

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT RODE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL ON  
TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30pm**

---

**UNCONFIRMED**

**Present:**

Cllr P Travis – Chair (PT) Cllr T Morrow (TM) Cllr P Banwell (PB) Cllr A Edney (AE) Cllr P Restorick (PR)  
Cllr A Hooker (AH) Cllr Elaine Butler (EB) Cllr Steve Eyles (SE)

**In attendance:** Cllr Linda Oliver – County Councillor, Cllr Barbi Lund – District Councillor 5 members of the public

**1. Public Participation:**

**Christmas tree lights** a parishioner informed the meeting that the cable to the lights had got damaged and that he had safely repaired it but the PC would need to buy a new one for next year.

**Village halls** a parishioner enquired whether one good hall could replace the current village hall, scout hut and playing field hall as a better option to the current situation. The Chair pointed out this issue had been raised in the development of Rode's Neighbourhood Plan and there was little enthusiasm for it at the time. It was suggested that the parishioner consult with organisations who would be affected and see if a feasible proposal could be developed.

**Traffic Action Group (TAG)** raised queried the progress on the 'village gates' and were informed that Autograph Homes had agreed to fund these and be located around where the new 30mph sign would go, subject to approval by Somerset Highways. The PC along with TAG members would visit the location on the A361.

Additional sites were proposed by TAG for gathering speed data: High Street (near green), Church Lane, Lower Street and Marsh Road are planned for the next six months; however there was concern that past data having been sent to Somerset was getting lost. Cllr Oliver said that checks would need to be carried out on the suitability of locating the SIDs at the additional sites. It was agreed that any data collected should be focussed on supporting a specific traffic issue; therefore it was agreed the TAG team would meet with the representatives of the PC and discuss and agree what the priority issues are.

TAG agreed to gather all accident data to back up the replacement of the Give Way sign on Bradford Road with a Stop sign.

**2. Apologies for absence:** None

**3. Councillor's Declarations of Interests in Items on Agenda:** EB had interest on planning application 2019/2867/TCA

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019:** The minutes were approved with the following amendments: Minute 1 Bradford Road, line 2 'Mendip' to read 'Highways'; Minute 7 line 1 delete 'Development', line 3 add 'Somerset' before 'Climate' and add 'in the new year' after 'postponed', and were signed by the Chair as a true record.

**5. Report from County Councillor:**

**Rode bridge:** Cllr Oliver agreed to check if Somerset Highways had yet surveyed traffic using Rode Bridge and collected data on the weight of vehicles going over the bridge

**Church Farm Development:** the access roads have been checked and these are in line with the Highways plan.

**Repeater signs for the 30 mph:** roundels have been put on road but signs still required in High Street

**6. Report from District Councillor:**

Somerset Climate and Ecological Emergency Group – the Mendip consultation will take place in Shepton Mallet on 15 February between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

**7. Actions from the previous meeting:**

- i. **Riverside walk signs:** signs had been made and contact details would be further amended

- ii. **Quote for trees in The Mead:** contractor has now quoted to reduce height of beech and remove some branches from chestnut however PC asked for another quote, PB agreed to contact tree surgeon.
- iii. **War memorial:** addition of missing name – agreed to carry over to next meeting
- iv. **Lengthsman PL Insurance** is required. Chair agreed to liaise with other parishes.
- v. **Congratulate head of Rode School:** letter written and response from Head received.
- vi. **Buses update:** Chair reported that he and Lucy Travis would be attending meeting with bus companies and would report back at the next meeting.
- vii. **Mendip Local Plan Pt 2:** the inspector had issued an interim report; there is concern that the requirement for over 500 extra houses had been narrowed to NE Mendip excluding Frome. The report anticipated that 400 of these would be on Mendip land round Radstock and Midsummer Norton. The PC said the 500 houses should be across all of Mendip not just NE Mendip and the PC would continue to work with other affected local councils. No decision was likely until the new year.

## **8. Autograph Homes**

It was reported that sales were going well. However, Autograph reported they were currently unable to sell the shared ownership properties even after expanding the area to include all of Mendip. They were keen to broaden this to beyond Mendip to attract buyers. The PC suggested some promotion of shared ownership could be done on the Rode Village Facebook site.

## **9. VE Day celebrations**

Letter had been received from ssafa (formerly Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) outlining plans for celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day over 8-10 May 2020. It was agreed to discuss at January meeting.

## **10. Planning matters**

### **a. New applications:**

- i. **2019/2501/TCA** Reduce height of apple tree – Leave to Planning Officer
- ii. **2019/2726/LBC** Installation of gas supply – Leave to Planning Officer
- iii. **2019/2784/TCA** Fell tree and remove stump – Leave to Planning Officer
- iv. **2019/2821/HSE** Demolition of garage and porch and erection of new porch and two storey rear extension – objections were raised over proposed ground floor window that would look directly over garden belonging to a neighbour and also to note the requirement to keep a right of way access to the two adjacent houses. Proposal would change amenity of properties; PC agreed window should be taken off plan and would object to Mendip.
- v. **2019/2867/TCA** Reduce height of birch tree – Leave to Planning Officer

### **b. Mendip decisions:**

- i. **2019/0620/REM** Approved with conditions
- ii. **2015/1431/OTS** Approved with conditions
- iii. **2019/2497/TCA** Approved with conditions
- iv. **2019/2481/TCA** Approved with conditions

### **c. Other planning matters**

It was reported that Autograph plan to cut down an oak tree on the Church Farm site. It was agreed a meeting with Autograph would take place to discuss this issue.

## **11. Consultation on strengthening police powers on unauthorised encampments**

Consultation had been received from NALC on this and it was agreed the full document would be circulated to the PC for discussion at the next meeting. Berkley had discussed this and their responses would be circulated for information.

## **12. Financial matters**

(Note: the full month's accounts were not available due to new Parish Clerk not having access at present)  
It was agreed the Clerk should be paid in accordance with the relevant rate.

## **13. Other matters**

A parishioner had complained about the condition of the path at the top of Rockabella following the construction of the new drive, SE agreed to investigate.

The issue of emptying dog bins was raised and Cllr Lund would see if a policy was in place to ensure regular emptying without PC having to make contact.

There was still a lack of trees on Fussell's embankment on Parkgate Lane and A361. The Chair would take this up with Andy Fussell.

## **14. Items for next agenda / Items to Report:**

- i Large Beech Tree in The Mead:** to review quotes.
- ii VE day 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations:** to discuss possible Rode activities
- iii NALC consultation:** to agree PC responses

The Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at **7.30pm**