

Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

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| | <p>PRESENT: L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, S Rigby, M Somerville, E Watt Public audience: 9 Cllr Laura Mayes. Tom Lines observed the meeting</p> |
| 1. | <p>Apologies: J Wills</p> |
| 2. | <p>Register of pecuniary interests M Somerville registered a pecuniary interest in invoices for the ground maintenance work that he carries out for the Parish.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Chairman’s five minutes The Chairman asked for everyone to be respectful of each other when they are talking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion about who to invite to speak at the Annual Village Meeting on 14th May. It was suggested that Rowde Primary School, Silverwood School, The Mind Tree Café and the Rowde Village News are invited to attend. |
| 4. | <p>Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Laura Mayes Wiltshire Council elections will be held on 1st May 2025. Cllr Mayes summarised the work that she has carried out over this term of office, including working to keep Furlong Close open, and supporting the creation of the Mind Tree Café; the transfer of the playground in Silverlands Road to the Parish Council; and the completion of Silverwood School. There were concerns about the effect that the new school would have on local traffic. The Council is still working to reduce the speed limit outside of Silverwood School to 40mph. In general, there have not been the traffic problems that the local community anticipated. <u>Sands Lane planning application</u> was refused by Wiltshire Council planning officers. The applicant has appealed the decision. Wiltshire Council has agreed to defend the appeal. There is a back log of appeals with the Planning Inspector. <u>The Gypsy and Traveller plan</u> has been paused by Wiltshire Council. Some County Councillors raised concerns about the legal process in drafting the plan. The plan has been paused pending further legal information. <u>Caen Hill Junction:</u> Work still to be carried out, includes a £3million improvement to the junction at Caen Hill. This work is planned for 2026. <u>Devizes Road pavement:</u> Work has begun to scrape back the pavement along Devizes Road. This work needs to be continued. Parish Councillors noted that the verge needs to be pushed back another foot. There is concern, however, that there is only earth behind the grass verge at that point. Cllr Mayes was hopeful that a shop would be opening up in Rowde soon with the planning application for the change of use of the Cross Keys.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Public Question Time: There were no questions asked.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 12th March 2025 It was proposed by S Rigby, seconded by E Watt, that the minutes should be approved. All Councillors who attended that meeting were happy to agree.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Matters arising & actions taken from 12th March 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk has contacted Rollalong, the contractors for the Haymeadow Way project and asked if they would consider giving a donation towards new play |

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| | <p>equipment in Silverlands, rather than volunteering to carry out work in the village {Rollalong has since confirmed that they can not give any charitable donations as all of their donations have been allocated. They can only give volunteer hours to carry out certain tasks}.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Dalley discussed drainage works with a local farmer. • The Clerk replied to Aster about parking concerns in Springfield Road and Ferris Close and the Parish Council has suggested that Aster could leaflet residents door to door. • L Wills has checked on the parking rights in Maundrell Close. All of the land, including the car parking area and the road entrance into Maundrell Close is owned by Aster. • There was further discussion about the brook that needs clearing on The Common. The feeder for the brook starts at the bottom of the field by Rainbow’s End. There is also a blockage in the drain under the road by Wick Farm. There is a ditch at Wick Farm that needs digging. Water is running across the road and has nowhere to go. It is suspected that there is a blocked drain under the road. There is a blockage from that drain to the feeder. L Wills has agreed to speak with Richard Williams (Wiltshire Council drainage) about this problem. • L Wills reported that Wiltshire Council’s drainage team have been out in the village of Rowde to repair broken pipes along Devizes Road. There was a lot of silt in the pipe, but it was working okay. The trench by Buena Vista, Devizes Road will be covered. A broken pipe was found under Devizes Road opposite the bus shelter. This has been repaired. • S Rigby sent details of the ‘Taking action on School Journeys’ funding scheme to the Clerk. {This year’s round of applications for funding has closed. The Clerk will investigate potential action with Rowde Primary School for any future funding applications} | <p>LW</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Planning <u>Progress report on new development at Haymeadow Way</u> C Greenwood and J Dalley met with all associated partners on 10th March 2025. to discuss drainage access to the new houses at Haymeadow Way. C Greenwood and J Dalley stated that there was an absolute agreement made at that meeting that a new pavement would be installed by the contractors from the back gate entrance to the school, across the fence line towards 18 Silverlands Road. This was to provide a safe route for children from the school to the new development at Haymeadow Way. Wiltshire Council has confirmed that it is not viable to create this path, and that the drainage work will be carried out in the Easter holidays so as not to disrupt access to the school in termtime. The Clerk was asked to refute the decision not to install a pavement along the fenceline with Wiltshire Council and clarify the agreed position for the Parish Council. <u>Planning application</u> PL/2025/02032 The Cross Keys, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2PN. Full planning permission: Altered access, demolition of existing storage building, conversion of former public house (sui generis) into a Use Class E(a) retail unit with customer parking, retention of an existing dwelling above the pub, and construction of two detached Use Class C3 dwellings with associated amenity space and car parking. Deadline for comments 14/4/25. The Parish Council discussed the application in full. The Parish Council was supportive of two new houses for the village and for the creation of a village shop. There was some concern about potential parking issues for customers accessing the shop and possible on-</p> | |

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| | <p>Any blocked drains or gullies can be reported to the Clerk for Wiltshire Council's Discretionary Gully service to clear. This team can only clear non-A roads.</p> <p><u>Community Speedwatch</u></p> <p>The village now has a full complement for people who can work the camera. C Greenwood will arrange a meeting with Seend and other villages so that a Speedwatch session can be held.</p> | CG |
| 13. | <p>Finance Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly bank reconciliation & monthly invoices for March 2025 <p><u>March 2025 invoices</u> (total: 3,249.88)</p> <p>Admin costs: £1,834.41</p> <p>Ground's maintenance: £1,330.47</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan: £85.00</p> <p>It was proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by E Watt, that the invoices should be accepted and paid. All Councillors agreed.</p> | |
| 14. | <p>Allotments</p> <p><u>Update on plans for drainage improvements at the allotments</u></p> <p>Work to repair the fencing at the front of the allotment site will start next week.</p> <p>There is some waste from under the oak tree, the side of the allotment car park and grass cuttings from the sports field which need to be taken away.</p> | |
| 15. | <p>Community engagement</p> <p>Facebook: there were no posts to update on</p> | |
| 16. | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no further correspondence to update on.</p> | |
| 16. | <p>Date of next Parish Council meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Village Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th May, at 6.30pm. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting, and then the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Wed 14th May 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall <p>Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.</p> <p>Closed the meeting at 9.15pm</p> | |

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

Signed: Chairman Date: