

# ROWDE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00 pm  
Rowde Village Hall

**Present:** P Brown (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, A Humphreys, T Humphreys, M Somerville, Josh Wills, L Wills, B Zaccarelli  
Cllr Laura Mayes  
Public audience: Six  
Apologies: C Stevens

## **1. Review of the minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting, held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The minutes were accepted at the meeting (Proposed by L Wills, seconded by J Dalley, accepted by all present).

## **2. Presentation of the Parish Council Accounts for 2022/23**

The Clerk presented a financial analysis of the accounts for 2022-23. Please see attached to these minutes.

The draft accounts were accepted at the meeting (Proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by T Humphreys. All Councillors were in favour).

## **3. Annual reports**

Parish Council – Philip Brown

A summary of the actions of the Parish Council was presented to the meeting. Please see copy attached to these minutes.

Wiltshire Council – Cllr Laura Mayes

- Wiltshire Council delivered a balanced budget. It gets harder every year to make the savings required.
  - The biggest issue reported by residents is the condition of the roads and potholes. In January & April 2023, there have been four times as many reports of potholes than average. The problem has been compounded by a hot dry summer, followed by a wet winter.
    - It is noted that the Council have a new highways contractor: Milestone. It was noted that the company has taken on the existing Ringway staff.
    - Wiltshire council has received funding of £3.6 million to repair potholes.
    - J Dalley asked Cllr Mayes whether his concern about the materials
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used and method they are applied to the roads was reported back to Wiltshire Council. Cllr Mayes confirmed that this information had been fed back to Wiltshire Council.

- The biggest issue inside the Council is ensuring provision for children with additional needs.
- Proposal to build on land at Sands Lane: Cllr Mayes update the meeting that the applicant has submitted further information to counteract comments made by members of the public. A further issue relating to ground work flooding has been raised. A decision will be made about whether Wiltshire Council go out for further consultation or decide on what they have before them. New evidence by the applicant has not been made public.
  - Mr Eccles noted that some statutory reports are still outstanding.
- Silverwood: Transport consultants are discussing reducing the speed limit outside of the school to 30mph with Highways colleagues. It is proposed to extend the current 30mph limit from Rowde to St Edith's Marsh.
  - The construction of new buildings has been hampered by the wet weather. This has affected the timber frame and roofing works. Internal work is being carried out under an external frame.
- Reed Place: Wiltshire Council are revisiting the sewage connection for the development. The Drainage Engineers are looking for an alternative route where there would be less disruption to the road. When this has been finalised and priced, it will be put into a contract. It is anticipated construction will start on site by mid to late summer. The groundwork contractors will leaflet all nearby houses affected by the development.
- Rowde Primary School: Cllr Mayes has spoken to the Director of Education to make a request for the school to receive an Ofsted inspection. It has been 4 years since the last inspection.
- Overgrown pavements: J Dalley asked for the grass verge to be cut back from the pavement along Devizes Road.
- Cllr Mayes thanked B Zaccarelli, and everyone involved for a fantastic Coronation event on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### **4. Looking forward - 2023/24 Precept – priorities for the Parish Council for the coming year.**

The Clerk has prepared a precept/budget document for 2023-24 which is available for the public to view.

The Parish Council's priorities for the coming year are:

- To complete installation of new play equipment in Silverlands Play Area
- To restart the Community Speedwatch

#### **5. Question Time**

A question was asked about whether the High Street was going to be weeded and tidied before the Best Kept Village completion. The Chairman deferred answering the question until the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, which followed this meeting.

End of meeting

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