



- iv. **Approach resident re cutting hedge back:** See Item 1.(v).
- v. **Amend Grievance Policy:** The Councillors agreed and approved the amended policy.
- vi. **Forward list of land generated by Peter Harris to new Clerk:** Clerk has received the list and it is on file.
- vii. **Request PCSO attends during road works to assess impact on village:** Completed.
- viii. **Forward details of Chair and Councillor Training:** Completed.
- ix. **Highways – request Church Lane verge is cut back:** Completed, Concern was raised for visibility at four road junctions, B3109 Bradford Road/Rode Hill crossroads, B3109 Bradford Road/A361 junction, Rode Hill/A361 junction and Parkgate Lane/Straight Lane junction. LO confirmed extra cutting is only done if there is risk. Clerk to write to Highways with accompanying photos.
- x. **Highways – request re-instatement of zig-zag lines by the school:** Carried forward. LO to follow-up
- xi. **Playing Field – Adoption of gifted S106 land:** This is ongoing. The developer and solicitors have the TP1 Land Transfer form. PB is waiting to hear from the solicitors. TM noted the plans submitted and the S106 differ. The playing field, which the Council also own, has a Declaration of Trust. It was noted the S106 land will need to have the same in place. It was queried which address the Land Registry would be sending correspondence to; PB confirmed the solicitors have the new client's address.

8. **Co-option of Councillor:** No applications have been received. Carried forward.

9. **Traffic calming - Bradford Road/Rode Hill:**

- **Update on Small Improvement Scheme:** Still in abeyance

10. **Planning matters**

a. **New applications:**

- i. **2019/1353/LBC:** Replacement of existing PVCu conservatory with contemporary, timber clad garden room extension and minor associated internal works – Shawford Farm, Shawford Lane. No objections.

b. **Mendip decisions:**

- ii. **2019/0906/HSE:** Removal of existing UPVC conservatory, front door opening moved with new door and porch, new door opening in external wall onto garden and internal alterations. The removal of existing render to the front elevation – 2 Church Lane. Approval with conditions
- iii. **2019/0500/FUL:** New steel framed, metal clad storage building – Church Farm, Parkgate Lane. Approval with conditions
- iv. **2018/2704/APP & 2018/2811/APP:** Application for approval of details reserved by conditions – Frith Farm, Bradford Rode. Approval
- v. **2019/1094/HSE:** Proposed two storey side extension – 15 The Mead. Approved with conditions
- vi. **2019/1038/HSE:** Retrospective erection of Barbeque Lodge – 8 High Street. Approval with conditions.
- vii. **2019/1212/TCA:** Work/felling trees in a CA – Christchurch House, Road Hill. Objection TPO required.
- viii. **2019/1232/TCA:** Works to tree in a Conservation Area – The Ivy House, High Street. No Objection.

c. **Other planning matters:**

Withdrawn Application:

- i. **2019/1039/LBC:** Retrospective erection of Barbeque Lodge – 8 High Street

11. **Highway issues & TAG:-**

- i. **TAG, SID and Auto Speed Watch update:** EB commented this is moving forward and gave an update on the Auto Speed Watch camera (TIMS)
- ii. **Speeding issues:** see Item 5.(1)
- iii. **Possible traffic issues whilst developments on A361 are being built:** ongoing
- iv. **School sign update:** ongoing.
- v. **High grass causing low visibility Rode Hill/Bradford Road crossing and Churchfields – person with trimmer and licence (for insurance purposes) needed:** A Lengthsman versus using the grass cutting contractor, Eagle, was discussed. It was agreed for insurance and administration purposes it would be more beneficial to use the contractor rather than the Parish Council employing an individual. It was also agreed to wait and see if Highways responded quickly as if the Parish Council cut the grass back this would then not be a priority for Highways moving forward.

**12. Rode Bus Services:** PT reported First Bus Group is being sold and raised concern that in time the corporate attitude of responsibility toward the community of new owners may not be as good. As with First Group. The roadworks on the A361 are having a huge knock-on effect for the D2 service and also the D1 and D3 as these are all integrated. The D2 service is due to be reviewed in September. PT confirmed he will be writing a case to put forward to First Bus Group suggesting improving the bus services through Rode. Both the X34 services are coming through Rode at present to bypass the roadworks. However, the services rely on a reasonable amount of custom to be maintained and unreliability during roadworks may cause this to change. It was agreed the PC would support another Support Our Bus Campaign. PT to update at next meeting.

**13. The Bell – deterioration/disrepair and hedgerow cutting back:** The maintenance of the hedgerow is the responsibility of the owners and not Highways. The lease on the pub has expired and is now owned by the Wellington Pub Group who have confirmed they have no intention of selling any of their existing pubs or doing anything else with them. This appears to be cost driven and in the short term nothing will be changing. It was agreed there was nothing the PC could do.

**14. Financial matters: Financial position at 25 June 2019**

(Note: the full month's accounts were not available due to the previous Clerk being on holiday)

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>	<u>£</u>
• Retiring Clerk's salary and expenses June 2019 (inc. travel and time for attendance at Clerk's interview )	298.40
• New Clerk – Zoe Symonds, Salary & Expenses June 2019	tbc
• HMRC PAYE (Period 4) Retiring Clerk (£66.00) New Clerk	tbc
• Alan Aked – Internal audit	50.00
• Eagle Grounds Maintenance Ltd – grass cutting (Inv. 6424)	725.12
• Terry Morrow – laptop, office software & virus protection for Clerk (€329 + 119 + 25)	473.00
 <u>Receipts</u>	 0.00

Reserves Policy

- The Clerk commented the need for the Bank Mandate to be amended with the new Clerk's details. Clerk to liaise with previous Clerk to action this.

**15. Correspondence:**

- i. **Email from PCSO Russel Ford - 'Chat Bench':** Around Somerset, the Chat Bench initiative has been started up to help tackle isolation and loneliness of the rural elderly. The concept is a suitable bench in a location in the village used by a good cross-section of the community, typically in a park or village centre, is chosen, a sign is placed on the bench which encourages those using the bench to engage with each other in conversation. Following discussion it was agreed although the Councillors like the idea of addressing isolation in rural communities it is felt that the initiative may not be appropriate for Rode. The village is a thriving community with various clubs for the elderly to attend, including a lunch club and a cafe in the shop/post office which has a large 'communal' table and is well used by residents. It was agreed not to proceed with a Chat Bench. Clerk to respond to PCSO.

**16. Items for next agenda / Items to Report:**

- ii. **Footpaths:** Browns Ground footpaths are covered and obstructed with maize and near impossible to walk. The Chair read from the Rights of Way paperwork. It was agreed Parish Council would write to the landowner requesting the paths are reinstated. If this does not resolve the problem LO will follow up and Rights of Way Office at SCC can be involved.
- i. **Street Lighting:** Light outside 16A Marsh Road is illuminated 24 hours. Clerk to report to SCC Highways.

- ii. **Blocked Drains:** Blocked drains were reported on the road outside 5, Farthing Row and past 35, Church Lane. Clerk to report to SCC Highways.
- iii. **Tree Trunk, The Mead:** The trunk from the tree which fell across The Mead on 27th April in the gales, although removed onto landowners land, is overhanging the wall onto The Mead. There is concern it could damage any larger vehicles that need access to The Mead. Clerk to contact landowner.
- iv. **Playing Field Grass Collection:** It is unsure if Eagle, the grass cutting contractors, are responsible for grass collection or only the cutting. PB to check.
- v. **Weight of Traffic on Mill Bridge:** Although there is a weight limit in place on the bridge concern was raised regarding the amount and width of heavy traffic going over it. The bridge is listed as an Ancient Monument, therefore could consideration be given to restricting the bridge to cars and buses only. Clerk to approach LO for thoughts on this matter.
- vi. **Damage to Halfpenny Row road surface and verge:** The Developer of 14 Lower Street has agreed to put right the damage when the site is complete. However, resident's cars are now being damaged by the deep ruts in the road. Clerk to write to Developer and copy in Highways, asking for the road surface to be repaired as soon as possible. LO to be kept updated.
- vii. **Fly tipping – Straight Lane:** This has been reported,
- viii. **Robbery – Orchard House, Frome Road:** A padlocked shed has been broken into and items, including a bike stolen. There have also been incidents on the adjoining building site.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Zoe Symonds  
Clerk to Rode Parish Council

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at **7.30pm**

*Website: [rodeparishcouncil.webs.com](http://rodeparishcouncil.webs.com)*

Clerk: Zoe Symonds  
Tel: 07909 680889  
Email: [Clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Clerk.rodeparishcouncil@gmail.com)

30b The Mead  
Rode  
BA1