

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 8th November 2023, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: J Dalley, C Greenwood, C Stevens, J Wills, L Wills, B Zaccarelli Public audience: Four</p>
1.	<p>Apologies: A Humphreys, M Somerville, Cllr Laura Mayes Absent: P Bryant</p>
2.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests There were no interests to register</p>
3.	<p>Notice of Resignation of Councillor – Tom Humphreys Thank you to T Humphreys for all of his work with the Parihs Council, and in particular with the Speed Indicator Device (SID). There are two vacancies for Parish Councillors. One is currently being advertised. The other vacancy can now be filled through co-option.</p>
4.	<p>Public Question Time A question was submitted in writing before the Parish Council meeting asking for an update on the Wiltshire Council development on land adjacent to Reed Place. The Clerk updated the meeting that Rowde is the third party in a pilot scheme. The other two parties have started building. It is estimated that building at Rowde will be a couple of months behind the first two sites. A further question was asked about how boggy the ground is there, and whether the height of the water table in Rowde may affect the proposal to develop on land at Sands Lane. There was clarification that the new buildings (10) are part of the ‘committed’ number for Rowde on the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was asked whether the audience could participate in items as they appear in the agenda. The Chair confirmed that they could.
5.	<p>Wiltshire Council update – written update submitted by Cllr Mayes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council has been awarded a further £2.1m by the Department for Transport (DfT) to spend on improving bus services in the county. This second allocation of funding for the period 2024 to 2025, is from the Government’s Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus fund and follows an earlier allocation in May for 2023 to 2024. Both nationally and locally, bus passenger numbers have struggled to increase back to pre-COVID levels, and this has been compounded by the challenging economic climate, high fuel prices and a national bus driver shortage. This bus funding is aimed at helping address these issues, maintaining and growing bus service levels across the county. • <u>Local Plan Consultation:</u> Cllr Mayes met a number of residents at the recent Local Plan Consultation event at Devizes Library. Residents are encouraged to submit their comments about the plan, particularly with reference to Rowde’s housing allocation. • <u>Sands Lane Application:</u> Cllr Mays has attended a number of meetings with Senior Leaders at Wiltshire Council about the planning application. The Council has recently lost a number of planning appeals because it cannot currently demonstrate a five-year land supply. This is despite Wiltshire exceeding its housing targets. Cllr Mayes is meeting a government minister with our MP next week to explain the position the Council is in. If Wiltshire Council Officers are minded to approve this application it will come to the Strategic Planning Committee on

	<p>Wednesday, 29th November. Cllr Mayes said she will work with the Parish Council and residents to agree how to approach the meeting to ensure the community's views are heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sands Lane upkeep: Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the lane is recorded as a highway, maintainable at public expense. The remainder is a bridleway (also at public expense but only to a standard suitable for use on foot, horseback, and bicycle). A new Highways officer is starting next week, and he will be asked to look at improving the surface. • Recent flooding: Cllr Mayes thanked residents for making her aware of the flooding in Sands Lane. It was noted that it is important for the Parish Council to have an emergency flood plan. 	
6.	<p>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meetings on 12th July 2023</p> <p>The minutes had been amended to include the disagreement between three Parish Councillors at the July Parish Council meeting. C Greenwood disagreed with who had asked or stated that the meeting should be closed.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that she has re-listened to the recording of that meeting. The Chairman also produced a transcript of the section in question. The recording was replayed at the meeting. A member of the audience expressed concern that not all parts of the meeting could be heard on the recording if the microphone was not being held. The Chairman confirmed that she had received a copy of the recording from C Greenwood where the sound had been enhanced. After further discussion, it was proposed by J Dalley, seconded by J Wills that the revised draft minutes as they were presented, would be approved. Four Councillors voted in favour, one abstained. The Chairman confirmed that the recording was being used in the investigation by the Governance Department at Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 11th October 2023.</p> <p>C Stevens 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 11th October 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk has requested that the Parish Steward works to clear the kerbstones along Rowde Court Road. • Aster has removed the sycamore tree which was growing through a wall at Maundrell Close bordering the High Street. • The Clerk has written to thank the volunteers for the Canal and River Trust for their work in the Jubilee Woods. 	
8.	<p>Finance Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly bank reconciliation was shared with the Parish Council & monthly invoices for October 2023 were presented. <p>October <u>2023 invoices</u> (total: £2,683.09) Admin costs: £1,814 Ground's maintenance: £687.11 Donations: £181.98</p> <p>An additional payment of £60 for bus shelter cleaning was presented.</p> <p>Payment for invoices was proposed by J Wills, seconded by C Stevens. All Councillors were in favour.</p>	
9.	<p>Community Engagement & social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act of Remembrance: Sunday 12th November 3pm <p>C Stevens will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. C Greenwood will place a cross on the war grave of the soldier interred there.</p>	

