

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon - Chair (MS), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Steve Eyles (SE), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Andy Pickett (AP), Cllr Elaine Butler (EB)

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, and 3 members of the public

1. Public Participation:

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council (PC) for opposing the development on Barbara's Field which had led to Mendip rejecting the application.

Concern was expressed over the Bradford Road and Rode Hill junction with cars travelling too fast on all the approach roads to this junction, a major accident could happen any time. The Chair said that some additional markings had been added and the police were aware of speeding on these roads.

A question was raised as to how the 20mph speed, when introduced to the village, would be enforced. It was reported that Somerset had now applied for the 20mph zone to the police and their endorsement was awaited before signs could be put up. Apart from the use of SID enforcement it would be up to the police to enforce.

It was asked if the Inspector's Report on the Hearings on the Local Plan Part 2 had been published yet, in response it was reported that an off the record comment that there were no surprises in the report had been given, which would indicate RD1 was not included as a development area.

The Declaration of Trust for the Playing Field S106 land was considered to be poor and a request for it to be improved made.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr B Lund and Cllr L Oliver

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th August were approved. It was pointed out that the minute 7i) the following text should be included: 'The PC should check with DLA Piper whether there would be any benefit to the objection to the planning application if the PC requested a public enquiry. Also, could the PC actually make such a request.'

4. Declarations of interest: JM expressed an interest in planning application 2021/1816/LBC.

5. Report from County Councillor: The report from Cllr Oliver had shown that covid19 cases across Somerset were still very high but fortunately the take up of the vaccine in Somerset had been one of the highest in the country. Rural grants for up to £5,000 were available to help recovery following the covid virus, these were on the Somerset website. Somerset was supporting Afghan refugees and anyone wanting to help should contact resettlement@somerset.gov.uk

6. Actions from the previous meeting:

- i. **Hoedown:** The August Hoedown had been well attended with various projects undertaken and special thanks went to the residents of The Mead who had done an evening clean up. Next year the number of Hoedowns might be reduced to just 3 in April, June and September.
- ii. **The Bell:** Contact had been made with the managing agents who have confirmed that they are still seeking a tenant. Questions were raised over this as it was reported a business proposal to

take it over had been submitted but the applicant had been told they were unacceptable. It was probable once in a very poor state a planning application would be submitted. The PC were in a difficult position to put pressure on the owner/agents. The managing agents however, have confirmed that a tree surgeon had been approached about the dead trees and they were awaiting the owner's approval.

- iii. **The Mead:** A report of the condition of the trees on The Mead was still outstanding.
- iv. **Marsh Road:** An onsite meeting with Somerset County Council had taken place and it had been pointed out that Highways had right of access over all the land between the wall/fences of properties on either side of the road. However, it was difficult to make any changes to appearance now as so many changes had been made over the years. However, it was agreed the gully needed repair and that a proper gully installed across the pavement to take water from Brown's Ground into the roadside gully. Calm Engineering would be approached to see if its funding could be used to make these improvements.
- v. **Dog bin foot of Marsh Road:** A further request to move this bin had been received. It was agreed the bin could be moved about ten feet up Marsh Road, still under the trees. Grant Slade would be approached to do this.
- vi. **Fingerpost – Straight Lane:** The Clerk reported that he had received quotes for a new finger for this fingerpost. It was agreed that as removing the broken end could be difficult a full repair involving installation of a new finger, blasting and repainting the fingerpost should be done. The Clerk was asked to check if the PC insurance would cover this or future repairs, if necessary.
- vii. **No mow May:** An initial approach to Julia Robb had been made, this was to be discussed further.
- viii. **Village day:** Thanks were given to AE and PR for organising a successful day. Thanks were also given to all those who attended.

7. Climate Emergency: Following the well-attended (over 40 people) Extinction Rebellion presentation JM reported that a number of people had come forward to join the Climate Emergency Steering Group and an initial meeting was planned for w/c 13 September.

8. Highways:

- i) Speedwatch were considering purchasing an additional SID (speed indicator device) which would provide a visual speed reminder but not collect data. This could be moved to key locations. However, it was agreed that until the Memorandum with Somerset was seen this should be put on hold as Rode might be limited to a single SID. The cost was estimated at around £2,000 for an SID.
- ii) The Clerk reported there was no update on The Sportsman being adopted.
- iii) The meeting discussed concerns over traffic speed along both Bradford Road and Rode Hill and the junction of these two roads. A major accident could happen any day and although some increased signage and markings had been put in by SCC it was essential something more was done. The Chair agreed to initially speak to Cllr Oliver and possibly pursue this with Sara Davis. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

9. Planning matters

i) **Appeal of: 2020/1686/OTS:** To build 29 dwellings and associated roads and access to site on The Mead/Merfield.

