

MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 14th June 2023, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: P Brown (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, A Humphreys, T Humphreys, M Somerville, C Stevens, B Zaccarelli Cllr Laura Mayes Public audience: six Apologies: P Bryant, L Wills & Josh Wills</p>	
1.	Apologies	
2.	<p>Chairman’s five minutes The Chairman notified the meeting that there is a Parish Council dedicated mobile phone now. The number is: 07752 724096. The Clerk can be contacted during office hours on this number, or by email as usual at rowdeparishcouncil@gmail.com</p>	
3.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests M Somerville registered an interest in the grounds maintenance invoices that he has submitted. P Brown registered an interest in the litter collecting invoice. Neither party voted on approving the payments.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Question Time A question was asked about the footpath to the Hangings and whose responsibility it is to cut it back. The grass verge is very overgrown.</p>	Clerk
5.	<p>Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Mayes <u>Postponement of opening of Silverwood School.</u> The new school will not be fully open until September 2024. There were issues with the wooden frame for the new building, where it was unable to dry out over the wet winter. The children due to start at the new school will continue their schooling with their current provider until the school is ready. There will be a graduated introduction of new pupils to the school. A question was asked why the wet weather had not been factored into the build. <u>Proposal to build on land at Sands Lane PL/2023/00386:</u> no decision has been made on the application and it was noted that the time limit has been exceeded. The applicant has submitted further mitigating information. Wiltshire Council has opened the application up again for further public consultation until 5th July 2023. All previous comments made to Wiltshire Council on the application still stand. However, it was suggested that residents respond again to the application to confirm their views. The Parish Council will submit a further comment. The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) have submitted a complaint to Wiltshire Council about the Council’s handling of the application and the fact that the permitted time for consideration has lapsed without a decision being made. Wiltshire Council’s response is that the planning system allows applications to be considered over an extended planning application period with the aim of resolving matters within six months. Concern was raised by a resident about the applicant’s proposal to deal with surface water by directing it either into Somerham Brook, where there is already flooding, or towards the treatment centre on the Common as there are water voles there. <u>Overgrown footpath – Devizes Road:</u> A Humphreys & C Greenwood have been in contact with Matt Perrott about cutting back the verge along Devizes Road. It was promised that the work would be carried out within 3 weeks. It was noted that the verge needs to be dug out, the vegetation roots cut out and the pavement resurfaced. [Clerk’s note: work to cut back the verge commenced on Friday 16th June 2023].</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Greenwood asked for the name of the new Parish Steward and noted that it is preferable to interact directly with the Parish Steward. All requests need to be actioned through the Highways department. Milestone have taken over the contract from Ringway and are now responsible for the County's ground maintenance work. The Clerk has asked for the name of the new Parish Steward from Wiltshire Council and has not received a reply. • J Dalley noted that the pavement along the A342 from Devizes towards Lydeaway is well kept with the verge cut back. It was noted that this pavement is not regularly used by many people. • A Councillor asked about the Pratten hut that Bromham Parish Council have acquired free of charge (there will be a cost to install services). A question was asked about the old buildings that will be decommissioned at Braeside and whether they could be used by Rowde Parish Council. 	
6.	<p>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th May 2023 M Somerville proposed and J Dalley seconded that the minutes should be accepted. All Councillors who were present at the meeting agreed.</p>	
7.	<p>Matters arising & actions taken from 10th May 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Somerville applied weed killer to the weeds along the pavement on the High Street in advance of the Best Kept Village judging. • St Matthew's PCC has agreed to accept their donation from the precept when they have received the invoice for servicing the Church Clock (up to £500). • Silverlands Play Area: The new swings have been fitted on the swing set at Silverlands. There was a queue of children waiting to use them. • The Clerk has asked for the climbing frame net to be repaired when the new play equipment is installed at Silverlands Play Area. • It may be possible to apply for a directional sign to the Church from the High Street, but it would have to be a Highway approved sign. An application needs to be made through the Local Highways and Infrastructure Group (LHFIG) even it if will be funded 100% locally. It was agreed not to progress this at this time. C Kevvil noted that the fence sign to the church will be reinstated soon and hopes that this may help people to find the church. 	
