

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Cllr Barbi Lund, Cllr Adam Boyden, Hugh Williams – Clerk and 4 parishioners.

1. Public Participation: Good news was given to the Parish Council that new leaders and helpers had been found for the Scouts so the groups could keep going. However, there was still a shortage of Beaver leaders and these were being sought. There were now 62 young people in the Scout groups.

Concerns were expressed over the proposal to build 7 dwellinghouses on land between Clay Lane and Church Lane, these could block light and views and encroach on the privacy of the existing surrounding properties. Access to the site could result in further narrowing of Church Lane which was of concern. It was pointed out that only those directly adjacent to the proposed development had been notified by Mendip and it was thought a wider area should have been notified. The limited notice could restrict comments on the application.

There were still problems on the Bradford Road with the hedge by the empty (for sale) house forcing pedestrians into the road. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mendip (cc Cllr Lund) as approaches to the selling agent had not managed to get the hedge cut.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr D Denton (County Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th August were approved with the following amendment to minute 13 which should read: 'AE had attended the AGM representing the Parish Council and she reported that the Memorial Hall was keen to work with the Playing Field. It had also been agreed that the Hall would be free for Community village organisations until March 2023.'

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Report from District Councillor: Cllr Lund had put an article into The Link on the annual review of Mendip's Carbon Management Plan and agreed to send this to the Clerk to upload onto the PC website.

6. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Boyden reported that the Local Community Network (LCN) consultation had just started and would run until 17th October. There were seven questions in the survey asking about the geography of each LCN and the priorities these groups should have. The Chair was surprised so little had been agreed by now and that once the survey was completed, results analysed and approval given there would be less than 5 months to get these up and running. It was known the LCNs would have all the local County Councillors on them along with

representatives of the parish and town councils they represented. It was agreed to put this onto the October agenda and agree a PC response to the survey.

In response to a question Cllr Boyden said that planning application decisions would still be made under the Mendip planning panel with representatives from the local County Councillors until a Somerset wide plan was in place.

He said that he and Cllr Denton had met with Somerset Highway representatives who confirmed the 20mph speed limit in Rode along with village gates and speed restrictions on the A361 would be installed before the end of the financial year. Somerset was working on a design for the Bradford Road/Rode Hill junction which could include a flashing speed sign for traffic approaching from Bradford on Avon along with rumble strips this would be circulated when completed. The double yellow lines at the Rode Hill/High Street junction had had no objections and would be probably be painted in Spring. This was due to the queue of work to be done.

There was continued pressure to maintain bus services across Somerset.

A drought had been declared across Somerset.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Trees: Merfield/The Mead:** Cllr Lund said she would chase Bo Walsh as she had not heard from him who should write to the owners regarding the state of the trees.
- ii. **Ultrafast broadband:** Gigaclear is answering residents' questions on their ultrafast broadband coming to Rode in the Memorial Hall on 20th September, letters had been delivered to residents alerting them to this. It was, however, noted the box had not been installed at the end of Lower Street before the end of August as previously informed.
- iii. **Grass round Christchurch:** JM reported he would chase up the diocese as the PC had approved rewilding this area.
- iv. **Dog bin on Marsh Road and trees:** Grant Slade had agreed to move the bin further up Marsh Road and had apologised for having forgotten to move it. The Clerk said that the two branches that had come off one of the adjacent trees had been cleared away promptly by John Osborne and thanks were given to him.
- v. **Trees by Rode Bridge:** A parishioner had noted that some trees by the bridge were in an unsafe condition and had informed the County Arboriculturist and they have asked the PC to apply pressure. It was agreed to check the location of the trees as these could be in Tellisford and therefore Tellisford PC should take action. [Clerk's Note: the trees are in Tellisford and they have been informed of the issue.]

8. Climate Change Group: The Big Green Weekend was taking place this weekend (10/11 September) with the repair café in Norton on Saturday morning then stalls and three lectures on Saturday afternoon in the Memorial Hall, Rode and on Sunday there were 9 open houses demonstrating various green initiatives. Thanks were given to JM for getting this weekend organised and it was hoped this would be a success.

The rewilding area by the Memorial Hall had not been that successful due to the yellow rattle not getting established. However, it was agreed to continue with the experiment and to consult with experts who could help with the rewilding.

9. Highways:

a) Church Lane closure: The Clerk agreed to inform Somerset/Mendip that the signed diversion down Marsh Road was incorrect and should be rerouted. A bus had tried to go down the road and had to reverse back up.

b) Other issues: Already covered under 6. Report from County Councillor.

10. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/1516/OUT: Outline planning permission with some matters reserved for 7no dwelling houses with access details – land at rear of 41A Church Lane. Concerns were expressed over this application as already expressed in the Parishioners participation it was also noted that the development was outside the Rode development boundary as agreed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The infilling of green spaces would harm the village and therefore it was unanimously agreed to reject the application.

2022/1612/TCA: Crown-lift pine to 4.5m by removing SE laterals – The Millers House. Approved.

2022/1753/TCA: Fell magnolia tree – 31 Lower Street. This was approved once it was explained that the roots were damaging the neighbouring drive and that felling was the only option.

ii. Mendip decisions:

2021/2297/FUL: Erection of four dwellings and creation of new access – The Bell Inn. The developer has issued an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate due to Mendip not making a decision on the application within the prescribed time limit. The PC noted the appeal.

iii. Other:

2021/0071/OTS: Information from Mendip indicated that this would probably be a one-day hearing and could be a combination of ‘real life’ attendance and virtual. The PC would be able to participate in the hearing. There was still no start date from the Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk agreed to send the agreed questions to DLA Piper.

Enforcement: Concerns were expressed over work at houses on The Mead and the buildings at The Coach House where work had been done without planning approval or was being done contrary to approval. It was agreed these should be brought to the attention of Mendip.

11. Playing Field Constitution: AP had contacted Steve Eyles and it had been agreed a meeting with the solicitor would to be held in the future.

12. Church Farm: Some surfacing of the development had now been done but the main roads were uncompleted. No further work had taken place on the path within the development area or resowing grass or planting of trees/shrubs. Mendip had not made a decision on the planning application regarding affordable housing.

13. LCNs: See 6. Report from County Councillor.

14. Buses: PT reported that the catch the bus month had started but due to the closure of Church Lane it was possible the catch the bus campaign for Rode would take place in October. There were problems with bus services across Somerset and locally there was a campaign underway to support the D2 especially the evening bus from Bath. Pressure and action would be maintained.

15. Allotments: To be actioned.

16. New Website: JM had still to have further discussions with the provider and would report back at a later PC meeting.

17. Financial matters:

i) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

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|----------------------------|---------|
| Downlands Tree Surgery | £384.00 |
| Eagle Grounds Maintenance | £777.40 |
| SALC (annual subscription) | £310.47 |
| Clerk Salary | £240.24 |
| HMRC PAYE | £56.00 |

18. Other business:

i) It was agreed to consider a fire plan at a subsequent meeting.

19. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Memorial Hall on:

Tuesday 4th October at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council