

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30 pm**

UNCONFIRMED

Present:

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

In attendance: H Williams – Clerk and Cllr Adam Boyden (Somerset Councillor)

1. Parishioners Participation: None present.

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

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th December, proposed by PR and seconded by AE were approved.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. Highways issues:

The Autospeedwatch device had had limited recordings recently due to the cloudy weather. It was agreed not to continue the contract due to data not being used by the police.

6. Somerset Councillor's report: A call by Somerset Council for sites for development, both residential and for commercial and community use was opening with a closing date of 24 February. There was a shortfall in projected house building in Somerset and after assessment the new sites would form part of the Local Plan from 2029.

It was reported that as part of the Boundary Commission consultation, the number of Councillors covering Frome North could be cut to one and the area redefined to include an increased number of rural parish councils (renamed North East Somerset) and lose part of Frome.

There were moves for Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset to form a 'Heart of Wessex' Combined Authority with a mayor having overall control. This could be of benefit as it could result in increased income for each still separate Council.

7. Actions from previous meeting:

i. **Hoedowns:** JB agreed to approach Clive Harrington to see what his manpower requirements would be for him to carry out the street clean in Rode. It could be that the Parish Council (PC) enters into a contract for future village cleans. The concerns over the footpath of Church Lane near The Bell had been raised and it was agreed that JM would approach Adam Rendell of Treecycle to see if he could help here and in the future. The PC agreed to possibly fund this.

ii. **Grit bins:** The Clerk reported that although this had been raised to a priority item and repeated attempts to get it filled, Somerset still had to refill the bin at the junction of High Street and Church Lane.

iii. **Rewilding:** The PC agreed that the area at the top of Marsh Road should be rewilded. Although this would not look good for a few months it was agreed that up to £500 could be spent on preparing the area and sowing seed. It was noted that re-seeding of the area by the Memorial Hall would be required in a couple of years to replenish the annual flowers.

8. Footpaths: AP and JM still had to review paperwork regarding the path from Church Farm to the playing field. There were ongoing concerns over its maintenance and whether legally the agreements were being followed.

The footpath 13/1 was discussed and it was agreed that the Chair would approach Cllr Denton to see if Andy Fussell could complete the form to dedicate a new path across the corner of his field.

It was agreed that the Chair would contact Steve Eyles regarding signage to prevent dogs going off the path onto the playing field.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2024/2292/HSE: Two storey extension to form garage and new bedroom – 13 The Mead. No objections.

ii) Somerset decisions:

2024/1955/TCA: Prune magnolia – 9 High Street. Approved

2024/1831/HSE: Conversion of existing garage and re-routing garden passageway. Loft conversion with new staircase, dormer window, replace front and rear windows and add rooflight. Re-locate front door with canopy porch – 3 Stable Close. Approved

2024/1982/HSE: Erection of single storey extensions, side canopy, front porch and front driveway – 9 Marsh Road. Approved.

2024/1727/FUL: Erection of a triple bay garage with storage space above and partial change of use of land to residential – Slodbrook Farm, Rode Common. Approved.

2024/2097/TCA: Reduce apple tree by height up to 3m and spread by up to 3m; reduce magnolia by height up to 3m – 17 High Street. Approved.

10. Buses: The recent closure of Rode Bridge and the High Street had caused buses to be cancelled through Rode and there was some concern that no work was carried out on Rode Bridge and the work on the High Street was too small to require a road closure. This had been relayed back to Somerset. It had also highlighted the difficulty in getting real time information on the bus services. It was thought this could be improved as real time information on trains was available.

PT informed the meeting that there would be a new bus timetable starting in April but currently no details were available.

11. New village hall: AP had spoken to Graham Jacobs and a meeting of the Committee should take place before the end of January. It was agreed that both the new hall and development of the existing hall should be registered with Somerset before 24th February (see minute 6).

12. Conservation Plan and Neighbourhood Plan: The concerns raised over housing shortages highlighted the requirement to get the Neighbourhood Plan up to date and to extend the Conservation area. It is possible the Conservation area could carry more weight and AP agreed to approach Context Planning to get this moving.

13. Emergency Policy for Rode: This was deferred to the February meeting

14. Any Other Business:

i) Community Flood Action Fund: JM circulated information on potential application for funding (between £3,000 and £20,000) for improving resistance to flooding. A recent Environment Agency report indicated that over 50 properties in Rode were at high risk of flooding. Previous

surveys by Calm Engineering had identified projects around Rode which would help reduce potential flooding. The PC agreed Calm Engineering should be consulted over possible funded projects and an application be put forward. Up to £500 was agreed to fund any necessary work with Calm Engineering. There was also a need to get landowner approval for any possible work on their land.

15. Financial matters:

- i. **Precept:** The figure of £36,000 was confirmed as the level required for 2025/26.
- ii. **Insurance claim:** The Clerk reported the claim for repairing the Memorial Hall wall had been paid.

iii. **Payments:** The following payments were agreed:

Community Heartbeat Trust (new pads)	£76.74
JLJS Construction	£1,4920.00
Zonkey	£660.00
Hardington Vale PCC	£800.00
Rode Chapel	£350.00
Citizens Advice Somerset	£100.00
Mendip Community Transport	£200.00
Clerk Salary	£270.16
HMRC PAYE	£67.40
J H Jones and sons	£809.99

16. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on: **Monday 10th February at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed

Date

Print

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