

MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 13th July 2022, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

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| | <p>PRESENT: P Brown (Chair), Pat Bryant (left at 8.50pm item 9), J Dalley, C Greenwood (left at 9pm item 10) A Humphreys (left at 9.40pm, item 17), Josh Wills (arrived 8.15pm item 5), L Wills, B Zaccarelli .</p> <p>Cllr Laura Mayes</p> <p>The meeting was quorate at all times.</p> <p>Public audience: Seven.</p> <p>Observing with a view to joining the Parish Council: Tom Humphreys</p> | |
| | P Bryant has been granted a temporary break from Parish Council duties. | |
| 1. | <p>Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies</p> <p>Apologies: S Green, D Pullen</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Register of business interests</p> <p>There were no business interests recorded.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Public question time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about investigative activity taking place in a field adjacent to Sands Lane and whether it meant that the field was to be developed on. The Chairman offered to contact the Planning Officer (Andrew Guest) to make enquiries. • A question was asked about a reference in the minutes from the Parish Council meeting in June 2022, which noted that the settlement boundary may need to be altered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. It was noted that Rowde is a village without facilities and can not support large developments. [Clerk's note: the Parish Council has notified Wiltshire Council that the housing requirements for Rowde are excessive, not achievable, not desirable] The Clerk was asked to contact A Pellegram from the Neighbourhood Planning Team to further state these points. • A concern was raised about cars that park on the slip parking taper in front of the George and Dragon pub. These cars are, in part, parked on the road. The Clerk was asked to contact the landlord. | <p>PB</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 4. | <p>Wiltshire Council – Cllr Laura Mayes.</p> <p><u>Covid:</u> 1 in 25 people in the county have covid. There are 150 people in hospitals in the county; 6 are in Intensive Care. The main concern is staff who are off work with Covid.</p> <p><u>Ash die back:</u> Wiltshire Council has felled many diseased and dangerous trees. For every tree that is felled, three new trees will be planted.</p> <p><u>Reed Place development:</u> The planning process has been delayed because of a problem with the proposed drainage scheme. Cllr Mayes asked the Parish Council to consider what housing is needed in the future by the community and to support its development. P Bryant noted that there needs to be additional infrastructure to support extra housing, medical services, improved roads, better parking solutions.</p> <p><u>Silverwood transport queries:</u> The Parish Council had asked for information on the projected number of vehicles that will be travelling to and from the expanded school. This has been discussed between A Dixon (Project Manager), Passenger Transport colleagues at Wiltshire Council and Cllr Mayes. Wiltshire Council is planning to use more multi passenger vehicles and has estimated that the vehicle numbers will not be too different from the current numbers. It is estimated that there will be 23 – 30 vehicles from the Devizes direction, 15 – 20 vehicles from Caen Hill; 3 vehicles from Sells Green; 20 – 25 vehicles from Bromham direction. J Dalley queried the proposed numbers and re-stated that the</p> | |

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| | <p>Parish Council has requested that transport to the school should be directed through Westbrook and approach from the east side of the village.</p> <p>A Dixon (Project Manager) has offered to meet with the Parish Council to discuss this further. Cllr Mayes proposed that the Parish Council takes up the offer to meet with A Dixon to discuss further.</p> <p>It was also noted that the taxi transportation has been backing out onto the road at pick up time. P Brown asked if the widening of the entrance drive to Silverwood School could be prioritised to prevent this from happening.</p> <p>C Greenwood recorded that the traffic lights at Silverwood School were on green on both sides on one occasion and that an accident could have easily happened. There were work men on the road at the time.</p> <p><u>Devizes Road pavement weedkilling:</u> Cllr Mayes has contacted the Highways department who have cut back the weeds along the pavement along the A342, Devizes Road. The Parish Council asked for the weeds to be killed and dug out to ensure pedestrians can use the pavement. A request has been sent to ask the Parish Steward to do this work. The Parish Council consider that it is too large a job for the Parish Steward. Cllr Mayes agreed to speak with Highways again.</p> <p><u>Furlong Close:</u> Care at HfT is due to move to a new provider soon.</p> <p>There will be some buildings that will be surplus to requirements. Cllr Mayes is working with the Friends and Families group to identify these buildings and will report back to the Parish Council.</p> <p>P Bryant agreed to investigate funding raise to purchase any potential community assets.</p> | PB |
| 5. | <p>Rowde Primary Academy – discussion future of the pool.</p> <p>James Evans, Head of Estates for the Acorn Trust, spoke about the current condition of the school’s swimming pool and the options for its future.</p> <p>The swimming pool is currently in need of extensive repairs: replacement heating pump, a new filter system, the surface of the swimming pool needs attention, replacement fencing. Mr Evans noted that there are no changing facilities near the pool, or toilets. The pool is shallow and only suitable for children aged up to 7 years old. Keys Stage 2 children are currently transported to Devizes Leisure Centre for swimming lessons.</p> <p>The Acorn Trust could support the repair costs, however, it can not support the ongoing maintenance costs (chemicals, cleaning, energy). The ongoing maintenance costs are estimated to be between £15 - £20k a year: the equivalent of a Teaching Assistant post. The Trust has said that the pool is not viable and is considering filling the pool in. In return, the school wish to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) elsewhere on the site. On the current pool location, ideas being discussed include extending the car park and installing an electric charging point. C Greenwood suggested that the existing pool could be made deeper by building up around it. There was a discussion around community use of the pool and the consideration for safe-guarding and life-guarding provision.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8th June</p> <p>The Parish Council accepted the minutes from the meeting held on 8th June as an accurate summary of the meeting. This was proposed by L Wills and seconded by B Zaccarelli. All Councillors who were present at the meeting agreed.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Matter arising and actions taken from meeting on 8th June 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area behind the PC shed at the allotments has been strimmed. • Work to fill the potholes on Sands Lane will be carried out by M Somerville and C Greenwood. • Bishops Cannings football teams will continue to play at the playing field. It has not been confirmed whether they require changing facilities yet. • The goal posts on the large playing field remain in place. | |

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| 8. | <p>Financial matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly bank reconciliation & monthly invoices for June 2022 <p><u>June 2022 invoices</u> (total: £3964.77) Admin costs inc. audit fees: £1,879.21 Ground's maintenance: £824.64 Jubilee celebration: £857.92 Donation: £403</p> <p>Two additional invoices were presented for payment at the meeting: Wansbroughs: legal fees for completing transfer of asset of the playground. £1,472 M Somerville: grounds work £540.</p> <p>Payments were proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by L Wills (P Brown abstained from the vote on payments to L Brown for litter collecting). All other Councillors approved the payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed and accepted that C Greenwood and the Clerk would be added as bank signatories. It was proposed and accepted that three Councillors will be added as online signatories. <p>Proposed by P Brown, seconded by P Bryant. All Councillors were in favour.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Feedback on Jubilee event</p> <p>The feedback on the event has been positive and was enjoyed by many people. The event raised £443.75 with the raffle, and £224.25 in donations. A total of £668 was donated to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.</p> <p>There is £51.21 left in the budget for community events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to another village event on 3rd June 2023. It is suggested that there should be a marquee to provide cover for the event. C Stevens proposed having a hog roast. | |
| 10. | <p>Community Event</p> <p>J Wills is planning a village party on 17th September 2022 to help raise funds for future village events.</p> <p>Further details will be on the noticeboards and Facebook page.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Youth Club</p> <p>There were no updates.</p> | |
| 12. | <p>Allotments</p> <p>There were no updates.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>Footpaths</p> <p>The landowner has given permission for a kissing gate to be installed on the bridleway ROWD27 & 28. The Clerk will apply for a grant to obtain the kissing date.</p> | Clerk |
| 14. | <p>Highways</p> <p><u>Update from Local Highways Footpaths & Infrastructure Group (LHFIG) meeting on 5th July 2022.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LHFIG group has agreed to fund the posts and sockets for a Speed Indicator Device (SID). The Parish Council is waiting for a slot for funds to be allocated. The Clerk will bring SID options to the Parish Council meeting in September. <p><u>Request for hedge strimmer to be used by grounds worker (HfT)</u></p> <p>It was agreed for the Parish Council to purchase a hedge strimmer (Stihl) to be stored by and used by our ground's worker at HfT. It will be for use by the Parish Council as well, when needed.</p> <p><u>Planter on Rowde Court Rowde</u></p> <p>C Stevens has volunteered to maintain the planter in the short term.</p> <p>The Clerk will put an advert requesting help in the Rowde Village News.</p> | Clerk Clerk Clerk |

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| | <p><u>Grass verge on Bunnies Lane</u> The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to inform them that the grass verge is overhanging the highways. The Clerk was also asked to write about the grass verge opposite Conscience Cottages, on Devizes Road and to send a copy to Cllr Mayes. There was an accident on this corner recently.</p> | Clerk |
| 15. | <p>Playing fields & play areas <u>Silverlands Play Area:</u> The paperwork has been signed by the Chairman and the Clerk for the Asset transfer. The solicitor has asked to confirm that the Parish Council is ready to proceed with the transfer. <u>Large playing field</u> No further updates <u>Small playing field</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Somerville will renovate the wooden bench near the toddlers' play area. • There is a dip in the grass near to the gate (Rowde Court Road end) which needs to be filled. | Clerk |
| 16. | <p>Planning <u>Planning Applications</u> <i>Rowde Primary School, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2ND: Consultation - PL/2022/00796: New MUGA pitch with 4m high surrounding mesh fence and access path. Deadline for comments 12/07/2022.</i> The Parish Council does not object to the MUGA, but it is concerned that it is proposed to be sited on top of a soak away. There have been problems with drainage in that area in the past. <i>Oakwood Stud, Marsh Lane, Rowde, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2NW</i> Consultation - PL/2022/04303. Stationing of mobile home (renewal of application 19/01982/FUL). Deadline for comments: 12/07/2022. The Parish Council did not wish to comment on the planning application. It does not consider the current building on the site to be a mobile home. <u>Neighbourhood Planning:</u> The Clerk attended a meeting with Devizes Town Council on 4th July 2022. The proposed sites are due to be assessed against the agreed methodology. Discussion has started on the Neighbourhood Plan Design Code, which would develop policies on housing design which reflect the local community. It has been suggested that residents take photos of local design features that they like and think work well, and those that they do not to start building a portfolio.</p> | |
| 17. | <p>Community Engagement and social media <u>Website:</u> C Greenwood to discuss platform issues with A Humphries. It was noted that Squarespace who host the website are a very big company. <u>Facebook:</u> Positive feedback has been received on the Jubilee event. People loved the community spirit and the community being together.</p> | CG |
| 18. | <p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you letter has been received from the Village Hall committee for the donation from the precept and they praised the Jubilee event. | |
| 19. | <p>Date of next Parish Council meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no meeting in August • The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th September 2022, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall. <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: