

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 10th January 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: J Dalley, C Greenwood, A Humphreys, M Somerville, C Stevens, J Wills, L Wills, B Zaccarelli Public audience: 7 Cllr Laura Mayes</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies P Bryant</p>	
2.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests M Somerville registered an ongoing pecuniary interest in the grounds maintenance work that he carries out for the Parish Council.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Question Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complaint was made by a resident about comments made by Parish Councillors about another Parish Councillor after he had left the last meeting early. The Chairman noted that she did try to stop the discussion. • The Parish Council was asked if it could purchase sandbags for residents to use, after the flooding last week (4/1/24). {Clerk’s note: sandbags have been purchased by the Parish Council and will be delivered directly to residents in Silverlands Road). <p>A resident raised concern that some properties in Silverlands Road were in danger of being flooded. The resident commented that there may be underlying issues since the Primary School, adjacent to Silverlands Road, filled in a ditch on their land. L Wills commented that she offered residents use of a water pump on the evening of the flood. L Wills has since met with L Dowse, Aster, to look at clearing the culvert behind the houses in Silverlands Road. Silt has built up in the pipes and hedgerows have been cut and the clippings left in the culvert, all of which contributed to the flooding on 4/1. Aster has agreed to clear the culvert in the next couple of weeks. A resident also noted the appearance of large rats since the flooding and asked for help with pest control.</p> <p>There was further flooding down towards the Common. C Greenwood noted that the weir is not able to take all of the water.</p> <p>It was noted that if the drains are flushed on a regular basis, there would be less burden on the weirs and brooks.</p> <p>Aerial pictures have been taken of the flooded areas by a resident, including land off Sands Lane where development is proposed. It was remarked that no other fields were flooded to the same degree.</p> <p>The Parish Council suggested planting trees obtained by the Parish Council on the land adjacent to Reed Place, if permission is granted by the landowner (Wiltshire Council). The Clerk will contact Wiltshire Council about this suggestion.</p> <p>Cllr L Mayes responded to note that Rowde needs to have a flood plan and sands bags could be arranged through that. Wiltshire Council can not support the village unless the parish has a flood plan. The ditches and culverts need to be attended to. L Wills noted that she has registered for the ‘Community prepared flood plan’ training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was commented that the agenda for this Parish Council meeting and the minutes from the last meeting had not been put on social media. {The agenda and minutes were posted on the Parish Council website, and noticeboards in the village}. L Wills is no longer managing the Parish Council Facebook page. A Humphreys will post the documents on social media in future. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AH</p>

4.	<p>Wiltshire Council update – update from Councillor Mayes</p> <p><u>Flooding:</u> Wiltshire Council says that Rowde Parish needs a flood plan, as noted above.</p> <p><u>Reed Place:</u> There is a new Wiltshire Council Officer, Mike Kalvis, who is managing the project. Ten houses will be erected on land there; made off site and assembled on site. Preparatory groundwork began before Christmas. An access route has been created to the site. The entrance has been fenced off. It is the intention to start the groundwork and drainage by mid-March 2024. It is hoped that the homes will be in place by the summer.</p> <p><u>Devizes Road pavement to Dunkirk Hill:</u> the new Highways representative, Andrew Cadwallader has been asked to look at the pavement to Devizes, with its encroaching verge. The footway needs to be cleared using mechanical means. Wiltshire Council’s JCB budget is currently taken up with drainage issues. A. Cadwallader has said he will try to promote the site for work to be done. He will arrange for the path to be weed killed in the meantime. C Greenwood noted that A Cadwallader’s predecessor Matt Perott had already requested a full reinstatement of the footpath on Devizes Road.</p> <p><u>Conscience Lane Road surface:</u> The road surface is completely breaking up in sections. It has been resurfaced in recent years with a new micro surface material. The faults have been raised with the major maintenance team for Wiltshire Council.</p> <p><u>Changes to NPPF (National Policy Planning Framework)</u> with specific reference to the Sands Lane planning application. Every council has to provide a five-year land supply. In Wiltshire, developers have been holding back land, making it look like the county did not have enough land supply. Nick Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, and Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning, have been lobbying parliament about this. Local MP Michelle Donelan has been pressing the issue with Michael Gove. Changes were announced to the NPPF before Christmas 2023, that any local authority at the regulation 19 stage, no longer have to provide 5-year land supply but instead can provide a 4-year land supply. Wiltshire has a 4.8-year land supply and is now only required to demonstrate a 4-year land supply. Once the Local Plan is approved, the need to prove we have any land supply goes away for 5 years. There is a grace period.</p> <p>Any application not determined pre-19th December now has to be determined against the new NPPF. Even applications that have been approved, if the s.106 agreements have not been signed, those decisions could get turned around. The Sands Lane planning application is being reviewed by Wiltshire Council’s planning department. It will be a while before the decision on Sands Lane is announced.</p> <p>Rowde’s housing target will not change. There is still the requirement for Rowde to build 47 houses by 2038.</p> <p>R Eccles commented that at the strategic planning committee (10/1/24), it was announced that 880 pre-approved housing units are now under review because the s.106 agreements have not been approved. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Mayes for all of the work that she has done.</p> <p>J Gray noted that ‘tilted balance’ no longer applies to Wiltshire, which is good news. It was noted that the change to the NPPF increases the importance of the local Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Greenwood raised continuing issues along Devizes Road, with the manmade ditch along the highways adjacent to Buena Vista. It was also commented that the road signage needs to be improved on the road, as there was recently a car accident with someone exiting onto Devizes Road. 	
