

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.30 pm**

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**UNCONFIRMED**

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr Dawn Denton (Somerset Councillor), James Divall (Somerset Council), H Williams – Clerk and 12 Parishioners

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Salmon and Cllr A Boyden (Somerset Councillor)

**2. Parishioners Participation:**

Concern was expressed over trees by Rode Bridge which were in unsafe condition, one being dead and a beaver present might endanger others. These were on a piece of land adjacent to the bridge whose ownership was unknown. The Parish Council (PC) agreed to investigate.

Most Parishioners present had come regarding the current status of the new village hall. There was concern that since the original agreement to have a new village hall on the playing field land little information had been given on its progress, which itself had been slow. Questions were raised why the Playing Field and Scouts had now withdrawn support for this new hall. Both the Playing Field and Scouts said that they were working to support the village but the slow progress, high cost and the immediacy of their needs had resulted in them wanting a smaller, faster option for a hall. There was a growing feeling that the proposed new hall was too grand. (see further discussion in minute 6)

The other issue raised at the meeting was the continued speeding down Marsh Road. Questions were asked about what could be done to reduce speeding. The Parish Council had already raised this with Somerset Council (see further discussion in minute 8ii)

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November were approved.

**4. Declarations of interest:** None.

**5. James Divall – Somerset Council – Climate and Ecological Emergency:**

James Divall updated the meeting on the flood priorities across Somerset. He apologised for what appeared to be slow progress as Somerset had to bring all the separate districts together into one authority. This had not been helped by his lack of manpower as this function had previously been an area of low priority. Regarding the work done in Rode this had apparently been done without Highways approval and without proper procurement process, both of which were being resolved. There were 4 jobs in Rode and 3 in Beckington that had to be completed.

JM said that when Mendip merged into Somerset assurances had been given that the work would continue and be finished as funding was in place. The major remaining part of work was to repair the attenuation tank at the junction of Straight Lane and Crooked Lane. James Divall was unable to give a timescale for this to be done but did say the budget was in place for the work.

The meeting thanked him for coming along and it was good to put a face to the name.

**6. Village Hall:** It was accepted that the Playing Field and Scouts had made their decision not to continue with the proposed new village hall, however, it was questioned whether a smaller project would be any quicker. It was recognised that progress had been slow but only volunteers were involved in the project. The Parish Council is not in a position to challenge any decisions as it is up to the landowners (village hall and playing field) to make their independent decisions.

Although the Playing Field Committee had been quorate when its decision was made, it came to light that there had not been an AGM for 4 years. The Committee was strongly advised to have one as the Deed of Trust stipulated that an AGM had to be held annually. The Parish Council could not currently support the 'smaller hall project' until the AGM had been held and a full meeting endorsed the decision to withdraw from the current village hall project.

The PC thanked Andy Pickett for chairing the Village Hall Committee and Graham Jacobs for drawing up the plans for a new hall.

**7. Somerset Councillor's report:** The Boundary Commission had informed Somerset that allowing only one Councillor for each area was not necessarily the only option and this had been incorrectly stated, therefore the consultation had been extended. The PC agreed not to add to their comments.

**8. Highways issues:**

**i) Rode Hill:** The repair works were proceeding well. A tar and chipping resurface should be done in Spring 2026.

**ii) Marsh Road speeding:** There was discussion over possible options to reduce speeding on this road. It was agreed the PC would put together a list of possible solutions and submit this to Somerset Highways for consideration.

**9. Actions from previous meeting:**

**i) Dog & Waste Bin:** The Clerk reported that the incorrect invoice had been sent and a new revised one had been received giving a total charge of around £665 for four months.

**ii) Somerset Local Plan – Call for Sites:** Somerset was calling for sites for development for 2029 to 2040 and would be assessing these to meet housing targets. Norton St Philip had had 12 sites identified, the number for Rode was unknown. It was agreed that the sites for Rode should be requested from Somerset and that PT, JM and AP would consult with Norton and consider engaging with Context Planning over independent assessment of proposed sites.

**10. Planning:**

**New applications:**

**2025/1753/LBC:** Replacement of 7 no timber sash windows installed into existing frames – 15 Langham Place. No objection.

**2025/2026/TCA:** Conifer hedge to be reduced in height by 2-3m – Belmont, Halfpenny Row. No objection.

**2025/2029/TCA:** Crab apple – reduce crown by 3m to create primary pollard structure for tree to regenerate from – 6 High Street. No objection.

**2025/2030/TCA:** Birch – crown reduction of approx. 2m, hedge cut all trees/shrubs in hedgerow to 10ft – 15 Rode Hill. No objection.

**2025/2063/TCA:** Ash remove 1x north/east limb, willow remove 1x east lateral limb – The Millers House, 1 Rode Hill. No objection.

**2025/2163/TCA:** Magnolia crown reduction by approx. 2-3m – 1 The Barton, Lower Street. No objection.

### **Somerset Decisions :**

**2025/1930/TCA:** Fell thuja – 25 Lower St. Approved

**2024/1974/HSE:** Removal of front porch, rear lean to. Install roof light, repoint walls, unbrick first floor window, install new window. Internal works to walls, ceiling, doors and fireplace – 8 Rode Common. Approved.

**2024/1979/HSE:** Erection of porch, replace all existing windows with hardwood sash windows. Erection of single storey side and rear extension and two-storey rear extension. Demolition of all outbuildings in rear garden and erection of annex - 8 Rode Common. Approved.

**2025/1730/TCA:** Fell pine trees and cut Leylandii Cypress to boundary line – Orchard House, 11 Frome Road. Approved.

### **Other Planning Matters:**

**Planning Inspectorate Appeals: APP/E3335/W/25/3374795 and 3374796: Land at Crooked Lane.**

The PC had agreed by correspondence outside the meeting to send further comments to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to the proposed developments. (JM was thanked for preparing the document). JM reported that he and AP had met the applicants who said they had been advised not to speak the Parish Council prior to the application but now realised that they should have.

**11. Buses:** PT reported that delays to services had been caused by the work on Rode Hill and on the A361. He added that more money to support the D2 evening service could be available through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). However, concern was expressed that Frome could do more to promote bus use.

**12. Rode Clean-up:** Three successful clean up sessions had been held in November with a total of 45 volunteers taking part. Thanks were given to Lucy Travis for arranging these.

**13. Website Address:** PC approved change to [rodeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://rodeparishcouncil.gov.uk). The Clerk agreed to inform Zonkey.

### **14. Financial matters:**

**i) Precept for 2026:** To be deferred to January meeting.

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

J H Jones & Sons	£809.99
Clerk Salary (Including payment to Somerset Council for bin emptying of £608.40)	£956.52
HMRC PAYE	£87.00

**15. Any other business: Conservation Plan** – AP Reported that he had set up a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January with Context Planning to progress work on the Conservation Plan.

### **16. Date of next meeting:**

The meeting dates for 2026 were agreed, these would be the second Monday of the month with the exception of January and May.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held at **7.30pm on Monday 5th January** in the Committee Room in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

Print .....

Website: *[rodevillage.com/parish-council](http://rodevillage.com/parish-council)*