

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 pm**

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**CONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB), Cllr Moira Punt (MP) and Cllr Andy Pickett (AP).

**In attendance:** Hugh Williams – Clerk and Cllr Adam Boyden (County Councillor)

**1. Parishioners Participation:** None

**2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr P Restorick and Cllr D Denton (County Councillor)

**3. Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January were approved.

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

**5. Actions from previous meeting:**

i **Grass cutting:** AP reported that he had sent a contract to Tony Jones outlining the frequency of cutting and length of grass required. The contract included termination conditions and requested extra cuts of playing field prior to village ‘fete’ and the village green prior to the Remembrance Service. He was waiting for acceptance and said that Tony Jones had expressed interest in attending the February meeting.

The Clerk agreed to inform Eagle Grounds Maintenance that they would not be required for 2024.

ii. **Paths at playing field:** The Chair reported he and Grant Slade had measured up the new path length and he was now awaiting a quote for the scalping path and new gate. It was hoped the path could be completed after the February meeting.

iii. **The Mill:** The replies from Somerset had still not resolved the issues over the new licence and AP agreed to pose detailed questions again to Phil Wake to try and clarify the situation. It was agreed to copy in the County Councillors.

iv. **Paths from Barrow Farm:** The meeting considered the quote and agreed to request a revision as it was thought too much time had been quoted for the actual work. The Clerk agreed to try and get a revised quote.

**6. County Councillors Report:** It was reported that the Planning Committee was to review the allocated sites to build the ‘missing’ 505 houses on 14<sup>th</sup> February and would then issue the list of proposed sites for consultation.

Cllr Boyden reported that the TRO for the 20mph speed limit in the village along with changes on the A361 had finally been issued. However, this, if approved, would not be implemented until the new financial year (after April). There was no news on the solar farm.

The Police were asking for a 10% increase in their precept but even with this increase services would have to be reduced. The Somerset Council consultation on people’s priorities was still open to 22 January. However, the financial situation for the Council looked bad and whether sufficient savings could be made to avoid the Council going into a Section 114 agreement was uncertain. A final decision would be made at the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting.

**7. Drainage:** An inspection of the drains had been carried out on Crooked Lane following the flooding after the recent heavy rains. A collapsed drain had been identified and concern was expressed that the drainage work carried out recently across the village should have included Crooked Lane but appeared not to have done so. Further work by Somerset is expected.

The run off from fields down Straight Lane and Crooked Lane had nearly caused houses to flood and it was agreed to approach Clive Harrington to see if leaf clearance could be carried out in November to help alleviate the problem.

**8. Climate Change Group:** The Group was due to meet soon to agree objectives for 2024. JM reported there were 97 people on the Group's circulation list.

**9. Highways issues:**

**i. Street Lights Turn off:** The Clerk reported that the responses received indicated a 2:1 majority in favour of turning off street lights at midnight. 99 responses were received (65 in favour, 33 against and 1 abstention). The meeting agreed to go ahead with the turn off after publishing the results in The Link and on the noticeboard.

**ii. SIDs:** Details of the automatic SID had been sent to the Clerk and he agreed to order it along with a solar boost pack and warning sign.

**iii. TRO for 20mph limit:** This had now been issued for the village centre, and if agreed work would take place after April. The TRO included reduced speed limits on the A361. It was reported no signs about the TRO had been put up and this would be investigated.

**iv. Finger post:** The finger post on Straight Lane had been damaged again with a finger being broken off. It was agreed to try and move the whole post back from the junction and mend it.

**10. Planning:**

**i) New applications:**

**2023/2446/HSE:** Rear storey extension, replace house/garage roofs, removal of parapet, demolish room on south east elevation, replace/add new windows/doors and amend existing access – Hill View House, Bradford Road. No objections.

**ii) Somerset decisions:**

**2023/2135/TCA:** To fell cherry tree and reduce height of cypress by 50% – 25 Lower Street. Approved

**11. Website:** JM reported he was still transferring the large amount of village history from the old site to the new one. The PC expressed its thanks to him and especially Peter Harris who had compiled all this history.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan:** There had been a pre-meeting of Parish Councillors reviewing the current Neighbourhood Plan. Since the Plan was drawn up a large number of houses had been built in Rode and it was agreed to get accurate numbers for these. The 2021 census would be checked to see if more up to date information on Rode was available. It was noted that 2029 was now only 5 years away and that the PC would need to conduct an in-depth review of the Plan in 2-3 years.

AP agreed to approach Liz Beth or Context Planning regarding reviews of Neighbourhood Plans.

The meeting agreed to confirm information for review at the February meeting.

**13. Financial matters:**

**i. Memorial Hall:** A request from the Memorial Hall to pay for the floor sanding was agreed as the Memorial Hall was through agreement linked to the parish Council. Reimbursement would be sought.

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

Hardington Vale PCC (donation)	£650.00
Rode Chapel (donation)	£350.00
Mendip Community Transport (donation)	£150.00
Citizens Advice Somerset (donation)	£100.00
Pearns Tree Services	£960.00
Clerk Salary	£259.31
HMRC PAYE	£64.60
G Berry (website hosting for 2023)	£143.86
Somerset Bus Partnership (donation)	£100.00
Total Floor Care (Memorial Hall)	£2,819.70

**14. Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** (A pre-meeting PC starting at 7.00pm for Councillors only will be held to review the Rode Neighbourhood Plan)

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

Print .....

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