

**MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall**

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> P Brown (Chair), P Bryant (from 7.40pm), J Dalley, C Greenwood, A Humphreys, T Humphreys, Lisa Wills, Barbara Zaccarelli          Public audience: 26</p>
1.	<p><b>Apologies &amp; Acceptance of Apologies</b>          Josh Wills          Cllr Laura Mayes</p>
2.	<p><b>Register of business interests</b>          There were no business interests recorded.</p>
3.	<p><b>Chairman’s five minutes</b>          The Chairman introduced Eric Clark, Chairman of Bishops Cannings Parish Council, who is a part of the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.</p>
4.	<p><b>Update on notice of Councillor vacancies</b>          Wiltshire Council is currently advertising the two vacancies on Rowde Parish Council. The public notice will be displayed until 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022. After that time, the post can be filled through co-option. Four members of the audience stated their interest in being co-opted at the next meeting (C Stevens, G White, M Somerville, E Watt).</p>
5. moved from item 10a	<p><b>Neighbourhood Planning</b>  <u>Discussion on Open Green Spaces in Rowde.</u>          E Clark, from the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, attended the meeting to discuss the green space audit which he has started to compile on behalf of the group. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan group has not decided yet whether to include a size limit on the green spaces that can be included. Some land that has been proposed may have limited amenity value but may still be important to the village.          ~ G White (resident) said that she has taken advice from the National Office of CPRE &amp; the Local Green Space Society and she stated that the Parish Council can put forward the field next to Sands Lane as a Green Space.          E Clark clarified that ‘Locality’ states that an Open Green space must be demonstrably a local facility. It must not be a green space around a settlement. It should not be used to contain urban sprawl. It must be self-contained but not defined by hedgerows. It would be considered an abuse of process to use the policy as a tactic to avoid development.          G White argued against these points and believes that the field has an amenity value. Others stated that the field was self-contained. There is one official footpath over the land, which is private land. It was asked how the community can get other tracks that are walked in the field recognized.          It was agreed to include the field off Sands Lane in the audit for it to be assessed. There will then be a consultation. It will be decided by a Planning Inspector in the end who will apply the guidance rigorously. There will be consultations with the public about the plan as it is being drafted.           ~ G White noted her straw poll on Facebook about the proposal to build on land off Sands Lane.          ~ G White asked if the village will be consulted on the whole plan. The Chairman confirmed that the draft plan has to be consulted on. When the Neighbourhood Plan goes before an inspector, there will be a vigorous appraisal of all land that it had available.</p>

	<p>~ C Greenwood noted that it may be necessary to look at the settlement boundary</p> <p>~ W Cherry asked the Parish Council to comment on the development proposal. The Parish Council said that it would not comment as they could pre-judge the application and then not be able to vote on the application when it is received.</p> <p>~ It was asked whether there would be a poll of every household, when the application is received.</p> <p>~ G White discussed whether it was an option to build to the side of Rowde Primary School. The Parish Council has asked Wiltshire Council this question twice before. The Chairman agreed to write to Wiltshire Council to ask whether this land was available for development. It was asked if Cllr Mayes can ask Wiltshire Council to release this land for development.</p> <p>~ A member of the audience suggested that the Parish Council would doctor information passed to the Neighbourhood Steering Group. This was refuted by Parish Councillors.</p> <p>~ P Bryant suggested that the field could be made an asset of community value (for walking and green space)</p> <p>~ It was noted that the field would not have been thought of as a green space before work started on the Neighbourhood Plan or before there was a proposal to build on the land there. It was not an area that residents thought would need protecting.</p> <p>~ It was asked if the minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan meetings could be made available online. The Chairman noted that the website is currently down.</p> <p>~ the Chairman noted that any landowner can put forward land as a potential site for development.</p> <p>~ G White said that the residents in Rowde have not been consulted on the Neighbourhood Plan so far. The Chairman responded that there have been two public events on this Neighbourhood Plan so far (February 2019, September 2021). There has been information published in the Rowde Village News asking for help to design a Neighbourhood Plan over the past 5-6 years, and it has been discussed at many Parish Council meetings. There have been insufficient volunteers over the years for Rowde to create its own Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>~ G White questioned a response from Rowde Parish Council Clerk to one of her email, stating that Devizes Town Clerk had given a different response. Rowde Parish Council has not suggested any land for development to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Group, which is constituted by two Parish Councils and Devizes Town Council, will agree a methodology of how sites will be selected for assessment. This will be applied across the whole group.</p> <p>~ C Greenwood noted that residents can obtain help from Community First if they wish to survey the village.</p> <p>There were no other comments or questions about any other matter.</p>	<p>P Brown</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Wiltshire Council – Cllr Mayes (written report)</b></p> <p>Cost of Living Support: Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses and communities for those who are struggling with the cost of living - there is detailed information online at: <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support</a>. Assistance has already been provided to residents through schemes such as the Household Support Fund (£2.7m to vulnerable households), the Council Tax Energy Rebate to residents in Council Tax bands A-D and the School Holidays Activity and Food programme. The discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme for households in bands E to H is now open for those in receipt of Council Tax reduction, or if the property</p>	

	<p>has been adapted to accommodate a disabled person (including severe mental disabilities).</p> <p>The £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme is payable to every household - the discount will be applied to monthly household electricity bills for 6 months from October 2022 – you will receive £66 in October and November and £67 in December, January, February, and March. The discount is paid monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card. Prepayment meter users will get equivalent vouchers that will need to be redeemed. Alongside this, the Government’s Energy Price Guarantee – the “Energy Price Cap” ensures that a “typical” household will pay no more than £2,500 per year until April 2023 when there will be a Treasury-led review into how energy bills are supported going forwards. Some households in our area are off the gas grid, and rely on heating oil or LPG, in addition to electricity. The Government is also providing an additional payment of £100 to compensate for the rising costs of these other fuels and Danny Kruger MP is pressing Ministers for more detail about how this payment will be distributed. In the meantime, Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses (including schools) and Wiltshire Council staff. Area Boards are being asked to work with their communities to ensure that local support is in place for the most vulnerable, including food banks. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is supporting residents with financial wellbeing concerns. The 09:30hrs restriction on concessionary fare bus passes has been lifted, so that they can be used at any time and Warm and Safe Wiltshire will continue to offer free and impartial energy advice to reduce fuel poverty.</p> <p><u>Silverwood construction</u> : The building continues to go well and Wiltshire Council is confident everything will be ready for a September 2023 opening.  ~ A question was asked for Cllr Mayes: What is the council’s proposal for trial running the mini-buses?  ~ Members of the Parish Council have been invited to a topping out ceremony at Silverwood School on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Chairman &amp; Vice-Chairman have agreed to go.  <u>Sands Lane</u>: Cllr Mayes has been contacted by a number of residents with their comments about the proposed development. These will be kept on file for when the application is submitted and it is brought to the Eastern Area Planning Committee.</p>	LM
7.	<p><b>Rowde Primary School – Swimming pool</b>  There was no update from Rowde Primary School.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>  The Parish Council accepted the minutes from the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 as an accurate summary of the meeting. This was proposed by L Wills and seconded by A Humphreys. All Councillors who were present at the meeting agreed.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Matters arising &amp; actions taken from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Village Christmas tree has been ordered. The Clerk will confirm the date of delivery.</li> <li>• The Clerk noted the Parish Council’s support for the extension of alcohol licence at the Rowdey Cow.</li> <li>• The Parish Council was unable to ascertain ownership of the verge along the path from Cock Road to St Matthew’s Close.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed memorial for M Dalley has been delayed as the area is damp at the moment.</li> <li>• The Clerk has contacted Mr Saunders about footpaths and their maintenance.</li> <li>• The Clerk has forwarded copies of correspondence relating to a trench on Devizes Road to Cllr Mayes. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to find out further information on this trench, as they believe the flooding on the Devizes Road may be attributed to this.</li> <li>• The Clerk has submitted the accounts to the internal auditor for a mid-year review.</li> <li>• There has been a delay in filling the potholes on Sands Lane.</li> <li>• The Clerk has requested a scaled map of Tanis for J Dalley.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Financial matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for October 2022</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council reviewed the monthly bank reconciliation.</p> <p><u>October 2022 invoices</u> (total: £2,634.05)  Admin costs: £1,721.64  Ground's maintenance: £862.41  Poppy wreaths: £50.00</p> <p>Payments were proposed by A Humphreys, seconded by P Bryant (P Brown abstained from the vote on payments to L Brown for litter collecting). All other Councillors approved the payments.</p> <p>Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will arrange a date to meet before the next Parish Council meeting to start discussing the precept requirement for next year.</p> <p>A Humphreys requested that the Parish Council purchases a portable microphone and speaker system. C Greenwood agreed to look into it.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Community Engagement &amp; social media</b></p> <p><u>Christmas Banner</u>: B Zaccarelli proposed designing a Christmas banner to wish residents a happy Christmas. It was proposed by J Dalley, seconded by T Humphreys, all Councillors were in favour of creating and purchasing a Christmas banner to be sited on the Hill.</p> <p><u>Village Christmas Tree</u>: a preliminary arrangement has been made for the tree to be erected on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 3pm.</p> <p><u>Facebook posts</u>: There have been posts about the proposal to build on land off Sands Lane.</p> <p>~ A Humphreys discussed having a Village advent calendar. A house would volunteer to decorate one of their windows to be revealed on a set day. A Humphreys is looking for volunteers to host a window.</p> <p><u>Coronation Day</u>: B Zaccarelli proposed holding a community event on bank holiday of 8<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the King's coronation.</p> <p><u>Remembrance Service</u>: Rev Schofield has not been replaced at St Matthew's Church yet. The Remembrance Service will be held at 3pm, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the war memorial. The Chairman noted that there is a war grave in the cemetery of St Matthew's Church.</p> <p><u>Speed watch</u>: the current Team Leader for the Rowde Speed Watch Team, T Jeffries is stepping down from the post, after eight years of service. The Team has been unable to recruit sufficient volunteers to keep the team running. The Parish Council wished to express their thanks to T Jeffries for all of the work that he has carried out in the role over the past years.</p>	

