

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 15th APRIL 2024 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, Cllr Dawn Denton (County Councillor).

1. Parishioners Participation: No Parishioners were present.

Congratulations were given to Peter Travis on his Frome Civic Award.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr J McAuliffe, Cllr P Restorick and Cllr A Boyden (County Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. County Councillor's report:

Cllr Denton reported that she had recently heard that CALM Engineering were due to meet with Somerset to progress the outstanding drainage work. She said she would chase this up. She also agreed to investigate Conservation Areas for Rode.

6. Actions from previous meeting:

- i Hoedowns:** It was agreed to set up a Hoedown for May.
- ii. Bench on Lower Street:** The current bench is in a poor condition and the meeting agreed to purchase a replacement and install it. A limit of £500 was agreed. JB agreed to progress.
- iii. Paths at playing field:** The new path was due to start later this month now the ground was drier and should be completed in early May.
- iv. The Mill:** A response from Phil Wake agreeing an 'online' call had been received. AP agreed to speak to Grant Slade who had comprehensive records of the licence hearing and then go back to Phil Wake to seek clarification on the issue.
- v. Paths from Barrow Farm:** The meeting agreed to go ahead with Steven Whitehead for 7 cuts over the growing season.
- vi. Drainage:** Cllr McAuliffe had been in contact with Somerset but had been given no update on work on Crooked Lane and Straight Lane. (See also minute 5 for CALM Engineering).

It was noted that Somerset Rivers Authority was hosting a meeting, to discuss flooding issues in the area, in Frome Town Hall on Tuesday 23rd April and JB hoped to attend.

7. Climate Change Group:

There was still a shortage of volunteers to help with the Repair Café in June and this would probably be delayed until September. A new Chair was still being sought for the Group.

8. Highways issues:

- i) **Autospeedwatch:** It had been reported that a large number of vehicles had been recorded exceeding the speed limit going up Bradford Road. It was agreed that this data should be forwarded to the police who would hopefully send letters to repeat offenders. (John Flindall would be asked to submit data). The Clerk reported that the Speed Watch Team had resources to monitor another Autospeedwatch device and this could be located on Rode Hill. However, it was agreed to not purchase another device until it was seen that some action was being taken by law enforcement on the current data collection.
- ii) **Street Lights Turn off:** The Clerk reported that he had received a quote for the work and this had been circulated. It was agreed to progress this with Somerset.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2024/0365/TCA: Walnut tree, reduce crown by 1-2m – Mayfield Mill, 4A High Street. No objections.

2024/0492/TCA: Sycamore, pull back house side by 2-3m and crown lift to 5m; sycamore, crown lift to 5m; horse chestnuts, fell – The Millers House, 1 Rode Hill. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2024/0244/TCA: Sorbus, reduce by 0.5-1m all round; grafted maple, reduce crown by 1-1.5m; apple and pear, thin crowns by 10% and reduce by 1-1.5m; birch remove all dead wood and reduce crown by 1-2m – The Stables, Langham Place. Approved

iii) Other

It was agreed to forward the Friends of the Earth link regarding placing of solar and wind farms in the UK to Nikki White at Somerset Planning for consideration when reviewing the solar farm application (2023/2183/FUL).

10. Neighbourhood Plan: The premeeting had discussed the current Rode Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that Context Planning would be approached on a number of issues. The PC agreed that it would try and avoid any substantive changes that required a referendum.

The main points to take to Context were:

- a) Conservation area to be increased to include Merfield, rectory on Bradford Road etc. But should this be done separately or as part of the Neighbourhood Plan?
- b) To increase the Recreation area (playing field) to include the new S106 land and also can this be redesignated as F2 land instead of green space.
- c) To strengthen Policies 5, 8, 11, 12 and 13 within the existing Plan.
- d) How to get the footpaths from Church Farm to Church Lane and the Recreation area officially designated as footpaths.
- e) To strengthen environmental statements within the Plan.

It was agreed not to expand the scope of the Plan to include The Mill or extend it to include any neighbouring parishes. Some issues regarding land ownership would be clarified. AP agreed to discuss these points with Context.

11. Buses: The new timetables had been delivered by Councillors to all properties in Rode. There was still a threat to the buses, especially the weekend services. There was concern First buses to Bath at times were full and this might not be getting recorded. It was agreed to use the village Facebook to record this. PT asked for further funding to promote bus use. The PC agreed to allocate up to £200.

12. New Village Hall: It was reported that the meeting held on 1st April had been positive, although some concerns were expressed over lack of terms of reference and that the concept design being prepared could restrict any future architect design. A budget had been agreed to get an initial planning application prepared. It was noted that the current Memorial Hall cannot be sold without consent by the village. The next meeting was due to be held on 23rd April but due to availability of participants could be delayed. However, there is urgency due to the current state of the Scout Hut and Pavilion to progress the plans.

13. Financial matters:

- i) **Allotment charge:** It was agreed to charge £60 for this year.
- ii) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Section 1:** The meeting agreed that Rode Parish Council complied with all the accounting statements in Section 1 of the AGAR form.
- iii) **Payments:** The following payments were agreed:

SALC (training)	£25.00
Glasdon (waste bin)	£86.34
Frome Printing/P Travis (bus timetables)	£160.00
J H Jones	£809.99
John Osborne (bench)	£274.99
Clerk Salary	£259.31
HMRC PAYE	£64.60
H Williams (sign and whisky for Speedwatch retiree)	£56.34

14. Any other business: The Chair asked if anyone was willing to take on Chairmanship at the Annual Meeting for the coming year. He said he could continue for one more year but would need to hand over some duties to other members of the Parish Council.

15. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 13th May at 7.30pm.** This meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting starting at **7.00pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed

Date

Print

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