

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT RODE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL  
HALL ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 7.30pm**

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**UNCONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr P Travis – Chair (PT) Cllr T Morrow (TM) Cllr A Edney (AE) Cllr P Restorick (PR) Cllr A Hooker (AH)  
Cllr Elaine Butler (EB) Cllr Steve Eyles (SE)

**In attendance:** Hugh Williams – Clerk, Cllr Linda Oliver – County Councillor, 5 members of the public

**1. Public Participation:**

Issues of when to raise the flag on the Village Green were raised and it was agreed to raise it for Prince Harry's birthday but, by a majority, it was agreed not to for Prince Andrew's birthday. The notice board outside the village hall is in a poor state and it was agreed the Chair would speak to the Village Hall Chair about new board backing and top repairs.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr P Banwell and Cllr Barbi Lund – District Councillor

**3. Councillor's Declarations of Interests in Items on Agenda:** The Chair expressed interest in planning application 2020/0053/HSE and would leave the room during discussions.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020:** The minutes were approved and signed off.

**5. Report from County Councillor:**

**Climate Emergency:** An online survey on the climate emergency was available and people should use it as it was important that local views were known. Survey is at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Somerset-Climate-Change-Survey-2019>

**6. Highways issues and TAG**

i. **SIDs:** These were now in the village and recording data, the one in the High Street had recorded a number of vehicles exceeding the 20mph speed but generally around 25mph. Currently extra traffic was coming through the village which would provide extra data.

ii. **Bradford Road junction:** The work at the bottom of Bradford Road was due to start w/c 27 April but it was uncertain what this would entail. More data would be welcome along with data on speeds for the speed signs near Crooked Lane and it was agreed to discuss these further at the TAG meeting.

iii. **Zigzag lines at school:** The school bus had to stop in these outside the school and investigations were ongoing regarding zigzag lines and bus bay priorities.

iv. **Kerbstone 18 High Street:** Photo would be sent to Mendip County Roads for repair.

**7. Actions from the previous meeting:**

i. **Dog bin emptying:** This appeared to be OK. AH had spoken to The Mill and there was agreement to put a general waste bin up next to the dog waste bin.

ii. **Village Gateway sign:** Approval from 2017 for this was in place, further liaison with traffic management personnel would take place on this issue.

iii. **Manhole covers:** Still waiting for full report on state of these on High Street.

- iv. **War Memorial:** AH had spoken to 2 masons who could add the missing name and make amendments. It was agreed to progress the work with James Long Masons for £135 + VAT.
- v. **Lengthsman:** The Chair was meeting with Chair of Beckington (along with Norton St Phillip) to discuss the issue.
- vi. **Pediment next to 18 High Street:** Although some repairs had been carried out this was still in a poor state and could endanger those passing. The owners of the Brewery Flats would be written to on this issue to ensure they had insurance in place for the pediment and to request further repairs be carried out.

**8. Playing Field:** The route of the path from Church Farm to the village was still uncertain. The S106 would be checked to see what was actually agreed. It was agreed that either path to Church Lane and/or one that came out near the school/pub was required.

The proposal for a plastics recycling bin was referred back to the Playing Fields Committee.

## **9. Planning matters**

### a. New applications:

- i. **2020/0053/HSE:** Erection of single storey rear extension. TM took the Chair for this item. There had been concern expressed by a neighbour over the demolition of the existing rear garden wall and replacement by new wall that was part of the extension and also loss of some light in her rear room. The PC could not comment on the ownership of the existing wall but felt the loss of light was not sufficient to object to the development. The PC would mention the loss of light in its response.
- ii. **2020/0096/TCA:** Tree work on black walnut in conservation area – leave to Planning Officer.

### b. Mendip decisions:

- i. **2019/2501/TCA:** Approved no TPO required
- ii. **2019/2784/TCA:** Approved no TPO required
- iii. **2019/2801/TCA:** Approved no TPO required
- iv. **2019/2850/TCA:** Approved no TPO required
- v. **2019/2867/TCA:** Approved no TPO required
- vi. **2019/3026/TMA:** Approved
- vii. **2019/2821/HSE:** Approved with conditions

**10. VE Day celebrations:** The school and scouts had been approached but neither were planning anything for this. However, the school were willing to host any event that was organised. It was agreed that a party for children would be held with songs and dressing up to celebrate the day. The PC confirmed they would seed fund the event. The flag would be raised on the Green to celebrate the weekend and church bells rung on the Sunday.

**11. Neighbourhood plan and Mendip Local Plan Part 2:** It was reported that Mendip were required to find space for 505 houses (this had now been raised to 604). Planning application had been submitted for 25 houses on Merfield site and there was a possible application going forward for housing on Barbara's Field. Discussions had revealed that as the Neighbourhood plan for housing for Rode was over 2 years old it now carried no real validity. [However, we have subsequently to the meeting learnt that the green spaces outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan will remain protected.]

Legal advice in conjunction with Beckington and Norton St Phillip on the Mendip Part 2 plan was to be taken with expected cost of no more than £2,000. No legal advice would now be taken on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The PC could push for retirement accommodation on these developments as this had been highlighted as a need in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was important that Rode proposed to developers what it needed, e.g. doctor's premises etc., and PC should work closely with the land owners and developers.

**12. Climate emergency:** The Chair reported he was holding a local meeting to discuss future local events on this issue; he hoped there would be local events in the Chapel, village hall and pub.

**13. Financial matters**

The Clerk reported he had finally obtained the missing bank statements.

The precept for £17,600 for 2020/2021 was agreed.

Thanks had been received from Mendip Community Transport, Hardington Vale and the Chapel for the PC's donations.

The following payments were agreed:

Rode Village Hall	£16.00
P Banwell (flowers for green)	£14.00
Clerk salary and expenses	£219.85
HMRC	£53.60
Training (SALC)	£85.00

It was agreed due to the warm winter the cutting of the playing field grass should start earlier than usual.

**14. Paths:** The condition of the paths on Church Lane and the Frome Road had recently improved but the presence of a Lengthsman would help the situation in the future. The condition of the Rockabella path was of concern and it was thought this could be a Highway, TM agreed to investigate this.

**15. Items for next agenda / Items to Report:** The D3 bus was to be suspended in the near future and if taken over by Faresaver no evening service would run. The D2 appeared safe at present with minor timetable revision for April.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at **7.30pm**

*Website: [rodeparishcouncil.webs.com](http://rodeparishcouncil.webs.com)*