning application would be submitted to Somerset. It has been agreed that there will be a requirement to employ someone to organise fund raising for the project and apply for grants. It is estimated the project will cost around £2 million.

12. Buses: PT reported that the new timetables had been delivered in the village and thanked those who delivered them. This timetable would run to April 2026. There had been a complaint regarding the early morning bus being full when it reached Rode and First would be made aware of this.

13. Conservation Plan: AP reported he had spoken to Context Planning and the new budget was to be circulated to the Parish Councillors. He requested the invoice should be paid and this was agreed.

14. Financial matters:

i) AGAR: The Clerk reported that the AGAR had been completed and that the Rode Parish Council accounts had been approved.

ii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

P Travis (bus timetables)	£165.00
J H Jones & Sons	£809.99
Clerk Salary	£270.16
HMRC PAYE	£67.40
PFK Littlejohn LLP (audit)	£252.00

15. Any other business: JB asked for Councillors to review the draft Emergency Response Plan and send comments to him to help him update the information.

16. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held at **7.30pm on Monday 13th October** in the Committee Room in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council