

Draft Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 20th August 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, T Lines, S Rigby, E Watt, J Wills Public audience: 11 Cllr Laura Mayes.</p>
	<p>Welcome</p>
1.	<p>Apologies M Somerville</p>
2.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests None to record</p>
3.	<p>Chairman’s five minutes The Chairman reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded. There was a continued request for people to listen when other people are talking to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. <u>Freedom of Information request.</u> The Parish Council has received a Freedom of Information request about the wildlife cameras that were located near the allotments and in the large playing field. This request has been responded to.</p>
4.	<p>Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Mayes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mayes updated the meeting on the public consultation on speed reduction on Caen Hill, with the proposal to reduce the speed limit to 50mph. The consultation begins on 21st August 2025. The details of the plans will be available on the Traffic Regulation Order consultation section of the council’s website from this date. • Wiltshire Council are also consulting on their new Council Plan. Details are available on the Wiltshire Council website. It is an opportunity for residents to give their feedback on the proposed plan covering the next 10 years.
5.	<p><i>Moved from agenda item 11.</i></p> <p>Highways C Greenwood has met with A Cadwallader, Highways Area Engineer, covering the Area Boards of Devizes and Pewsey. The following highways issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield Road is on a major reinstatement list for resurfacing. • The Marsh Lane junction with Springfield needs the white lines reinstating. • The new 30mph sign on Marsh Lane should have ‘Welcome to Rowde’ on it, which A Cadwallader will check on this. • The missing 40mph roundel before Marsh Lane Cottages will be replaced • It was suggested that the Parish Council erect a No Parking sign where the double yellow lines are, before the Canal Bridge. • The Parish Steward can be booked for weed spraying all along the gulleys in the Parish - they are supposed to be sprayed twice a year. • The Parish Council needs to ask the Parish Steward to cut back all the splays before the speed limit signs around the Village. • The rubbish from the road repair near the Bus Stop will be cleared. • The ironworks along the A342 need checking - anything above 60mm requires the Utility Company to rectify the problem. • We need photographs to support any applications to Highways. • Conscience Lane will continue to be patched. The materials used on the recent reinstatement were of inferior quality, which is why it keeps breaking up.

- Enforcement action is being taken to reinstate the highway alongside Buena Vista on Devizes Road.
- The road sweeper has been out, near the bus stop by Tanis. It can not clear the pavement though.
- C Greenwood has contacted the tenant farmer to ask for the entrance to the footpath opposite the Rowdey Cow entrance to be cut back.

Discussion on management of the Speed Indicator Device (S.I.D)

C Greenwood told the meeting that Rowde can have the speed camera every month. The SID needs rotating in its current location. C Greenwood reported that a second SID is recommended.

Q: A question was asked about whether the parish can see the Speedwatch data before a second SID is purchased. L Wills will contact the parishioner who submits the data to the Police for a summary to share with residents.

The Speedwatch data will be reviewed by the Parish Council. If the data proves that the SID slows traffic in that area, the Parish Council will purchase another SID device. All Councillors were in favour of purchasing a second SID if the data proves that the first SID is effective in slowing traffic.

Q: A question was asked about why the speed limit outside of Silverwood School has still not been reduced. Cllr Mayes reported that the intention is to reduce the speed limit to 40mph outside of Silverwood School.

J Wills raised concern about the speed limit approaching Rowde from the direction of Devizes. It was commented that the speed limit should be 30mph from the entrance to the Rowdey Cow, on Devizes Road. C Greenwood responded to say that he had raised this as an issue with Inspector Garrett from Devizes Police and they had discussed revising signage along Devizes Road.

Update from Local Highways Footpaths and Infrastructure Group (LHFIG) on 3/7/25

The Parish Council asked for a traffic review to be carried out in Rowde, along the A342, with particular concern for pedestrian safety. LHFIG asked the parish to complete a traffic survey requesting the village to have a metro count. The Clerk asked the Parish Council for the specific locations they would like to request for a metro count. C Greenwood confirmed as many locations as possible.

Support for proving pedestrian usage of Devizes Road for pavement re-instatement.

The pavement under the encouraging grass verge has degraded to such an extent that it will need to be replaced. Devizes Road footpath is on the list for total reinstatement, however, there currently is no budget available for the work. The Area Highways Engineer reports that this work will cost approximately £50k. The budget for the whole Devizes and Pewsey area is £80k per year. It is thought by Wiltshire Council that this is not a well-used path. It is down to the parish to prove this is not the case.

Wiltshire Council suggested that the Parish Council carry out a survey in the village of people who walk the Devizes Road footpath and those that would walk it if it was reinstated to a reasonable width. We need to categorically prove that the pedestrian route would be used on a regular basis, in order to justify the cost.

C Greenwood suggested residents write directly to the Highways Engineer. C Greenwood agreed to find out about possible S. 106 money that could be used to get the pavement reinstated.

Update on meeting to discuss Tanis footpath L Wills & the Clerk met with A Cadwallader, Highways Engineer, to discuss plans to create a permissive footpath at the entrance to Tanis. A Cadwallader suggested using pedestrian gates at the proposed entrance and exit to the path. This would save costs on installing stock proof fencing. A Cadwallader also discussed installing a hoggin path. J Dalley suggested forming a working party to get this project completed. J Dalley, L Wills and T Lines agreed to be part of the working party.

LW

RJ

CG

JD

	<p>the village. There will be consultation on the draft plan at regulation 14 stage, which is planned for early 2026. This is a pre-submission consultation and publicity period which must run for a minimum of 6 weeks.</p> <p>Update on Haymeadow Way</p> <p>The Chairman noted that properties are being allocated. The deadline for bidding on the shared ownership properties for people with a connection to Rowde is 31st August.</p> <p><u>Planning applications:</u></p> <p>PL/2025/04729 Plot 1 Berhills Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 1SU. Full Planning: Change of use to traveller’s site, regularisation and extension of existing building as dwelling. Deadline: 24/7/25. The Parish Council objected to the application, mostly on grounds of access across the Common to the site. This response was discussed remotely by the Parish Council due to the cancellation of their meeting in July. The Parish Council’s response was submitted to Wiltshire Council outside of a Parish Council meeting. The decision was ratified at this meeting.</p> <p>PL/2025/05792 Marsh Cottage, Marsh Lane, Rowde. Full planning permission Retrospective planning application for Carport to be used to work on vans to convert to campervans. Deadline for comments:8/8/25 The Parish Council had no objection to the application subject to conditions of there being a decontamination zone on site. This response was discussed remotely by the Parish Council due to the cancellation of their meeting in July. The Parish Council’s response was submitted to Wiltshire Council outside of a Parish Council meeting. The decision was ratified at this meeting.</p> <p>PL/2025/05508 Seven Acre Field, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2LU Removal/variation of conditions Variation of condition 1 and 2 of PL/2021/09262 to provide a single additional dog exercise session. Deadline 6/8/25. The Parish Council objected to the application on grounds of access to the site. It stated that there should be no increase of access to any site along Devizes Road until a safety review of the road has taken place. This response was discussed remotely by the Parish Council due to the cancellation of their meeting in July. The Parish Council’s response was submitted to Wiltshire Council outside of a Parish Council meeting. The decision was ratified at this meeting.</p> <p>PL/2025-06349: Listed building consent: Jacobean House, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2PN: Repair/replacement of existing cellar floor. Deadline 3/9/25. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.</p> <p>PL/2025/06440: Full planning: Oakwood Stud, Marsh Lane, Rowde, SN10 2NW: Permanent retention of rural worker’s mobile home. Deadline for comments: 10/9/25. The Parish Council objected to the application. They did not consider that there is a need for there to be a permanent residential building on this site. They did not consider that the business case had been sufficiently proven for this to become a permanent dwelling. It was suggested that a tax return for an agricultural wage from the site should be supplied to evidence a business case.</p> <p>PL/2025/02032: The Cross Keys, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2PN Cross Keys pub. 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. This application has not been decided yet. The landowner is carrying out drilling work to check drainage on the land before Wiltshire Council decide on the application.</p>	
9.	<p>Playing fields and playgrounds</p> <p><u>Repairs</u></p> <p>It is noted that wetpour in the children’s play areas is degrading. The Clerk was asked to obtain a price for repairing the wetpour.</p>	RJ

