

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – in the Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR) and Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB).

In attendance: Cllr Dawn Denton (Somerset Councillor) H Williams – Clerk. No Parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr P Travis, Cllr A Pickett, Cllr M Punt, Cllr J McAuliffe and Cllr A Boyden (Somerset Councillor)

2. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September were approved.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

4. Somerset Councillors: Cllr Denton reported that there was still a significant backlog to planning applications in Somerset. It was noted that this did not currently affect Rode. Cllr Boyden's report had laid out the current Somerset policy on parking on pavements and it was agreed that any cases should be reported to Avon and Somerset Police for action.

The written reports from the Councillors were noted and appreciated.

5. Highways issues:

i) Signage on A361 near Parkgate Lane: The signs on the A361 had now been moved to give a clearer view when coming out of Parkgate Lane.

ii) Speeding: There were continued concerns over speeding on Marsh Road as with parked cars and the narrowness of the road this was very dangerous and could result in a serious accident. MS reported that he had raised the issue of either a Traffic Enforcement officer coming from Somerset with a speed gun or the erection of a pole for the SID to be fixed to on the road. The latter required at least 200m of clear sight before the sign. He was still awaiting a response from Somerset Highways and agreed to chase this up.

The Clerk was preparing a letter for submission to the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner regarding Autospeedwatch and speeding.

6. Actions from previous meeting:

i) Drainage: The repairs to the drains was still to be done. It was reported that a meeting was to be held between Cllr J McAuliffe, CALM Engineering and Andy Fussell was to be held to discuss two soak aways on Andy Fussell's fields adjacent to Straight Lane.

ii) Norway Maple – near allotments: The Clerk and John Osborne had been up to inspect the tree. It was noted the tree was in good condition, any pruning would encourage growth and it would result in a larger tree than would otherwise be present within 5 years. The roots were a significant distance from any housing/patios and provided foundations were, good no problems should be encountered.

iii) PC representative on Memorial Hall Committee: AE agreed to remain as the representative and the Clerk would inform the Committee and ensure agendas were sent to her.

iv) The Bell Inn: The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the Site Manager who informed him that the Inn was no longer being marketed. He was chasing Wellington Pubs (the owners) for some action on the building, but was frustrated by their lack of action. It was noted that another pub was not needed in Rode. He said that no work was yet planned for the construction of the three dwellings approved last year. However, he was going to get the undergrowth cut back.

V) Remembrance Day: It was agreed to make donations of £100 to both the Cross Keys and the Scouts to help them supply food and drink to those parading on Remembrance Sunday in November. Additionally, the PC would purchase a wreath.

7. Planning:

i) New applications:

2025/1689/TCA: Cut back hazel to approx. 8ft – 23 Lower Street. No objections.

2025/1730/TCA: Fell willow, birch and pine trees and cut leylandii to boundary line – Orchard House, 11 Frome Road. After discussion no objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2025/1446/TCA: Reduce magnolia by 2m – 5 Lower Street. Approved.

iii) Other:

It was noted that Somerset had adopted Mendip Local Plan II and that the areas chosen for the additional 500+ homes to be built before 2029 were not in this area, apart from a few in Frome.

8. Rode Sewage Works:

The visit to the Rode sewage works by a number of Councillors had been very informative and had clarified many misconceptions over sewage discharges. The visit had highlighted the problem of rainfall run-off from 'not new' houses which went into the sewage system. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Matt Wheeldon for hosting the visit.

9. Emergency Planning:

It was noted that Somerset were able to offer a workshop to help with preparation of an Emergency Plan however this was 3 hours long and probably done during the day. It would be better if this could be done in an evening (or weekend) and probably best done through the LCN to enable more parishes to take part. The current plan for Rode had not progressed through lack of feedback to JB.

10. Conservation Plan: The report from Context Planning had been circulated and it appeared that expansion of the Conservation Area to include Bradford Road and Clay Lane would be easier to achieve than Church Lane. The cost for Context to continue the work was noted and it was agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting when all Councillors were present.

11. Website and email:

The meeting agreed that the Rode Clerk's email address should be changed to a '.gov.uk' address and that the village website should also change to a '.gov.uk' address. The Parish Council was a government body and this would align with the request for all parishes to adopt the '.gov.uk' addresses.

12. Financial matters:

i) Assets: The circulated asset list was noted and approved.

ii) Accounts: The accounts to 30th September were noted, these indicated the reserves were being built up as planned.

iii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

Context Planning	£2,106.00
J H Jones & Sons	£809.99
Zonkey Solutions	£690.00
Clerk Salary (including payment to Somerset for Bin Emptying - £187.20)	£457.36
HMRC PAYE	£67.40
Rode and District Memorial Hall	£105.00
Rode 1 st Scouts	£100.00
Cross Keys	£100.00

13. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held at **7.30pm on Monday 10th November** in the Committee Room in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council