The extension to the deadline for comments to 14th September had given the PC time to get a Heritage Expert to come and view the site and prepare a report, this report was expected any day now. JM was thanked for preparing an initial response to submit to The Planning Inspectorate and this would include parts of the Heritage Expert's report, it was agreed that his report would also be submitted as a separate document. It was noted that Ashford Homes appeal was focusing on the tilted balance in

favour of development if there was no 5 year housing supply but did not fully consider the requirement to meet all three sustainability tests.

The meeting agreed that up to £1,000 could be spent on getting DLA Piper to check the more technical parts of the PC comment document to The Planning Inspectorate.

ii. **New applications: 2021/1816/LBC:** Replace existing stormsure profiled windows and panelling with new conservation timber framed windows and panelling, 17B High Street. No objections, leave to Planning Officer.

iii. **Mendip decisions: 2021/0071/OTS:** Application for outline planning permission (all matters reserved except for access) for the erection of up to 49 dwellings, formation of vehicular access, open space, landscaping and associated works. Refused.

2021/0087/VCR: Application to vary condition 13 (obscure glazing) of approval 2021/1212/VCR, 6 Stable Close. Approved with conditions.

10. Broadband: SE informed the meeting that Voneus was planning to start the introduction of fibre broadband, capable of giving each property ultrafast broadband, late this year. It should take around four months to complete installation of fibre to each property and it would be up to residents to decide whether they would link up to this. This had recently been done in Buckland Dinham with 60% take up.

11. Church Farm access to village/footpaths and playing field: The path from the site to the playing field had not started although emails had been sent to Autograph and Enforcement at Mendip. The latest reason given was waiting for the crop to be harvested and hedge cut. The harvest was now in. It was agreed the Clerk would send another email to Autograph and copy in Enforcement at Mendip and Andy Fussell.

The Declaration of Trust covering the playing field was difficult to follow and needed improvement with there now being two documents covering the playing field it was thought that a new Trust could be drawn up and a charity had a template which could be used to minimise costs. It was important that the PC had clarity on the Playing Field trustees and their actions, as ultimately the PC had responsibility for the land.

12. Parish Elections: There had been a request by the Somerset Association of Local Councils to parishes to bring the elections forward from May 2023 to May 2022 to tie in with the Unitary Authority elections and reduce costs. The meeting agreed with this.

13. Unitary Authority/Frome: The Chair reported that Frome's spreadsheet to ascertain the issues and responsibilities within Frome and all the surrounding parishes councils had been returned. This was part of Frome trying to set up a larger group which could act locally once the new Unitary Authority was set up. A further virtual meeting was planned for October.

14. Conservation Area/Neighbourhood Plan: AP reported he had arranged a meeting with a consultant to discuss this further. It was possible a good case for a Conservation area covering the whole village could be made which would give better protection over further development.

15. Bus services: PT reported that a new timetable had been published which had added an extra daytime bus to Bath and also one back. Further meetings were planned to get improved bus services across the whole of Somerset. Consultants had been brought in by Somerset to progress the case which had to be submitted to Government by the end of October. He said there was now some agreement by Somerset that improved services should run in the evenings and at weekends.

16. Financial matters: The following payments were agreed:

Eagle Grounds Maintenance	£725.12
Matthew Lucas (mowing)	£20.00
Steve Eyles (Vistaprint signs)	£31.19
G Berry (website setup)	£150.00
J Flindall (Mindset training for SID)	£234.00
Clerk salary	£228.74
HMRC PAYE	£55.00

The meeting also agreed the request to fund refreshments for the Remembrance Day Memorial parade by giving £100 to the Cross Keys towards these.

17. Any other business: Concern was expressed that building works were being undertaken at 1 The Mead without any planning permission. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners. The tree on the walk through in The Mead required pruning and a quote would be obtained.

18. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held in the main hall of the Memorial Hall at:

7.30pm on Monday 4th October

The Meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Print: _____

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council/