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council thanked J Dalley for repairing and repainting the goalposts in the large playing field. • J Dalley will purchase new hooks for the football nets. • The Parish Council thank J Rymes for supplying the paint for the goal posts. • J Dalley will replace the playing field gate. The Jubilee sign will be re-used on a new gate. • Work needs to be carried out on some of the skate park equipment. Thank you to S Skelhorn for making the equipment safe. The whole piece needs to be surveyed to ascertain its long-term viability. It was agreed that L Wills and J Dalley will discuss next steps. <p><u>Field usage</u> Devizes Youth Football Club would like to use the pitch. It was agreed that the cost would be £20 per game. There has also been a proposal to start a walking football team on the large playing field.</p> <p><u>Complaints about football use in equipment area at Silverlands Play area.</u> J Dalley will supply goal posts for the grass area at Silverlands.</p> <p><u>Progress on the Hub</u> The Parish Council is waiting to hear when the planning application to site a hub on the large playing field is open for consultation. {Clerk’s note: the planning application was live as of 26/8/25. The planning number is PL/2025/04873, deadline for comments is 23/9/25} C Greenwood has been in contact with the Parish Council’s planning consultant, Simon Filipowicz. A query has been raised about the bio-diversity net gain from the proposed planning application. Trees and shrubs could be planted to offset the development.</p>	<p>RJ</p> <p>JD</p> <p>JD/ LW</p> <p>JD</p>
10.	<p>Grounds maintenance and village appearance <u>Revision of process for renewal of small works grounds maintenance contract.</u> Item was deferred until September’s Parish Council meeting due to the late running of this meeting.</p> <p><u>Noticeboard</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L Wills updated the meeting that Aster has agreed to grant the Parish Council licences to site noticeboards and/or grit bins on their land at the Tanis, Silverlands Road and Maundrell Close There will be an annual fee of £1.00 per site to pay. • The Parish Council needs to agree on where the new noticeboards will be sited: suggestion at the Tanis and the High Street. The noticeboard currently on the High Street will be moved to the allotments. It was noted that the back of the noticeboard at Silverlands needs to be repaired. <p><u>The Common</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that there is a field off the Common which is covered with thistles and is blowing thistle seeds to neighbouring field. C Greenwood said he would look into what could be done about this. 	<p>RJ</p> <p>CG</p>
12.	<p>Monthly financial matters Monthly bank reconciliation for June/July 2025 was approved. Parish Council was presented with a bank reconciliation for June and July 2025 and a schedule of invoices for payment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly invoices for June 2025 (total: £5,164.35) Admin costs: £2,055.77 Ground’s maintenance: £1,194.96 Village improvements: £146.24 Donations: £125 Allotments: £1,642.38 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly invoices for July 2025 (total: £3,990.52) Admin costs: £1,923.77 Ground's maintenance: £1,100.50 Donations: £125 Allotments: £841.25 <p>Proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by T Lines. All Councillors agreed.</p>	
13.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A working party will be formed to repair a leak on the PC shed and to finish other minor tasks. 	
14.	<p>Community engagement & social media No items were raised.</p>	
15.	<p>Correspondence No items were raised.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting Wed 10th September 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall <p>Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Training for Parish Councillors only: 17th September 2025. 6.30pm – The Mind Tree Café.</i> 	

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

Signed: Chairman Date: