

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 8th JULY 2024 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Moira Punt (MP), Cllr Peter Travis (PT) and Cllr Pat Restorick (PR).

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

1. Parishioners Participation: No Parishioners present.

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

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd June were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. County Councillor's report: Cllr Dawn Denton reported that the speeding on the A361 was not a Somerset issue but a Police one. It was not possible to put up the SID on the A361 near Church Farm as this was not an approved site, also there was no straight 200m on which to put it. It might be possible to do something through the local LCN. There had been no response from National Highways regarding the slip road onto the A36, maybe painting yellow lines or 'No parking' could be done but approval should be sought.

She said that there was no update on expanding the Conservation Area and also CALM was still to action the outstanding drainage works. She said she was waiting to hear from the Fire Authority regarding the possibility of coming along to brief the village, she would send this to Jonathan Bowler when she had it.

6. Highways issues:

- i. **Street Lights:** The Clerk reported that the work to enable the turn-off of the lights at midnight should start during w/c 15th July.
- ii. **Fingerpost on Straight Lane:** The Clerk had had a quote to repair the sign but it was agreed this could be wasted money as it could be hit again. To move the post would be too difficult due to the base it was in. It was agreed that signing to Rudge was not important at this location and to grind off the remaining part of the finger should be undertaken.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Church Lane and Church Farm paths:** There was no update on the status of the Management Committee at Church Farm and responsibilities for the path from there to the playing field. The path on Church Lane should be cut by Somerset as it is on a bus route. However, there was continued concern over its width which has become ever smaller. Whether the vegetation could be drastically cut back was questioned.
- ii. **The Mill:** It was reported that Cllr A Pickett had spoken to the manager at The Mill and an update would be sought.

- iii. **Bus shelter at The Bell:** There was no update on this.
- iv. **Grass cutting of verges on junctions:** The Clerk had contacted Somerset regarding this but cutting had not been done. Cllr Denton agreed to chase this up. [Clerk's Note: This grass cutting has been completed.]
- v. **Mirror on Straight Lane junctions:** There had been a request for a mirror to be put up at the Parkgate Lane junction. It was reported that Somerset's policy was not to install these due to breakages and glass on roads.
- vi. **Hoedowns:** Cllr Bowler would be chased up on contact with Clive Harrington.

8. Planning:

i) New applications:

2023/2183/FUL: 14-day re-consultation on photovoltaic farm south east of Bradford Road: The Parish Council had submitted further rejections to this application as the size had hardly been reduced at all and the proposed new access was of concern. There was disappointment that attempts to engage with Low Carbon had only achieved a Zoom call with agreement that Low Carbon would look at the site again and the Field Acquisition team would look at it; but nothing had been changed by Low Carbon following this call. The Chair agreed to (virtually) attend the hearing on 11th July. [Clerk's Note: The application was approved by Somerset Planning at the hearing]

2024/1144/TCA: Horse chestnut – reduce height and lateral branches by 2m. Langham House. No objections.

2024/1146/TCA: Reduce apple tree, remove dead and decaying branches from plum tree, fell variegated Norway maple and replace. 73 High Street. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

None.

9. Footpaths:

i) **Path 13/1 rerouting:** Cllr Denton agreed to pursue this with Somerset to see if costs could be met by them due to safety concerns.

ii) **Church Farm path:** Cllr Pickett was to check the legal status of permissive paths under S106 agreements.

iii) **General:** The keeping all paths clear and walkable was briefly discussed as the PC could take on more responsibility as Somerset was trying to reduce costs. The Clerk would speak to the footpath officers in Rode to see if anything was required.

10. Neighbourhood Plan: Still awaiting response from Context Planning.

11. Buses: The recent closure of Rode bridge had resulted in buses taking longer to go to and from Bath but First Bus had continued to run the service through Rode and thanks were given to them for doing this. The problems associated with road closures had been highlighted to Somerset.

PT reported that following meetings with First Bus the new September timetable would result in three buses to and from Bath being deleted from the service. These would be off-peak buses. Additionally, the D2X was to stop calling at Beckington but include Frome Commerce Industrial Park. He added that First Bus had been surprised to hear today that the A36 would be closed near Limpley Stoke for at least 6 months from August. It was noted that this would not directly affect the D2 but increased traffic through the villages could result in longer journey times. Some surprise was expressed that there had until now been no notification of this closure.

12. New village hall: The new plan for the new village hall had been agreed and this was to go forward to Somerset Planning for an initial review to ensure there were no major concerns. There was a requirement that the project should remain a charity to reduce any future tax. It had been highlighted that there should be small projects involved to help with funding, e.g. installation of electric charging points for cars. No further meetings were planned until end of August.

13. Financial matters:

i) **New Model Financial Regulations for Local Councils:** The meeting agreed the Clerk should make the required amendments to the regulations to agree with Rode PC practices and circulate to all for agreement as Rode Parish Council's at the next meeting.

ii) **Assets:** The revised asset register (June 2024) was approved.

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

S Whitehead (path clearance)	£120.00
J H Jones (grass cutting)	£809.99
Clerk Salary (plus internet protection)	£314.30
HMRC PAYE	£64.60

15. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 5th August at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Date

Print

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