5.	<p>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th December 2023</p> <p>B Zaccarelli proposed and seconded by C Stevens that the minutes should be accepted. All Councillors who were present at the meeting agreed.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters arising & actions taken from 13th December 2023</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A planning enforcement issue has been reported to Wiltshire Council on a residential build off The Common. • C Greenwood will measure the existing noticeboard in Silverlands Road to obtain a quotation for new noticeboards to be made. 	
7.	<p>Precept setting</p> <p>The Clerk had shared a budget working paper with the Parish Council before the meeting. A precept calculator was shared at the meeting, along with a summary of the expenditure priorities for the Parish Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on budget and vote for precept request for 2024-25 <p>The Parish Council discussed future potential expenditure for the Parish Council. An initial suggestion was made to raise the precept by 3.5%. It is a dilemma for the Parish Council as it understands the current economic situation for residents, which is countered by the Parish Council having more responsibilities.</p> <p>There was a discussion on funds needed to create a footpath at the junction of Conscience Lane into Tanis. It was suggested that a footpath could be part of a potential future housing development.</p> <p>A question was asked about the specification for the footpath. J Dalley responded with calculations for materials needed to create the footpath. It was agreed that J Dalley, L Wills, M Somerville and C Stevens would meet on 13/1/24 to look at the measurements again. It was suggested that a specification for the footpath could be completed within a month.</p> <p>A member of the audience commented that the Parish Council needs to tighten up on their quotations. The Clerk replied that for expenditure over £1,000, three quotations are always sought. It was noted that if the Parish Council uses an independent contractor who is fully insured then the Parish Council can go back to them if there are any problems with the work.</p> <p>A Humphreys queried the salary and HMRC figures stated for 2022-23 and asked why the HMRC figures had increased in that year. The Clerk responded that it related to a salary increase, which was reflected in the HMRC column and was reduced in the salary column. The Clerk will confirm this.</p> <p>The Parish Council proposed to increase the precept by 4%, proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by J Dalley. Seven Councillors voted in favour of the increase. There was one abstention. The precept was set at £40,553.64. This equates to a £3.14 per year increase for a band D house.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly bank reconciliation & monthly invoices for December 2023 <p><u>December 2023 invoices</u> (total: £2,643.86)</p> <p>Admin costs inc. audit fees: £1,942.39</p> <p>Grounds maintenance: £701.47</p> <p>Proposed by C Greenwood and seconded by C Stevens. All Councillors were in favour (M Somerville abstained from voting on his invoice).</p> <p>There was an additional invoice approved for Rowde Village Hall: £72.00 (for 4 sessions)</p>	
9.	<p>Community Engagement & social media</p> <p><u>Community event 2024 planning:</u> The next village event will be held on Saturday 1st June 2024. Jefferson Entertainment and Hot Diggerty Dogs have been booked again for this year.</p> <p>B Zaccarelli is looking for a committee to work on planning for the event.</p> <p><u>Facebook posts:</u> It was commented again that the agenda and last minutes were not posted on the Parish Council Facebook page. It was asked by a resident if the documents can also be posted on the Rowde All About Facebook page.</p>	

	<p><u>Christmas: taking down the tree:</u> It was remarked how beautiful the tree had been and that the lights had been good. The Parish Council thanked Jonathan and Melissa again for the tree, and C Greenwood for taking down the Christmas tree lights and some of the branches. L Wills has arranged for the Christmas tree lights to be PAT tested. C Greenwood has arranged for the remainder of the tree to be removed. C Greenwood suggested a revision on how the tree is put up next year, using clevis pins rather than nuts and bolts. There was a suggestion to plant a living Christmas tree at the Village Hall. It was reminded that the land belongs to the Village Hall Committee. It was proposed that M Somerville investigates the possibility of planting some Christmas trees at the allotments for future use by the Parish.</p> <p><u>Further discussion on updating village walks leaflets:</u> C Greenwood has received copies of the 'Rowde Walks' booklets from Barrie Barrett's estate. C Greenwood suggested putting the walks into a new booklet and loading it onto the website with a QR code for residents to download.</p> <p>Police surgery: Rowde's PCSOs will be available on Sat 10th Feb, 6.00-7.00pm in the Village Hall for residents to pop in and discuss any issues of concern they may have. Everyone is welcome to attend.</p>	MS
10.	<p>Planning Applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL/2023/10987: Hedgerow removal notice CONSCIENCE LANE/FOLLY ROAD/HOPTON ROAD/HORTON ROAD, DEVIZES, SN10 2EU, Removal of sections of hedgerow: Conscience Lane - 5m Folly Road - 85m Hopton Road - 15m and 3 trees Horton Road - 30m and 3 trees: re: National Grid VIP project. C Greenwood noted that Wiltshire Council has not set up the application properly for it to be viewed. A question was asked about whether there are TPOs on the trees noted for removal. • Footpath diversion order: Rowde Path No.32. Modification Order 2023 Reference planning application: PL/2023/01643. ROWD32 starts on Conscience Lane opposite Iron Pear Tree farm: re: National Grid VIP project. The Parish Council did not object to the application. It was asked whether it is a temporary diversion. It was replied that it will be a temporary diversion. • PL/2023/10020: Full Planning: Mill Cottages, Conscience Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2JD. Consultation - Replacement of 2 no. existing two storey semidetached cottages with new two storey single dwelling, together with related external works and revised driveway access. Deadline for comments 11/1/24. The Parish Council did not have any comments to make. • Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – update: A meeting has been called for w/c 15th January 2024 to look at the draft site selections document. It was noted again by Mr Eccles that the emerging plan must tie in with the Devizes Blue Book. 	Clerk Clerk
11.	<p>Village Appearance</p> <p><u>Horses on the Common – update on action</u></p> <p>An enforcement notice was issued to the owner of the abandoned horses. They were eventually moved before the order was timed out. The Parish Council thanked Louise & Fraser for everything they did to feed and care for the horses when they were abandoned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complaint has been made about the debris which has been left behind when Aster removed a tree from Maundrell Close/High Street. The Parish Council will ask them to remove the debris. 	Clerk
12.	<p>Highways</p> <p><u>Plans to prepare a Flood Plan for the Parish:</u> The Parish Council will start to prepare a flood plan in line with Wiltshire Council's recommendations. L Wills will attend a training session on creating a flood plan in w/c 15th January 2024.</p>	

	<p><u>Speed Indicator Device – update on data to Police</u> There have been some issues with the Speed Indicator Device (SID) switching itself off as a result of water ingress. It was not possible to download the data for December. The SID has been repositioned and it is hopeful that it will be possible to download January’s data at the end of the month.</p> <p>A Humphreys has removed the batteries and dried them out, along with the connectors. C Greenwood has been sourcing additional batteries, which are estimated at a cost of £81.00. C Greenwood has purchased a more robust utility key to access the batteries on the SID.</p> <p><u>Community Speedwatch – progress on reactivating the scheme:</u> C Greenwood has completed the second part of the course and will arrange a meeting of volunteers. The camera is shared with Seend and also Brickley Lane.</p>	
13.	<p>Playing fields <u>Update on teams playing.</u> There were no updates</p>	
14.	<p>Play Areas There were no updates</p>	
15.	<p>Allotments <u>Updates</u> The ground is currently wet. M Somerville was thanked for all of his hard work at the allotments, including enclosing the memorial plot at the entrance to the allotments. M Somerville noted that Sands Lane is in a very poor condition. It was suggested that the Clerk contacts A Cadwallader about the Lane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Greenwood noted that the Devizes in Bloom competition has been opened up to villages. If residents have a nice garden, they are able to enter the competition. The information will be put onto the Facebook page, and into the Village Magazine. There will also be another advert placed to promote the Community Speedwatch team. 	Clerk
16.	<p>Correspondence There was no correspondence to report.</p>	
17.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 7th February 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall. (Please note, this will be on the first Wednesday of the month, due to the school holidays). <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: