

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 5th AUGUST 2024 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk and Cllr Dawn Denton (Somerset Councillor).

1. Parishioners Participation: No Parishioners present.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr A Pickett and Cllr A Boyden (Somerset Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th July were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Somerset Councillor's report: Cllr Dawn Denton said that National Highways was seeking money for improvements on the A36 for 2025-2030 and that the slip road from Rode onto the A36 could be part of this work. She reported that the Fire officers were willing to give a presentation to councils and it was agreed that this should be given to the LCN. She said that she was still waiting to hear when CALM was going to finish the drainage work in Rode. It was agreed that Somerset should chase this up as the work had been agreed to be carried out this year.

6. Highways issues:

- i. SID and Autospeedwatch:** The SID on Bradford Road had shown that over the last month it had a positive effect in reducing vehicle speeds. The Autospeedwatch device although gathering data on speeds had not had the same effect on reducing speeds. It was agreed to keep the SID on Bradford Road and to install the Autospeedwatch device on Rode Hill to gather data.
- ii. Street Lights:** The Clerk reported that the street lights were now going off at midnight except on the through roads.
- iii. 20mph speed limit:** The Chair reported that he had just heard from Sara Davis (Somerset Highways) that the work had been delayed and should be done in September/October. The 30mph limit would also be extended on the A361 at the same time.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. The Mill:** It was reported that Somerset had clarified that the condition Rode PC had been concerned about had not been granted to The Mill.
- ii. Bus shelter at The Bell:** It had been clarified that the roof of the shelter was concrete and not asbestos and therefore cutting back and removal of the ivy and brambles could now take place.
- iii. Grass cutting of verges on junctions:** The Clerk had received information from Somerset which verges should be cut. However, only A and B roads received two cuts a year and all other roads a single cut. A meeting was to take place regarding some other areas which were cut and the Clerk agreed to raise the necessity to cut junctions between A and B roads with unclassified roads so visibility was maintained.

iv. **Hoedowns:** JB said he still had to speak to Clive Harrington and agreed to get quotes for future clearances from him, both time and cost information.

8. Planning:

i) New applications:

2024/1078/FUL: Erection of 3no. dwelling houses and creation of new access (resubmission of 2022/2374/FUL) – The Bell, Frome Road. This application along with the original application which had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate was for construction outside the village development boundary and it was agreed to object to this. The proposed access from Church Lane was also on a blind corner.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2023/2183/FUL: 14-day re-consultation on photovoltaic farm south east of Bradford Road. Approved. The Parish Council (PC) was very disappointed with this decision considering the very minor change that had been made to the original submission. Engagement by Low Carbon with the PC had been very poor. It was noted that a change of Conservation Officer prior to the Planning meeting had resulted in a sudden withdrawal of any objections.

It was agreed that the PC would approach Nikki White at Somerset to ensure that ‘no HGV’ signs were installed at the entrance to Monkley Lane as part of the traffic management plan for the solar farm.

2024/1144/TCA: Horse chestnut – reduce height and lateral branches by 2m. Langham House. Approved.

2024/1146/TCA: Reduce apple tree, remove dead and decaying branches from plum tree, fell variegated Norway maple and replace. 73 High Street. Approved.

2024/0871/HSE: Proposed single storey side extension – 1A Lower Street. Approved.

2022/1516/OUT: Application for Outline Planning Permission for residential development with all matters reserved save for details of access – Land to rear of 41A Church Lane. Access approved. Following discussion on this approval it was agreed that the PC should challenge this approval as Somerset had only a few months ago rejected any development on this land as part of its review of proposed sites to meet the 505-house shortfall under LPP2. This land was also outside the village development boundary.

9. Footpaths:

i) **Path 13/1 rerouting:** Cllr Denton reported she was still waiting from Somerset.

ii) **Church Farm path:** It was still not known if the Management Committee had been formed at Church Farm and if so whether it covered all of this path’s maintenance.

10. Buses: The new timetable would come into effect on Sunday 1st September and would be printed as soon as the schedule was known. The closure of the A36 could cause some delays to services due to extra traffic on the bus route. It was noted that still no real information on this major road closure had been circulated or posted on the road.

11. 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. The Charitable Organisation status for the new hall was to be set up and the PC had already agreed initial funding for this, it would also include the playing field. The Rode Park Fest had raised considerable money to help support this project and thanks were given to all those who had worked to make this a successful afternoon and evening.

12. Village waste bins: Somerset will be charging for the emptying of the waste and dog waste bins from April 2025 and the Clerk had checked the number and location of the bins as the charge would be based on the number and frequency of emptying. It was reported that although the current contractor had claimed to empty them once a week this was not happening and collection every 2 weeks should be sufficient. The Clerk would revert to Somerset.

13. Financial matters:

i) New Model Financial Regulations for Local Councils: The meeting agreed the revised regulations were acceptable to Rode PC and with minor amendments these were endorsed.

ii) Payments: The following payments were agreed:

J H Jones (grass cutting)	£809.99
Clerk Salary	£250.31
HMRC PAYE	£64.60

14. Any other business: JB confirmed he was working on an Emergency Plan for the village and would bring a draft to the October meeting for consideration.

15. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 9th September at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed

Date

Print

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