

Draft MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 11th January 2023, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: P Brown (Chair), P Bryant, J Dalley, C Greenwood, A Humphreys, T Humphreys, Lisa Wills, M Somerville (from item 3), C Stevens (from item 3), Barbara Zaccarelli Public audience: 9</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies Josh Wills.</p>	
2.	<p>Chairman's five minutes The Chairman thanked Parish Councillors for putting up and taking down the village Christmas tree.</p>	
3.	<p>Co-option of new Parish Councillors There were two vacancies for Parish Councillors, and three candidates. A ballot was held for the positions. It was proposed that M Somerville & C Stevens should join the Parish Council.</p>	
4.	<p>Register of business interests There were no business interests recorded.</p>	
5.	<p>Public Question Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Humphreys was thanked for arranging the Window Advent Calendar for Rowde. • A member of the audience asked whether there has been a response from Wiltshire Council regarding the suggestion to build on land adjacent to Rowde Primary School. The Chairman responded that there had been no response yet. It was asked for the letter from the Parish Council to Wiltshire Council to be forwarded to Cllr Mayes. • A question was asked about whether the Neighborhood Plan Steering Group had opened up a call for land to local landowners. The Chairman responded to say that there has not been a call for land. • It was asked who will be responsible on the Parish Council for village appearance: a Wiltshire Council sign needs moving from the front of Prospect House. There are also branches lying on the pavement which have been cut down by BT. It was asked if The Hill could be looked at, including repainting the benches. It was asked again if the hedge along Marsh Lane, at the junction with Springfield Road, could be topped. • A member of the audience asked if the Parish Councillors roles could be added to the website. It was discussed that not all roles are currently taken up. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>JD</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6.	<p>Wiltshire Council – Cllr Mayes Cllr Laura Mayes is the Wiltshire Councillor for Bromham, Rowde, and Roundway. <u>Highways:</u> It is acknowledged that there are a lot of potholes in the roads. This is due partly to the dry summer followed by a very wet winter. The Parish Stewards have been asked to concentrate on filling these holes. Residents are urged to report faults in the road or other Wiltshire Council issues through the My Wilts App. The App has recently been improved and updated. It is the most efficient way of reporting problems for members of the public and Council officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chippenham railway station is being improved. • 1 in 20 people in Wiltshire currently have Covid. 	

	<p><u>Silverwood School – transport</u></p> <p>At the last meeting, there was ongoing concern expressed about transport to the newly expanded Silverwood School and more vehicles using Marsh Lane. The Passenger Transport department predicts that the number of vehicles travelling to the school from the Marsh Lane direction will drop from 21 to 15 in September 2023. This is due to the use of higher capacity vehicles. There will be no students coming from the Larkrise direction. It was originally intended for Larkrise School in Trowbidge and St Nicholas' School in Chippenham to close. It has been agreed now that children under 11 years of age will continue to attend both sites.</p> <p>A question was asked about how long the new scheme would be piloted. The pilot will start from the first day of term. It is not recommended that the Parish Council insist on Marsh Lane being avoided for school transport, as it would increase the school day for students and it would also cost more in fuel.</p> <p>J Dalley noted that Wiltshire Council should discuss the direction of travel also with Seend Parish Council.</p>	
7.	<p>Governance – public participation at meetings.</p> <p>It is agreed that public questions on planning matters will be removed from public question time and given a separate agenda item.</p> <p>(Proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by P Bryant. All Councillors were in favour).</p>	
8.	<p>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2022</p> <p>The Parish Council accepted the minutes from the meeting held on 14th December 2022 This was proposed by L Wills and seconded by C Greenwood. All Councillors who were present at the meeting agreed.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters arising & actions taken from the meeting held on 14th December 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk obtained examples of guidelines used at public question times from other Parish Councils. • The notes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are not on the Neighbourhood Plan website yet. • A grounds worker has been asked to sweep the leaves from the pavement from the Church to Cock Road. 	
10.	<p>Setting the precept for financial year April 2023 – March 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation for Parish Councillors to set the precept <p>All Councillors were granted a dispensation to set the precept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of budget requirements and vote on precept request for the village. <p>The Finance Committee met on 12th December 2022 to discuss the proposed budget. The Parish Council accepted the budget, with an amendment to the estimated cost for HMRC. There was a debate amongst the Councillors about whether it was necessary to increase the precept to future proof the Council for the coming years or to keep the precept at the same level as it is currently as there is a cost of living crisis.</p> <p>It was proposed by P Brown, seconded by J Dalley that the Parish Council sets the precept with a 0% increase for residents. Due to an increase in the tax base, the Parish Council will receive a higher value of £39,371.54. Payment for a band D house remains at £78.47 per annum. The proposal was passed (7 votes to 3).</p>	
11.	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning Application: PL/2022/090890: Full Planning application, Rowdefield Farm, Rowde, SN10 2JE. Erection of open fronted shed to provide winter house/cover for 25 sheep and goats. The Parish Council supports the application.</p>	
12.	<p>Financial matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly bank reconciliation & monthly invoices for December 2022 <p>The Parish Council reviewed the monthly bank reconciliation and raised no queries.</p>	