	<p>The Clerk noted that the village will be purchasing a Speed Indicator Device. It was noted that Market Lavington are using an 'Autospeed Watch Device'. These are not currently supported by the Police service but it was considered whether they would act as a deterrent to speeders. C Greenwood agreed to contact the head of the PCC, Philip Wilkinson to discuss the matter.</p> <p><u>Furlong Close</u>: the site owners SSH is looking for people to use their assets: Marsh Hall, workshops, an orchard etc. either for lease or for individual hire. There was some interest at the meeting in having a community orchard.</p>	CG
12.	<p><b>Playing fields &amp; play areas</b></p> <p><u>Silverlands Play Area</u>: L Wills and the Clerk are assessing the equipment that can be retained. The area has been cordoned off for a week so that the grass can be weedkilled and fed.</p> <p>~ The Parish Council has received a quotation for £2,882.02 + VAT to replace the springy that was removed some years ago. It was hoped that the base unit could be retained and re-used. The supplies says that it can not be reused. There was a discussion by the Parish Council about whether the springy could be bought on its own and then returned if it did not fit the existing base unit.</p> <p>T Humphreys proposed putting plastic sheaves around the legs of the wooden structure for the swing frame so that the frame can be reused.</p> <p><u>Large playing field</u>:</p> <p>Playing fields: the football pitches have been marked out by D Packer. J Dalley is still concerned that the pitches are not being used. J Dalley raised the suggestion again of a possible land swap with Wiltshire Council. G White offered to look for grants to build a pavilion.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>C Greenwood noted a request by a member of the public for permission from the Parish Council to access land off the Common. The land is for sale but does not have access. The Parish Council asked for this to be discussed in full at the next Parish Council meeting. There was no further correspondence to report.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Date of next Parish Council meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, at 7.30pm in Rowde Village Hall.</p> <p>Wednesday 11th January 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: .....