

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

ClIr Andy Pickett (AP) – In the Chair, ClIr Ann Edney (AE), ClIr Moira Punt (MP), ClIr Peter Travis (PT), and ClIr Jim McAuliffe (JM).

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, ClIr Adam Boyden (Somerset Councillor) and 6 Parishioners.

1. Parishioners Participation: The issue regarding the size of the Somerset flag was raised. The current flag is small and would require halliards purchasing if it is to be flown from the flagpole. The Parish Council was asked to make a decision.

Concern was expressed over the Council's approval for outline planning to build on the site behind 41A Church Lane. The house adjacent to any development on Clay Lane had had to lower its foundations by six feet in order to blend in with the other houses on Clay Lane. Should this not be required on the new development then they would tower over the other houses. It was reported that Rode Parish Council (PC) had raised concerns over the way approval had been granted for this development. However, legal advice had said that a judicial review would be very expensive and would probably fail to change the approval. The PC was to write again to the Planning Department regarding its concerns on this approval.

Concerns were also put forward regarding the appeal against the rejection of the two houses on The Mead and the PC was asked to continue to express its opposition to the Planning Inspectorate.

There had been little news regarding the new village hall and the PC was asked to push for information on the progress of this project to be widely shared with the village. A public meeting should be arranged.

Members were requested to look at the Government's proposed revisions to the NPPF especially Chapter 3 paragraphs 3 to 12 to see if this would impact on Rode.

2. Apologies for absence: ClIr M Salmon, ClIr P Restorick, ClIr J Bowler and ClIr D Denton (Somerset Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th August were proposed for approval by AE and seconded by PT and approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Somerset Councillor's report: It was noted that a meeting was planned on 11th September to discuss drainage issues and hopefully the work in Rode will be finished.

6. Highways issues:

i. **SID and Autospeedwatch:** John Flindall reported that SID on Bradford Road continued to show it was keeping speeds down. He said the Autospeedwatch device had now been installed on Rode Hill and although speeding was being recorded the figures were only slightly higher than when the SID is in position.

ii. **Enhanced Highway Maintenance Pilot:** The daily cost of this was fairly high, however, it would give Rode PC more control over verge clearing, sign cleaning etc. and might be of value. It

would be good to use this along with another local Council but it would also require some level of management by the PC. To be considered when setting Precept.

iii. **Signs near Bradford Road/Rode Hill:** The signs, especially coming from Bradford required cleaning and vegetation clearing, and some signs had partially fallen over. This would be reported to Somerset Highways.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

- i. **Bus shelter at The Bell:** Still to be cleared.
- ii. **Hoedowns:** Contact to be made with Clive Harrington.

8. Climate Group: JM said that no one had yet come forward to Chair the Group. Monthly newsletter was being sent to members. The repair café had yet to get off the ground as currently not enough 'repairers' had volunteered.

The meeting agreed to consider other areas in the village that could be rewilded following the success of the area by the Memorial Hall. It was agreed to purchase more annual wildflower seeds for this area for sowing next spring.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2022/2103/FUL (appeal 3347836): Erection of 2no semi-detached houses – 4 The Mead. The rejection of this planning application has gone to the Planning Inspectorate and it was agreed that the PC would send a letter to enforce its rejection of this application to the Planning Inspectorate. It was agreed that there was no real case to overturn Somerset's refusal of the application.

2024/1528/TCA: Fell sycamore and hazel, reduce bullace laterally by 3m and vertically by 1m, silver birch crown raise to 5m and target prune crown to reduce mass by 30% - 7 Lower Street. Approved.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2024/1078/FUL: Erection of 3no. dwelling houses and creation of new access (resubmission of 2022/2374/FUL) – The Bell, Frome Road. Rejected.

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. The meeting discussed this and agreed to send a letter to Somerset outlining the PC's continued concerns over the decision. Cllr Boyden agreed to outline concerns over the way the decision had been made to Somerset.

9. Footpaths:

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

ii) **Church Farm path:** This path was currently being kept clear by residents of Church Farm. However, it was still not known if a Management Committee had been set up by the residents of Church Farm, although the scope of this would only cover the initial part of this path from Church Farm. Andy Fussell was still to be contacted regarding making this a public footpath and not a permissive path.

An approach had been received from Leslie Stather (Somerset Ramblers Area Footpath Officer) to talk about our footpaths. It was agreed a meeting with him should be arranged.

10. Buses: The new timetable came into effect on Sunday 1st September and Councillors were thanked for distributing these. PT said the new service had lost some buses but to date no complaints had been received. He also reported that Anna Sabine had used buses as her first question in the Commons and Sara Dyke had a private members' bill pushing for minimum services for rural communities to connect villages with places of employment and education. The Buses Bill to be

launched in the Commons could allow local authorities to take control of buses and BANES might use this to run services originating in Bath such as the D2.
He added the A36 closure had surprisingly had little effect on the bus services, apart from some overcrowding after Rode into Bath.

11. New village hall: Plans were to go for screening approval by Somerset. Valuation of the Memorial Hall was to be carried out and again screening for development here was to be done.

12. Neighbourhood Plan: AP agreed to chase Context Planning on this. It was noted that possibly any review might have to include sites for further development which would probably involve a village referendum.

13. Financial matters

Payments: The following payments were agreed:

J H Jones (grass cutting)	£809.99
SALC Subscription	£338.65
Autospeedwatch	£48.69
P Travis (bus timetable printing)	£165.00
Clerk Salary	£271.73
HMRC PAYE	£64.60

14. Any other business: JM said that he had been approached regarding the closeness of the football goal to properties in The Old Brewery. It was agreed that the playing field should purchase a new net and put up to prevent balls going into these properties.

15. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 14th October at 7.30pm.**

It was noted the November meeting would start at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed

Date

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