	<p><u>December 2022 invoices</u> (total: £2,337.39) Admin costs: £1,659.58 Ground's maintenance: £677.81 In addition, two further invoices were approved at the meeting: Village Hall hire: £84.00 Hall hire for planning consultation: £24.00 (to be reclaimed). Payments were proposed by L Wills, seconded by C Greenwood (P Brown abstained from the vote on payments to L Brown for litter collecting). All other Councillors approved the payments.</p>	
13.	<p>Highways <u>Flooding: Devizes Road</u> L Wills and C Greenwood meet with Matt Perrott, Highways Officer for Wiltshire Council on Tuesday 10th January at Buena Vista, Devizes Road. It was reported that there are several issues which are contributing to the current flooding on Devizes Road, including the trench which had been dug along the highways; the removal of historic hedgerows in the adjacent field and work to create a gateway. Wiltshire Council is investigating the problems. <u>Speed Indicator Device</u> The Clerk has made a proposal for the type of Speed Indicator Device to purchase. Three locations have been agreed with Wiltshire Council. These were based on sites already approved for the Community Speed Watch Team, and a recent metro count for a new site. Members of the audience disagreed with the choice of locations for the Speed Indicator Device. It was suggested that further locations could be added at a later date.</p>	
14.	<p>Community Engagement & social media <u>Community event for King's coronation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B Zaccarelli and J Wills have met to start planning events to celebrate the Coronation. There will be a Village party on Saturday 6th May in the evening. Music has already been booked for the event. Food and drink will also be provided. The event will be self-funding through ticket sales. The next meeting to discuss this will be on Saturday 21st January, 7.00pm, in the Cross Keys pub. • There will also be a Village fete style celebration on Sunday 7th May in the afternoon. There will be a meeting on Thursday 19th January to continue planning this event. <p><u>Facebook posts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the result of the precept decision from this meeting should be publicised on the Facebook page. <p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was asked if the village has a designated first responder. Matthew Hunt was the Village's volunteer responder. It was asked if the Parish Council could collate a list of retired doctors or nurses who may be willing to help in an emergency. It was noted that there could be implications for insurance and medical negligence. • T Humphreys reinforced the NHS message that residents should still call 999 in an emergency. • L Wills is working on a 'Community Prepared Plan'. It involves looking for community members who could help in an emergency, for example 4x4 drivers, people who can use chain saws, etc. It was agreed to put this request for help on the website and also in the Rowde Village News. 	LW
15.	<p>Playing fields & play areas <u>Silverlands Play Area:</u> A meeting with another playground representative is arranged for Thursday 12th January.</p>	

	<p>This will make a total of three different playground representatives that have been met on site to discuss plans for the Silverlands Play Area.</p> <p><u>Large playing field:</u> J Dalley and D Packer have recently re-lined the football pitches, with kind thanks from the Parish Council. Further re-lining will depend on usage required by Bishops Cannings football team. J Dalley agreed to speak with the Chairman of the club. J Dalley noted that the pitch is in good condition, although the bottom pitch is currently water logged.</p> <p>C Greenwood discussed the need for changing facilities at the playing field. The Devizes Budo Club has funds to build a new Dojo. The Parish Council could consider giving space to this at the playing field.</p> <p>C Greenwood also noted that Wiltshire FA have two pitches which are currently unplayable, and they would like to use the facilities at the playing field.</p> <p><u>Sands Lane track</u></p> <p>The cost to retarmac the lane is prohibitive. It is proposed that the potholes are cut out and then filled (Proposed by J Dalley seconded by M Somerville).</p>	
16.	<p>Village Appearance</p> <p>It has been asked for a Parish Councillor to take on responsibility for the village's appearance.</p> <p>B Zaccarelli asked about the saplings which are waiting to be planted. It was suggested that they could be planted along the fence line of the small playing field with the church. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>A member of the audience noted that the hedgerows in the village need cutting. The Parish council understood that the hedgerow in the field adjacent to Rowde Primary School had just been cut.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p><u>Invite to enter Best Kept Village competition.</u></p> <p>It was proposed by J Dalley, seconded by C Stevens that the parish enter the Best Kept Village competition this year.</p>	
18.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 8th February 2023, at 7.30pm in Rowde Village Hall.</p> <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: