

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 13th MAY 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), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr J McAuliffe (JM) and Cllr Pat Restorick (PR).

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, Cllr Adam Boyden (County Councillor).

1. Parishioners Participation: No Parishioners present for meeting

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

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th April were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. County Councillor's report:

Cllr Adam Boyden reported that the Somerset Planning Committee had deferred the decision on the solar farm (2023/2173/FUL) for three months. Low Carbon had been asked to reconsider the access along Monkley Lane and to consider reducing the size of the solar farm to remove some areas close to Rode and the listed buildings. The Planning Committee were also to make a site visit to see for themselves the area for the planning application. It was not known if Low Carbon would be making any changes as there was no obligation to do so. Cllr Boyden agreed to ask Low Carbon to contact Rode Parish Council to discuss any possible amendments. The meeting discussed whether it should engage with Low Carbon and whether further consultation with residents should be undertaken. It was agreed that initial contact should be made to see if Low Carbon are willing to make any amendments to the planning application.

He reported that the Farleigh swimming area had been added to the DEFRA water monitoring sites and this would put pressure on Wessex Water to improve the water quality.

The issue regarding the new licence for The Mill was still ongoing.

6. Actions from previous meeting:

i. Bench on Lower Street: The new bench had been installed and thanks were given to JB for purchasing and installing it.

ii. Paths at playing field: The new path was almost complete and thanks were expressed to Grant Slade and Mike Moore who had installed the new path and gate. The cost had come in under budget and a request had been made for the Parish Council (PC) to donate the difference to seed fund the Villag Day in July. The meeting agreed to make a donation.

iii. The Mill: AP was to discuss with Grant Slade before going back to Phil Wake to seek clarification on what the new licence covered.

iv. Drainage: CALM Engineering were still to complete the work around Crooked Lane. JB reported that he had attended a flood meeting in Frome and this had turned out to have a wider scope than anticipated. It was about parishes setting up Neighbourhood Emergency Plans (which

would also cover flooding). Rode does not have an Emergency Plan and he agreed to draw up a draft for further discussion by the PC.

7. Climate Change Group:

It had been agreed to defer the Repair Café to September, and volunteers to help were still being sought. JM reported that a webinar with Transition Bath had been very good, although not well attended and this was to be repeated in September. A new Chair was still being sought for the Group.

8. Highways issues:

i) Autospeedwatch: Statistics were still being kept which showed a frightening number of speeding vehicles going up the Bradford Road, with a considerable number of repeat offenders. JB had contacted Ashley Reay to try and see what action could be taken with all these statistics. Discussions were held over who to approach to get some action taken over these data, should the new Police Commissioner or Somerset Highways or Police be contacted. Gathering the data alone was not beneficial some action was required.

ii) Speed Limit in Rode: The Chair reported that Somerset Highways had informed him that the new 20mph speed limit and extension of the 30mph limit on the A361 should be done in late July.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

None

ii) Somerset decisions:

2023/2103/FUL: Erection of 2no. semi-detached houses – 4 The Mead. Refused.

2024/0365/TCA: Walnut tree, reduce crown by 1-2m – Mayfield Mill, 4A High Street. Approved.

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. Approved.

2024/0421/CLE: Application for an existing lawful development certificate – Slodbrook Farm, Rode Common. Approved.

2024/0356/HSE and 2024/0357/LBC: Works in association with the conversion of 2010 outbuilding (garage) to annex accommodation to include breach of rear boundary wall to install pedestrian gate – Mayfield House, 4 High Street. Approved.

iii) Other

2023/2183/FUL: Application for photovoltaic (solar farm) on land south and east of Rode (discussed under minute 5).

10. Footpaths: The local Rights of Way Officer, Clare Haskins, had met the Chair to discuss the re-routing of path 13/1. It had been agreed to reroute this path to avoid it coming out on the A361 in a dangerous place and it would now be rerouted round the Church Farm estate with Andy Fussell's agreement.

The other path discussed with Clare Haskins was the path from the Church Farm estate to the Playing Field. This was across Andy Fussell's land and he was reluctant to make this an official public footpath and wanted to leave it as a permissive path. The meeting agreed that it should be redesignated as a public footpath as this would be a more permanent solution.

Rights of Way maintenance questionnaire had been received for Somerset with the aim of helping Parish Councils put together a tool kit for footpath maintenance. The Clerk agreed to complete.

11. Neighbourhood Plan: AP had just circulated a brief to consult Context Planning to look at the current Neighbourhood Plan. Those present agreed to review the brief and comment. AP would then approach Context and the meeting agreed an initial budget of £1,000 to progress this review.

12. Buses: There was a need to encourage use and PT reported that stickers for residents to display were being prepared. Somerset had no spare funding to help support buses. The plea was please use the buses.

13. Any other business:

a) Tree on The Mead: It was reported that a tree was growing over a garden in The Mead, this would be investigated to see if it was on Parish Council land.

b) Stones on Marsh Road: It was reported that some stones had been put on the edge of the road and it was thought these were on Council land.

14. Financial matters:

i) Insurance premium: The meeting agreed to remain with Clear Insurance Management (renamed BHIP) for the coming year.

ii) Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Section 2: The meeting agreed that Rode Parish Council complied. The internal audit would be completed.

iii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

J H Jones (grass cutting)	£809.99
Jonathan Bowler (bench)	£350.00
Clerk Salary	£259.31
HMRC PAYE	£64.60
Grant Slade (materials for new path)	£752.09
H Williams (payment to Somerset for street lights)	£2,590.02
Clear Councils (insurance)	£795.15

15. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 3rd June at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed

Date

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Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council