

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

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Andy Pickett (AP) – In the Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Moira Punt (MP), Cllr P Restorick (PR), Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB) and Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM)

In attendance: H Williams – Clerk

1. Parishioners Participation: None present.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr M Salmon, Cllr P Travis; Cllr D Denton and Cllr A Boyden (Somerset Councillors)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th November, proposed by AE, seconded by PR were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Highways issues:

i. **SID and Autospeedwatch:** John Flindall had sent in updated report which showed the majority of drivers were keeping to the speed limit up Rode Hill last month. Due to the persistent dull weather in early November the Autospeedwatch device had stopped working. It was agreed JB would consult with the manufacturers regarding use of data gathered and an approach to the Police would be considered in an attempt to get the data gathered used to combat speeding.

ii. **Pavements:** The pavement on Lower Street and over Rode Bridge had been reported to Somerset but no action had yet been taken.

6. Somerset Councillor's report: Funding for the slip road onto the A36 could be announced before the end of the year. Cllr Denton was still chasing Somerset on the Conservation Area. The Clerk agreed to circulate the complete report.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

i. **Drainage:** It was reported that no update had been received on when the work on Crooked Lane/Straight Lane would be done. JM reported that he had met with Paul Elliston from Somerset Council and they had inspected the holding ponds on Seymour Court Farm. These were overgrown but not full even after a period of heavy rain. Somerset did not know these were its responsibility but were not aware. (see Emergency Planning item 12 below)

ii. **Hoedowns:** JB had spoken with Clive Harrington who agreed he owed one day cleaning in Rode. However, he did not currently have the manpower to clean up but could collect any rubbish/leaves etc. if gathered up by residents. It was agreed to ask him if he could schedule in manpower to do all the clean up around April next year.

iii. **Grit bins:** The Clerk reported that having notified Somerset in late summer that the bin on the High Street/Church Lane was empty this had still not been filled. He had chased this up but it was still unfilled. It was agreed that should this remain unfilled for much longer Andy Fussell could be approached to fill it.

8. Footpaths: Cllr Denton and Cllr Boyden were looking at a way forward on these. Some paperwork on the Church Farm development had been found and this would be reviewed by AP and JM.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2024/2079/TCA: Apple tree reduce height and spread by up to 3m; magnolia reduce height by up to 3m – 17 High Street. No objections.

2024/2119/HSE: Demolition of an existing attached single storey garage and utility room. Construction of a new single storey extension. New gateway and associated drive works – 23 Lower Street. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2024/0327/HSE and 2024/0328/LBC: Extension to outbuilding to form an annex (retrospective) – The Old Coach House, 1A Rode Hill. Approved

2024/1579/CLP: Change windows, replacement of patio doors, installation of new roof with skylight from porch to garage replacing existing timber rafter with RSJ steel – 44 Church Lane. Approved.

iii) Other planning matters:

It was noted that the Government was keen to get housebuilding going and planning would favour developers. However, this might not impact too much on Rode provided we had clear policies in place regarding development.

10. New village hall: AP agreed to chase this up with Graham Jacobs and hoped there would be a meeting of all the groups in January 2025 to progress this.

11. Conservation Plan and Neighbourhood Plan: AP had requested Context Planning to look at a combined approach for these plans. It was important that the Neighbourhood Plan was reviewed as in its current state it was becoming out of date. To have these plans in place will go a long way to protecting the village in the future.

12. Emergency Policy for Rode: This is still being put together and it was agreed that the draft would also be sent to Paul Elliston at Somerset for his views on flooding, it should also be shared with the fire service.

13. Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation: Cllr Denton's report had outlined the steps being taken in this consultation. There was concern that as Frome North was one of the lower populated areas it could be more likely to lose a Somerset Councillor. It was agreed to comment on how diverse the area was and also its large geographic area. Comment would also be made regarding the population figures which appeared low. The Clerk would draft a response for agreement.

14. Any Other Business:

- i. **Service of 9 lessons and carols:** A request was made for a Councillor to take a reading at the service.
- ii. **Mince Pies:** Thanks were given to Pat and Ann for bringing mince pies to the meeting.

15. Financial matters:

- i. **Precept:** The figure of £36,000 was confirmed as the level required for 2025/26.
- ii. **Payments:** The following payments were agreed:

J Flindall (SID)	£2.49
Somerset Association of Local Councils (training)	£35.00
J H Jones (grass cutting)	£809.99
Clerk Salary	£276.96
HMRC PAYE	£67.40

16. Date of next meeting:

The meeting dates for 2025 were agreed.

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 13th January at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council