8.	<p>Planning (item moved up the agenda). <u>Proposal to build on land at Sands Lane PL/2023/00386</u> P Brown agreed to draft a response to the new consultation on behalf of the Parish Council to include concerns about drainage from the site. The area is known to flood. It is felt that the archaeology of the site has been overlooked. It remains that the proposal is outside the village's permitted development boundary. The diverse ecology was noted. The field is currently used for hay making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments previously submitted by residents will still be considered against this extended application, although it is encouraged for everyone to reiterate their previous comments. • P Brown noted on a map submitted by the applicant that it illustrates a pelican crossing on Sands Lane. It was asked whether this was in anticipation of more traffic along Sands Lane. • G White asked if a comment could be made on the procedure followed by Wiltshire Council and the fact that the application has been allowed to run on against government guidelines. • A Humphreys agreed to update the Facebook page with details of the new consultation. 	AH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Greenwood agreed to send the minutes from the last Neighbourhood Plan meeting to G White. <p><u>Planning Application</u> PL/2023/04009. Braeside, Bath Road, Devizes, SN10 2AP, Full planning permission: proposed student accommodation building. It was noted that the Braeside boundary crosses into the parish of Rowde. The Parish Council was fully supportive of the application and the retention of Braeside as a local outdoor education facility.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Plan update.</u> The last meeting was on 15 May 2023. A draft copy of the plan has been circulated to Steering Group members. There will be a meeting on Thursday 29th June to discuss the document.</p> <p><u>Land at Roundway:</u> Agents for the Merchant Venturers have contacted the Parish Council and asked them to meet regarding their proposals to put land forward for potential development. It was suggested that they are invited to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposal.</p> <p>It was commented that the Coate application has been approved at the appeal stage.</p>	CG Clerk
9.	<p>Finance Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly bank reconciliation & monthly invoices for May 2023 <p><u>May 2023 invoices</u> (total: £4,946.24) Admin costs: £1,855.45 Grounds' maintenance: £961.68 Planters: £156.06 Coronation event: £1,823.05 offset by income received. Donations to village groups: £150.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An invoice was submitted by M Somerville for grounds work dating back to last year for £702. <p>Acceptance of payments was proposed by C Stevens, seconded by A Humphreys (P Brown abstained from the vote on payments to L Brown for litter collecting. M Somerville abstained from the vote on payments for his groundwork invoices). All other Councillors were in favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of donations to Village groups. <p>An interim payment of £150 has been made to Rowde Village News to ensure that the Coronation edition could be printed in colour. A further interim payment of £250 to be made to Rowde Village News was proposed and accepted. It was suggested that the editor is invited to the next Parish Council to understand what funding is needed for the magazine moving forward. Proposer C Greenwood: seconded by B Zaccarelli.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village Hall AGM is on Monday 3rd July 2023, 7.30pm. The following Parish Councillors agreed to attend: C Greenwood, C Stevens, J Dalley, P Brown. A decision on the precept donation will be made after the AGM. 	Clerk Multi ple
10.	<p>Playing fields & play areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discussion on future of changing facilities at large playing field.</u> <p>A Humphreys had obtained quotations for purchasing a container in addition to the quotation sourced by C Greenwood by Titan Containers. It was acknowledged that A Humphreys and C Greenwood had done a lot of work on finding quotations to purchase a container. J Dalley wished to reconsider the quotation by Titan and proposed that he would visit their site to view one of their containers.</p>	

	<p>It was asked whether the container viewed would be empty, as we require a lined, service-ready container. It was suggested that it will take longer than 10-15 days to supply a container to the Parish Council's specification. It was noted that containers are made in the far east and are all used for shipping to get here.</p> <p>It was finally agreed to vote on the three quotations at the Parish Council meeting in July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Large playing field update – grounds maintenance</u> <p>J Dalley gave negative feedback on the service currently being provided by one of the grounds maintenance contractors. In the switchover between contracts, the contractor has failed to cut an area of the Silverlands play area (football space). This is being addressed.</p> <p>J Dalley would like the Parish Council to consider purchasing their own mowers.</p> <p>C Greenwood proposed that the area could be cut by Devizes Town Council. Idverde are contracted to carry out the work for 2 years, until March 2025. If the contractor continues to not fulfil their contract adequately, the Parish Council will write to them.</p>	
11.	<p>Community Engagement & social media</p> <p><u>Funds from Coronation Event</u></p> <p>The total raised was: £1,333.10.</p> <p>Total expenditure was: £1,106.05 (entertainment cost £945)</p> <p>A profit of £227.05 was made. There is now £1,019.69 in the ring-fenced fund for community events).</p> <p>B Zaccarelli thanked everyone who put so much effort in before the event and on the day.</p> <p><u>Facebook post:</u> L Wills & A Humphreys have kept the Parish Council Facebook page updated with all events.</p>	
12.	<p>Village Appearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you was given to everyone who has helped to tidy the village in advance of the Best Kept Village competition, in particularly M Somerville for weedkilling, C Keevil, P Hale & brother for repainting the church gates on the High Street. • C Greenwood reported that the permissive path from the Rowdey Cow to Marsh Lane needs cutting back (over the second bridge). 	
13.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Somerville will become the allotments representative for the Parish Council. • Material for the grab lorry is ready to be collected. Wood that has been accumulated by one of the borders will have to be moved manually. <p><u>Request for new community allotment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Reed Place has asked if the area adjacent to this property could be turned into a community allotment for people with disabilities. This area belongs to Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council does not wish to pursue an allotment at this site. • A Wiltshire Council officer has contacted the Parish Council about people using Reed Place to access the field adjacent to it. Wiltshire Council states that access through Reed Place to the permissive path is not a Right of Way. The Parish Council's view is that the permissive path was there before Reed Place was built and still exists. It should still be possible to access the permissive path from Reed Place. 	Clerk
14.	<p>Highways and Village Appearance</p> <p><u>Speed Indicator Device</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed to move the Speed Indicator Device on 17th June and then to look at moving it again in September {Clerk's note, this has been postponed}. <p><u>Bridleway off the Common</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern has been raised about the Common being used to gain vehicular access to a parcel of land off the Crossroads. Access can not be permitted across the Common. It was agreed to permit a fencepost to be put installed to prevent this from happening. The Common is being churned up by vehicles using it. This section of land does not have permitted vehicular access across the Common. 	
15.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no further correspondence to report.</p>	
16.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 12th July 2023, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall. There is no Parish Council meeting in August. <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:
