

Draft Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th December 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, M Somerville, E Watt, J Wills. Public audience: 8 Cllr Laura Mayes.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies: C Greenwood</p>	
2.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests: Mark Somerville. M Somerville registered a pecuniary interest in invoices for the grounds maintenance work that he carries out for the Parish.</p>	
3.	<p>Resignation of Chris Stevens The Parish Council thanked C Stevens for his hard work and contribution to the Parish Council and to the village over the many years that Chris has served on the Parish Council.</p>	
4.	<p>Chairman's five minutes The Chairman asked Parish Councillors to keep their conversations to the topic being discussed. A revised Code of Conduct was agreed by the Parish Council at the meeting in September 2024. Councillors signed the new code</p>	
5.	<p>Update from Tim Buxton – owner of former Cross Keys T Buxton updated the Parish Council to say that the Cross Keys pub may become a convenience shop. A shop would need to provide 5 parking spaces. There will be 12 parking spaces on site. A planning application will be submitted soon. There are plans to build a house adjacent to the pub on Marsh Lane. A further house is planning for the Cross Keys car park on the opposite side of Marsh Lane. T Buxton offered to attend the January Parish Council meeting to discuss any progress on the plans.</p>	LW
6.	<p>Public Question Time: A question was asked about news on the Sands Lane appeal. Cllr Mayes responded to say that the appeal is with the planning inspector.</p>	
7.	<p>Wiltshire Council update Cllr Mayes is the Wiltshire Councillor for Rowde</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mayes referenced the poor condition of Springfield Road. This road has now been promoted to the major investment team for assessment funding. • Wiltshire Council has surveyed the drainage on Devizes Road. The Council is waiting for the report on the survey. • Devizes Road pavement: Wiltshire Council hope to carry out a trial clearance of the grass verge, when the equipment is available. The tarmac on the pavement may deteriorate further if the vegetation is ripped out. Wiltshire Council has no funds to repair the pavement. It was asked if the Parish Council could fund repairs. The Parish Council is unlikely to have funds to repair the pavement. Cllr Mayes suggested the strimming of the path was added to the Parish Steward's list. <p><u>Council submits Local Plan to Secretary of State for examination.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council submitted their draft plan to the Planning Inspector last week. This is the housing plan for the whole county. The plan submitted has been based on existing targets from the previous government. It is anticipated that as soon as 	Clerk

	<p>the plan is approved, Wiltshire Council will have to start working on the new plan. It is anticipated that Wiltshire's housing target will increase by 81%.</p> <p><u>Gypsy and traveller development plan:</u> Wiltshire Council cabinet has deferred their decision on the plan until 21st January 2025. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed. Residents are invited to attend to support their views.</p> <p><u>Election timetable:</u> begins in mid-March 2025. Nominations for Parish Councillors need to be submitted before 4pm on Wednesday 2nd April 2025.</p>	
8.	<p>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 13th November 2024</p> <p>It was proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt, that the minutes should be approved. All Councillors who attended that meeting were happy to agree.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters arising & actions taken from 13th November 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Listed Building Officer for Wiltshire Council has asked for pictures to be taken of the property that is of concern. • L Wills has spoken to the PCC at St Matthew's Church about lettering which has come off the marble stand at the memorial at St Matthew's Church. The PCC are dealing with this. • L Wills has printed a double-sided leaflet to promote joining the Parish Council. This will be delivered as soon as possible. • L Wills is in communication with the legal team at Aster about permission to site a Christmas tree moving forward on land at the entrance to Tanis. This has raised questions about the siting of the noticeboard and the grit bin at the same site. • The Speed Indicator Device has been rotated. Thank you to L Wills, R Wills and M Somerville. There are some issues with the solar panel charging of the battery. The area around the Devizes Road Speed Indicator Device socket has been cleared during the recent CCTV drainage survey. • J Dalley & M Somerville inspected the swing set in Silverlands Play Area. The posts are in good condition. It was recommended that the frame could be oiled to help preserve the wood. • The Clerk responded to the planning application: PL/2024/09662 Lower Farm, roofing of silage clamp. The Parish Council had no objections. • L Wills contacted Iain Marr, previous Youth Club Co-Ordinator, about any remaining funds in the Youth Club account. There has not been a response. • J Dalley & the Clerk have been in contact with the Youth Council Co-Ordinator about the transfer of any remaining funds for expenditure on the skatepark equipment and the BMX track. • The laurel hedge at the edge of the junction of Springfield Road with Marsh Lane has been cut back. The owner of the property behind has said that they will maintain this part of the hedge moving forward. • L Wills has contacted Wiltshire Council's planning enforcement department about the ditch that has been dug along the Highways on Devizes Road. • L Wills has been in contact with Michael Kalvis, Project Lead, for the development at Haymeadow Way about when the new homes will be advertised. Everyone who is interested and eligible should register with Homes4Wiltshire in order to bid for a property. In addition, if anyone is interested in one of these properties, they can contact Michael Kalvis directly and he will let them know when the properties are ready to go live on the Homes4Wiltshire website. The Parish Council will share M Kalvis' email address so that residents can contact him directly. • The replacement Bunnies Lane road sign is still being progressed with the Local Highways Footpath and Infrastructure Group. 	LW Clerk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Dalley has spoken with the owner of the Rowdey Cow about hosting a Parish Council social event. The suggested dates are 21st or 28th June 2025. J Wills confirm the date. 	JW
10.	<p>Planning matters</p> <p>PL/2024/10900 Permission in Principle: development of 9 dwellings on Land North of High Street and Close Lane, Rowde SN10 2QQ. Deadline for comments: 12/12/2024.</p> <p>Cllr Mayes has called in the development to be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee if the proposal is likely to be approved by Wiltshire Council officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Close Lane residents had not been notified of the application. Residents were concerned about water draining from the proposed site onto the properties below. Residents disputed that the area did not flood and said that they had been unable to get out of the lane on several occasions due to flooding. There was concern about access to the site and a query about ownership of the lane and whether permission would be granted for access to the proposed site. Parish Councillors voted on the application: three voted against (out of 5 Councillors). The Parish Council will object to the planning application on grounds of the site being on a dangerous corner, and concerns about drainage and flooding. <p><u>Progress report on new development at Haymeadow Way</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is being made on the easement required for drainage to the site to go under the grassed area in Silverlands. There is a legal process to follow including notices to be placed in the local newspaper. <p><u>Potential development on land at Furlong Close:</u> correspondence has been received on behalf of the owner of land at Furlong Close. The developer would like to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the proposal in more detail. It was suggested that they are invited to a Parish Council meeting.</p>	Clerk
11.	<p>Flooding and drainage matters – update from Chair</p> <p>Wiltshire Council’s CCTV survey team were carrying out work in Rowde on 6/12/24. They have inspected the drains around Devizes Road and have dug some channels into the brook to help with drainage from the A342.</p> <p>L Wills will chase up the report from the survey.</p>	
12.	<p>Update on grounds maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tender documents for the ground’s maintenance contract for the three large, grassed areas in the village have been sent out. <p><u>Use by football teams.</u></p> <p>Devizes Town Football Club wishes to hire the playing field from 11th January 2025 onwards. They have paid for a contractor to cut the grass there. J Dalley & D Packer have marked out where the pitches will be.</p> <p><u>Container</u></p> <p>Bromham Parish Council will be looking to remove the container currently acting as The Clubhouse, when their new Community Hub has been constructed. J Dalley has requested that Rowde Parish Council express their interest in having the container. It could be used as a Youth Club Centre.</p> <p>The container has already been fitted out with toilets, a kitchen and a heat source.</p> <p>Bromham Parish Council will confirm the cost.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>Playing field and play equipment.</p> <p><u>Update on Silverlands Play Area:</u> see agenda item 9.</p>	

	<p>It was suggested that the village could put a working party together to look at tidying up the play area, potentially in February/March 2025.</p> <p><u>Plan for RoSPA recommended maintenance.</u> Parish Council representatives will meet to discuss a repair programme based on the RoSPA recommendations.</p>	
14.	<p>Highways and footpaths</p> <p>There was discussion about the condition of the pavement along Devizes Road. It was also discussed that there had been no work carried out to the pavement areas outside of Silverwood School {Clerk's update: work was being carrying out along outside the gate entrance to Silverwood School on 12/12/24}.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to contact the Clerk for Bromham Parish Council to find out how the pavement work along the A342 at St Edith's Marsh was arranged and who gave permission.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>Finance Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly bank reconciliation & monthly invoices for November 2024 <p><u>November 2024 invoices</u> (total: £2,818.84) Admin costs: £1,894.54 Ground's maintenance: £619.43 Christmas tree: £304.87</p> <p>It was proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt, that the invoices should be accepted and paid. All Councillors agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a query about the cost of cutting the laurel hedge on Marsh Lane. It was considered expensive for the time that it took. • Parish Councillors were disappointed with the size of the Village Christmas tree. • There was some discussion about next year's precept. There may be a need to budget for additional funds to facilitate a septic tank, if the Parish Council goes ahead with the container. • There will be election costs for the Parish Council to pay next year. This has to be factored into planning for the precept. • It was discussed whether to invite village groups to apply for a donation from the precept this year. This could be postponed for a year. Donation requests will not be carried over into the new financial year. 	
16.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local contractor has been asked to use a digger to collect the remaining waste in the allotment car park, so that a replacement fence can be installed. <p><u>Consideration and approval of revised allotment tenancy agreement</u> Changes have been made to the allotment tenancy agreement. Allotments will no longer be rented to tenants who live outside of Rowde. Existing tenants can retain their plots. There will be a request that no fires are held at the allotments.</p> <p><u>Vote to increase allotment rents</u> A half plot will cost £25.00 from March 2025. A full plot will cost £50.00. Proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt. All Councillors present were in favour.</p>	
17.	<p>Community engagement</p> <p><u>Facebook posts</u> There were some messages about uncollected bins, which were since resolved. Christmas tree – taking down It was discussed that the tree could be removed by a charity: Julia's House, or Dorothy House. J Wills will provide further details of the service.</p> <p><u>Update on installation of village noticeboards</u></p>	

	<p>The Parish Council is waiting for Aster to supply a licence for the new noticeboard to being stalled at Tanis. It was agreed that a new noticeboard would be placed on the High Street, at Rowde Hall.</p>	
18.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A road warning sign, Slippery Road' has been requested for The Common. 	Clerk
19.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meeting</p> <p><i>The Parish Council agreed to move the January Parish Council meeting from 8th January to 15th January 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall to give time to prepare the budget more fully in advance of setting the precept.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting Wed 8th January 2025, 7.,30pm, Rowde Village Hall. <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: