

**Draft minutes of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall**

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> P Bryant (from item 3), J Dalley (until item 8), C Greenwood, A Humphreys, M Somerville, C Stevens, J Wills, L Wills, B Zaccarelli  Cllr Laura Mayes  Public audience: 12  Apologies: none</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> All Councillors were present</p>	
	<p>The Parish Council expressed sadness at the death of Geoff Hamblin and passed their condolences to his family.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Register of pecuniary interests</b>  No interests were registered.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Public Question Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern was raised again about speeding through the village. A further question was asked about the direction the Speed Indicator is currently facing (it is sited by the Primary School facing towards the High Street to catch speeding coming through the village).</li> <li>• The Speed Indicator Device was moved at the beginning of December. It has been struggling to keep a charge since the move, not helped by the shortage of daylight hours. C Greenwood has spoken to the manufacturers and has been advised to charge the batteries with a car battery charger.</li> <li>• A question was asked about the progress of restarting the Community Speedwatch Group. C Greenwood acknowledged that he has completed part 1 of a 2-part course.</li> <li>• Cllr Mayes updated the Parish Council with information from the Police and Crime Commissioner, as speeding is ultimately enforced by the Police. The Police issued 192 speeding tickets in 2021 for the whole of Wiltshire. By comparison, they have issued 4,400 tickets in September 2023 alone.</li> <li>• A question was asked about whether the Merchant Venturers had made any further approaches to the Parish council. The answer is no.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update – update from Councillor Mayes</b></p> <p><u>Sands Lane application:</u> The Wiltshire Council planning office are minded to approve the Sands Lane application as the County can not demonstrate sufficient land supply. The next Strategic meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The report will be published one week before the meeting. Three members of the public can speak against the application, plus a Parish Councillor and Cllr Mayes.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council are taking steps to lobby the government to ask them to accept Wiltshire’s four-year land supply plus a Local Plan for development. The Leader of the Council, Richard Clewer, has met with the new housing minister to make a case for Wiltshire.</p> <p>One thousand, seven hundred new homes have been granted planning permission or are in the system. Developers are trying to exploit this loophole. When an application is rejected by Wiltshire Council, developers are going to appeal and winning. Wiltshire Council are working on a Local Plan up to 2036. So many speculative developments make nonsense of having a local plan.</p> <p>Flooding: there has been a car accident on Durrett Road caused by flooding. Wiltshire Council has arranged for the jetting machine to clear the drains and gullies there on</p>	

	<p>18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. There are only three jetting vehicles available to Wiltshire Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a new Highways contact, Mr Andy Cadwallader, who has taken over from Matt Perrott.</li> </ul> <p><u>Condition of Conscience Lane</u>: complaints have been made about increased traffic on Conscience Lane due to road works in Devizes. The surface has degraded and is full of potholes. This surface was repaired in the past few years using new materials and a new technique. Cllr Mayes is looking into why the repairs have failed and will report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>A question was asked about whether the passing places will also be repaired, as their poor condition is pushing motorists further into the road.</p>	Cllr Mayes
5.	<p><b>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b></p> <p>C Stevens proposed and C Greenwood seconded that the minutes should be accepted. All Councillors who were present at the meeting agreed.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Matters arising &amp; actions taken from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council thanked Jonathan and Melissa (OxLea Farm) for donating the Christmas tree to the Parish.</li> <li>• The Clerk asked for more details on the planning application PL/20023/07208 Land adjacent 35 Tower View, Rowde, Devizes. Wiltshire Council has extended the deadline for comments until 15/12/23. However, no further information on the application has been submitted. The Parish Council has objected to this application.</li> <li>• There was further discussion about purchasing a security camera for the allotments/playing field car park. This was discussed at the Parish Council meeting in November and was raised after car parts were fly tipped in the car park. That was considered to be a one-off occasion. C Greenwood noted that prices for cameras are between £90 - £170. It was asked whether the price includes fitting. Further questions were asked about storing data and who will be the Data Controller for this information. The Parish Council will consider the policy aspects of having a security camera in more detail. It was agreed to review the matter again at the next Parish Council meeting.</li> <li>• The Speed Indicator Device was moved at the beginning of December.</li> <li>• M Somerville was thanked by the Parish Council for creating the planter which is now sited at the bus shelter on Devizes Road. It has been planted ready for the spring.</li> <li>• The Clerk submitted a request to the Rowde Village News for residents who are able to, to weed and tidy in front of their properties.</li> </ul>	All
7.	<p><b>Playing field – item moved on the agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cows have been roaming on the playing field. The owner has been identified and will be contacted by the Parish Council to ask him to secure his stock.</li> <li>• The sports field has not been used for football this season. The goal posts are still in place. J Dalley complained about the length and state of the grass. The contract with idverde has ended for the year. Unfortunately, due to the warm weather, the grass is still growing. J Dalley has approached Devizes Town Council to see whether they have capacity to cut the grass at this time for a one off cut. P Bryant noted that A C Jones could also help with a one-off cut.</li> <li>• The key to the bin at the entrance to Furlong Close had been lost. It has now been replaced and the bin has been emptied.</li> </ul> <p><b>J Dalley left the meeting 8.30pm.</b></p>	
8.	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for November 2023</li> </ul>	

	<p><u>November 2023 invoices</u> (total: £2,811.18)  Admin costs: £1,953.81  Ground's maintenance: £786.43  Christmas decorations for tree: £70.94  Proposed by C Stevens, seconded by C Greenwood. All Councillors were in favour.  It was asked whether the Parish Council are purchasing another speed indicator device. It has been agreed in principle to buy another device. It has been agreed to monitor the usage of the current Speed Indicator Device first.</p> <p><u>Pre-precept discussion</u>  The Parish Council were asked to start considering their spending priorities for the next financial year. It was asked again by C Greenwood whether consideration could be given to putting dog waste bins along the Locks. C Greenwood noted that it is the Parish's responsibility to keep the parish clean and tidy. Other Councillors are concerned about the ongoing cost and commitment to doing this and have agreed to monitor the situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet before the next Parish Council meeting to discuss priorities for the precept.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Community Engagement &amp; social media</b></p> <p><u>Update on café venture at Furlong Close</u>  Lisa Gerr has contacted the Parish Council about the Mind Tree Café venture which is trying to set up in the administrative block of Furlong Close. Unfortunately, burst pipes last winter caused considerable damage to the building. The building is damp and has no running water. The organisation is currently trying to fund raise to cover the extensive cost of the repairs.</p> <p><u>Volunteers for the National Grid new Community Liaison Group</u>  The National Grid is looking for local volunteers to join their community liaison group. C Greenwood has already joined, as a member of Devizes Town Council.  C Greenwood spoke about the need for the village to establish a community trust in order to apply for community grants, which would not be available to the Parish Council.  A Humphreys noted that a community trust would need to have a specific aim or project based around it.</p> <p><u>Facebook posts</u>  It was noted that the stile by the Hangings is dangerous, by the bridge.</p> <p><u>Christmas – taking down the tree</u>  C Greenwood and C Stevens have volunteered to take the tree down.  B Zaccarelli noted that the Christmas Fair at Furlong Close was a lovely village event.  It was also noted that the Christmas Carol Service at St Matthew's Church will take place on Sunday 17th December, 6pm.  There are coffee mornings in the Church on Tuesdays. Everyone is welcome to attend.</p>	
10.	<p>Planning</p> <p><u>Planning applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL/2023/07208: Land adjacent 35 Tower View, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2PS. Outline application with all matters reserved for erection of a Dwelling. Deadline for comments: 30th November 2023. Deadline extended to 15/12/23</li> </ul> <p>No further information was available from the applicant. One of the neighbours had not been made aware of the application. In light of there being no further information on the application, the Parish Council has rejected the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL/2023/10282 Lower Farm, Devizes Road, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2LX. Prior approval Part 3 Class R: Agricultural building to a flexible commercial use. Consultation. Deadline for comments 28th December 2023. Further to application</li> </ul>	

	<p>PL/2023/04363 for retrospective permission to erect a building and change 2x agricultural buildings into flexible use, commercial units. Approved on 13/11/23. The Parish Council had no objection to the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PL/2023/10214 Ox Lea Barn Farm, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2BQ: Consultation - Proposed agricultural building for the storage of machinery and provide a workshop. Deadline for comments: 4/1/24.</li> </ul> <p>The applicants attended the meeting. They noted that the building will be positioned so that it does not have a big impact on the landscape. It will appear in line with the other buildings there, when viewed from the permissive path. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PL/2023/10050 Old Brickyard, Caen Hill, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1RD. Full Planning: Proposed erection of a storage building (B8 USE)</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council wished to know what the storage building was going to be used to store.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group update from 20/11/23</u></p> <p>Some representatives of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group met on 20/11/23 to discuss progress on the Neighborhood Plan. Since that meeting, Aecom, the company commissioned to look at site selection, has submitted their draft document. A question was asked about how the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan corresponds with Wiltshire Council's blue book.</p> <p>C Greenwood agreed to send a copy of the draft document to R Eccles.</p>	CG
11.	<p><b>Village Appearance</b> <u>Horses on the Common</u></p> <p>Four horses have been abandoned on the Common, one of which is loose. They were being fed and watered by the owner until about 10 days ago. A local farmer has kindly been caring for them since then.</p> <p>It was agreed to make an application for the horses to be taken into care.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Highways</b> <u>Speed Indicator Device – update on data to Police</u></p> <p>C Greenwood has agreed to take the batteries out of the Speed Indicator Device to recharge them.</p> <p><u>Community Speedwatch – progress on reactivating the scheme.</u></p> <p>See item 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A question was asked about the trench which has been dug along the Devizes Road by Buena Vista. This was first raised as an issue in 2021. The Clerk has raised the issue again with Cllr Mayes who has agreed to look into the matter.</li> </ul>	Clerk
13.	<p><b>Playing fields</b></p> <p>There were no further updates.</p>	
1.4	<p><b>Play Areas</b></p> <p>There were no updates.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p>M Somerville has created two further plots out of the original plot 1. The memorial bench will have a fence around it to help designate the area.</p>	
16.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council has been copied into correspondence from St Matthew's Church about concerns about lighting around the churchyard footpaths.</li> <li>An email has been received from a resident in Tanis who is concerned about her family's safety when walking from Tanis to the main Devizes Road, especially when roadworks is taking place in town and more cars use Conscience Lane was a rat run.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council has received notice that a vehicle has been damaged on Sands Lane and a claim for damages is being made.</li> <li>• The Parish Council has been informed of unauthorised access across the Common to a field. It is thought that there are people living in accommodation on the field, without planning permission.</li> </ul>	Clerk
17.	<p><b>Date of next Parish Council meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall. Precept setting meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.</p>	

A reminder that all requests for work/or goods must be presented to the relevant Committee first for authorisation.

Signed: ..... Chairman Date: .....