	<p>2038. It was commented by a member of the audience that the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering group is not doing its job properly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Request by Society of Merchant Venturers to meet with Rowde Parish Council to discuss land for development in Rowde.</u> Three representatives from the Parish Council met with representatives from the Merchant Venturers in September. It was unclear about the purpose of the meeting before it took place. The Merchant Venturers would like to discuss a potential development on land at Tanis (15 houses), behind Conscience Cottages, and also adjacent to Conscience Cottages to go up to the Rowdey Cow (50 houses in total). It was originally thought that the meeting was to discuss a cycle route from Tanis to Braeside and a suggestion to develop on land at Roundway (Devizes Field). • The suggestion to build on land at Tanis was first raised by Jim Butler a couple of years ago. There was hope for a hamlet, community led housing development. Some properties would have been affordable homes and others social housing. • A resident raised concerns about the ground levels of the proposed site with existing homes being 8-9 ft lower than the proposed development. Any new buildings would look into the existing properties. It was noted that the land is good agricultural land, and it is also very wet. • C Greenwood raised a concern about who should register a pecuniary interest in the proposed development {Advice from WALC: Councillors individually must decide whether or not they should declare an interest in any decision being made at a Council meeting. In addition, if the planning application was for a large development and the land previously owned by the Councillor, then yes there probably is a pecuniary interest}. However, if the land or adjacent houses are not owned by Councillors, it would be difficult to see how they would gain a pecuniary advantage from the planning application. All business interests in the application and associated parties should be recorded. • A resident stated that there is no room for this development within the emerging Local Plan and that the suggestion should be dismissed. C Greenwood suggested postponing the decision to meet with Merchant Venturers until after Christmas. <p><u>Parish Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation</u> The deadline for responses is 22nd November. The Clerk confirmed that she has obtained a copy of the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Rural Housing Requirements. The excerpt from Rowde had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting. C Greenwood asked for a link to the full suite of local plan documents (Clerk sent this 9/11/23).</p>	
11.	<p>Village Appearance <u>Fly tipping at the allotments:</u> cars and car parts had been left in the car park next to the large playing field. The owner of the items was identified and asked to remove them. The parish is reminded that anything that is fly tipped on that land will cost the parish money to remove and dispose of as it is considered private land. It was proposed that the Parish Council installs a camera in this area. C Greenwood agreed to source a price for one. <u>Discussion on the removal of dog waste bins by the Canal and River Trust along the Caen Hill Locks and the impact for the village of Rowde.</u> A Humphreys has set up a petition to try to get the bins reinstated. There was a discussion among the Parish Council about whose responsibility it is and the effects on the parish precept (estimated cost currently £6k). C Greenwood suggested obtaining prices for emptying bins along the Caen Hill Locks, or the access points to the parish of Rowde, from</p>	CG

	a contractor. The Parish Council agreed to monitor the situation and see if there is a long-term problem with dog waste in that area.	
12.	<p>Highways</p> <p><u>Speed Indicator Device – update on data to Police</u></p> <p>J Gray has kindly agreed to extract the data from the Speed Indicator Device and submit it to the Police. The data for October 2023 has been submitted to the Police. J Gray offered to provide the Parish Council with a monthly report on the speeding data. The data has to be submitted to the Police at the end of each calendar month. It was proposed to move the Speed Indicator Device to a new location at the end of November.</p> <p>There is a ‘dark mode’ on the Speed Indicator Device. This could be used in periods when the Speed Indicator Device should be resting. It can also be used to test the need for a second SID.</p> <p><u>Community Speedwatch</u></p> <p>C Greenwood reported that the village has access again to a Speedwatch camera. It will be shared with Brickley Lane and also Seend. C Greenwood was thanked for his hard work in reestablishing use of the camera. C Greenwood is attending a course on Speedwatch. Speed awareness week is coming up. It was noted that the Police have been enforcing speed limits several times recently in the village.</p>	
13.	<p>Playing fields</p> <p>Grounds maintenance</p> <p>There were no updates.</p>	
14.	<p>Play Areas</p> <p>It was noted that M Somerville is looking at repairs suggested in the recent RoSPA reports. J Dalley reminded the Parish Council that it had been agreed for him (in May 2023) to look for goal posts for the Silverlands Play Area, approximately 12ft x 6ft. J Dalley volunteered to look into this again.</p> <p>It was also suggested that high rise netting is installed along the fence by the school to stop balls going over the fence.</p> <p>There had been a suggestion to hold a grand opening of the new play equipment at Silverlands Play Area. There was a discussion on who could open the area. After some discussion, it was proposed by J Dalley, seconded by B Zaccarelli that there would not be a grand opening as the park area has been reopened now for some time. All Councillors present at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.</p>	
15.	<p>Allotments</p> <p>M Somerville sent his apologies for the meeting.</p> <p>C Greenwood noted that M Somerville required more information about the allotments which could be shared with allotment holders and potential allotment holders. L Wills agreed to speak with M Somerville about this.</p>	LW
16.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no further correspondence to report.</p> <p>C Greenwood reiterated the comment in Cllr Mayes’ report that Rowde needs to have a Flood Plan. L Wills has started looking at a Flood Plan. C Greenwood noted that he is the Flood Warden for the Devizes \North Ward and can help with any documents needed.</p> <p>Meeting closed: 9.55pm</p>	
17.	<p>Parish Council meetings – 2024</p> <p>Dates were agreed.</p>	
18.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 13th December 2023, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall. 	

	Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.	
--	---	--

A reminder that all requests for work/or goods must be presented to the relevant Committee first for authorisation.

Signed: Chairman Date: