

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT RODE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL ON
TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 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: Hugh Williams – Clerk Cllr Barbi Lund – District Councillor 2 members of the public

1. Public Participation:

Neighbourhood Plan a parishioner raised concerns over possible development of Merfield and other areas in the village as there was uncertainty over the standing of the Rode Neighbourhood Plan now it was over 2 years old; the significance of the plan could be weakened by time. The PC would be seeking legal advice on this issue.

Speed signs on Straight Lane a parishioner wanted the 20mph limit extended up the Lane to the far side of Crooked Lane, the TAG team said that data was to be gathered over the coming weeks specifically to back this up and would be sent to Somerset Council.

Manhole covers a parishioner reported that there was concern over the state of these on the High Street and attention was required. He agreed to carry out a fuller survey along the High Street and report back to the PC so action could be taken with either the relevant water company or Somerset Council.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Linda Oliver – County Councillor

3. Councillor's Declarations of Interests in Items on Agenda: None

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2019: The minutes were approved with the correction that 'prosed' to read 'proposed' in item 1, under TAG, 4th in line starting 'Additionally sites'

5. Matters arising: It was agreed that in item 8 Autograph Homes, the PC had also agreed that the price of the shared ownership properties could be reduced as well as Autograph seeking a wider catchment area for their sale.

A further issue over access from the Church Farm site to the village was raised. A route for a footpath to connect the site to the playing field had been proposed but it was reported that only one entrance to the playing field was allowed under the deeds and this would create a second entrance, therefore not be allowed. It was agreed that the plans, held by Mendip, for the site would be inspected and Autograph Homes would be informed of what was allowed.

6. Report from District Councillor

Dog bins: discussions had been held with the Neighbourhood Services team regarding the frequency of emptying the bins. The contractor said bins should be emptied when 75% full but did not appear to have a regular emptying programme. The contractor had suggested he was e-mailed when bins were getting full so he could work out frequency of emptying. It was agreed a 2 weekly emptying was required.

The issue of general rubbish in the bin at The Mill was raised and The Mill would be approached about installing a general bin next to the dog waste bin.

Solar streets: a company was offering to give £50 to parish councils for every house that installed solar panels provided 10 houses in each street installed panels; for a village the 'street' could be the entire village. The meeting agreed it could not promote a commercial company but suggested an article was put in The Link.

Climate Emergency Strategy meeting: for Mendip the meeting was to be on 15 February in Shepton Mallet however it was thought unlikely that many people from Rode would attend this and the Chair put forward the idea that a meeting in the village hall could be held and speakers invited to present the issues to the village. The meeting supported this idea and agreed to pay the hall hire costs. It was reported that a

climate change meeting was to be held on 27 January at the Council Offices which was open to all Parish Councils.

7. Actions from the previous meeting

- i. **Beech tree on The Mead:** the PC agreed to go ahead with the Will Pern quote and get the trees cut.
- ii. **War Memorial Name:** AH agreed to discuss this with the parishioner on how to take this forward.
- iii. **Village Gateway sign:** the possible locations had been seen as to where the gateway could go and it was agreed LO would be consulted on who should approach Somerset Council to confirm the allowed location
- iv. **Lengthsman:** no progress had been made, a possible advert in The Link was proposed.
- v. **Bus update:** a new timetable had been distributed to all houses in Rode. First were to review their timetable in April but there should be no major changes to the D2 service. There were now 32 buses a day through the village compared to 56 before the cuts, 75% of these buses were run by Faresaver. It was agreed Rode PC would congratulate Faresaver on its 40th anniversary of services.
- vi. **Rockabella path access:** a meeting had been held and there was now an agreement that extra hardcore would be placed at the top of the path to smooth out the access to Rockabella.
- vii. **Trees of Fussell's bund wall:** there trees were there but they are slow growing ones as specified by Mendip.

8. Highways issues and TAG: The installation of the small SIDs (those only recording data with no speed display) was agreed to start within 2 weeks; 3 locations were agreed for 2 weeks data collection at each location with a 4th in Marsh Road to be agreed.

There had been no progress on Bradford Road but it was reported that the lines at the Rode Hill/Bradford Road junction were now badly worn and the County Councillor would be approached to report this and propose that when repainted the Give Way could be converted to Stop, as agreed.

9. VE Day celebrations: It was agreed that the village should do something to celebrate this anniversary over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend and all the organisations in the village should be brought together to get involved in this. The PC agreed to seed fund this.

10. Planning matters

a. New applications:

- i. **2019/2850/TCA:** Reduce the height of acer and cut down plum – Leave to Planning Officer

b. Mendip decisions:

- i. **2019/2315/HSE:** Approved with conditions
- ii. **2019/2595/HSE:** Approved with conditions
- iii. **2019/2726/LBC:** Approved with conditions

c. Other planning matters

The oak tree on Church Farm had been inspected and found to be in poor condition and Mendip had also agreed to its felling.

The new housing plans under the Mendip Local Plan Pt 2 were about to go under consultation by the Inspector. There were considerable concerns over these and Rode Parish Council agreed to take legal advice on this in conjunction with 4 other local councils. The PC also agreed to take legal advice on its current Neighbourhood Plan's validity regarding housing and incursion on green spaces.

11. Consultation on strengthening police powers on unauthorised encampments

The Chair had circulated responses to this consultation after he had discussed it with other interested parties. The meeting endorsed the comments and the Clerk agreed to submit these.

12. Financial matters

The Clerk reported that TM had been added to the authorised signatories and that only 2 signatures were now required on cheques. He still had to receive the reserve account statement – none had been received since July. The following payments were agreed:

G Berry – website hosting	£151.78
P Travis – bus timetable printing	£148.00
Clerk’s salary December	£214.85
HMRC payment	£53.60
T Lynch (electricity for Christmas tree)	£25.00
Mendip Community Transport donation	£150.00
Hardington Vale – grass cut at church	£450.00
Rode Chapel	£160.00
Mendip Citizens Advice donation	£80.00

13. Other matters

- i. It was agreed that the PC website probably meet the accessibility requirements for public sector bodies.
- ii. Nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden Party could be submitted by Parish Councils and it was agreed Peter Harris would be approached to see if he was available on 19 May and willing to attend.

14. Items for next agenda / Items to Report:

- i. Dog bin emptying
- ii. Footpath from Church Farm site to village
- iii. VE celebration update
- iv. Manhole covers on High Street
- v. War memorial name

The Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Print: _____

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th February 2020 at **7.30pm**