

Draft Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 12th February 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p>PRESENT: L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, S Rigby, E Watt, J Wills. Public audience: 10 Cllr Laura Mayes.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies M Somerville</p>	
2.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests No interests were recorded at this meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Chairman’s five minutes The Chair reminded everyone to be respectful when people talk and not to talk over people.</p>	
4.	<p>Wiltshire Council update Cllr Mayes is the Wiltshire Councillor for Rowde. <u>Update on Gypsy and Traveller Site allocation plan</u> The plan went to the full Wiltshire Council Cabinet for consideration on 5th February 2025. Cllr Mayes confirmed that she spoke in opposition to the proposed site in Rowde. The Cabinet voted to agree the plan. This will be voted on again by the full Wiltshire Council on 25th February. It will need agreement at the full Council before it can be submitted to the Planning Inspector. Cllr Mayes discussed opportunities to challenge the plan. The first opportunity was for the site not be included in the plan. The second opportunity is for it not to be submitted to the Planning Inspector. The final opportunity will be with planning officers at Wiltshire Council, if the site is to be used. J Dalley asked if the village had missed an opportunity to employ a surveyor to survey the land to assess its suitability for a traveller site. <u>Update on the Heart of Wessex proposal</u> Wiltshire Council will not become part of a mayoral authority at this time. Wiltshire Council’s elections will go ahead on 1st May 2025. <u>Highways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a road improvement scheme installed on Caen Hill in 2026. As far as Rowde is concerned, there is a plan for movement sensor traffic lights at the junction of Marsh Lane. Cllr Mayes suggested that the neighbouring parishes should meet to discuss the plans when they are made available. • Cllr Mayes has escalated the footpath repair along Devizes Road. Highways have reported that this section of pavement from Rowde to Devizes presents additional challenges as there is no surfacing under the material on the pavement. When the overgrowth is scraped back, it is just earth. The Council would then have to undertake re-surfacing work. Cllr Mayes will continue to chase an outcome for the problem. • C Greenwood raised concerns again about the surface of Springfield Road. Cllr Mayes confirms that she talks to the Highways team as regularly as possible about this issue and others. However, the situation is the same across the county and work has to be prioritised. <p><u>Budget:</u> Wiltshire Council is setting its budget. Cllr Mayes noted that Wiltshire is one of only a few councils in the country that balance its books. The maximum increase that can be applied to Council Tax is 5%. Wiltshire Council intend to raise theirs by 4.5%. It was</p>	LM

	<p>noted that Wiltshire Council carries out a lot of preventative work in order to keep finances under control.</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>	
5.	<p>Public Question Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Parish Council was notified by a member of the audience about a proposed change to a bridleway (SEEN40): a proposed width extinguishment of SEEND 40 and upgrade from bridleway to restricted byway. The landowner has offered sites meeting on Thursday 13 Feb, 11am and Saturday 15th Feb 11am to explain the proposal to local people. ➤ A member of the public complained about the speed of vehicles travelling through the village and asked for a working Speed Indicator Device (SID). L Wills confirmed that the Speed Indicator Device is due to be moved to a new location. C Greenwood noted again that the SID records speed travelling in both directions. ➤ Pedestrian safety concerns (agenda item 11) were raised by a local resident. It was commented that there are no pedestrian crossings or traffic calming measures on the A342. It was noted that the ‘uncontrolled crossings’ are not maintained or well placed. The Chair noted that although there is no longer a Crossing Patrol person on Marsh Lane at school times, there is a flashing beacon which operates at the start and finish of school. <p>The Parish Council will ask for another traffic survey to be carried out through the Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure Group (LHFIG) with a view to achieving a formal crossing point. Cllr Mayes commented that there is a planned speed review for the whole county. Cllr Mayes suggested she will raise the matter at the Cabinet meeting on Monday 17th February 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ J Dalley asked why the pavement outside of Silverwood School was half cleared. Cllr Mayes said she would find out. 	<p>Clerk LM</p>
6.	<p>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 15th January 2025</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>	
7.	<p>Matters arising & actions taken from 15th January 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair has contacted Wiltshire Council’s planning enforcement department about the ditch that has been dug on the Highways outside of Buena Vista, on Devizes Road. • The Clerk has contacted BT Openreach to enquire about the new telegraph poles that have been installed on Rowde Court Road. Openreach have responded to say that there were no/very few underground ducts and no existing telegraph poles to upgrade the new network. Without the telegraph poles it would involve a massive amount of civil engineering, roadworks and disruption. When this work has been carried out, it will bring the technology to the curtilage of a resident’s property, with customers then needing to have their gardens or driveways dug up to get the service into the property once they have placed an order. Openreach confirmed that: <p>The pole has been installed on public land and will not cause an obstruction or safety issue.</p> <p>The relevant regulation notice was sent to the local council, prior to the pole being installed.</p> <p>They are not obligated to notify residents of planned works as this is on a publicly maintained highway. However, as good practice, they place notices in the nearby areas such as lampposts (which they have done).</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair is due to meet with Rowde Primary School on 13th February 2025 to discuss VE day on 8th May 2025. The Chair suggested talking with Silverwood School to see if they would like to be involved. It was noted that Rowde School won the Christmas tree decorating competition in Devizes. • The Chair is waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council about their recent CCTV flooding and drainage survey carried out on Devizes Road, Rowde. • The broken drain cover on the entrance to the Village Hall has been reported through the My Wilts app. Wiltshire Council has responded to say that it is not on Wiltshire Council land. • The Clerk has responded to Silverwood School to thank them for their offer to litter pick in the village with their students for the Great Tidy Up. The Parish Council has suggested that the students could litter pick along the rights of way footpaths for safety reasons and because the Parish Council already employs a litter collector who does a fantastic job in the village. • It is reported that there is a problem with the ditch near to Wick Farm, on The Common. Wiltshire Council put gullies in but there is nowhere for the water to drain away to. The brook is full of trees and debris, which need to be removed. The Clerk will contact the local landowner. 	<p>LW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8.	<p>Grounds maintenance and playing field.</p> <p><u>Planning requirements for the 'Club House'</u></p> <p>The Parish Council intends to purchase the Club House from Bromham Parish Council. This is a pratten hut which was used as a mobile classroom. Its dimensions are 9mts x 8 mtrs. C Greenwood has met with the contractor who transported the Club House from a school in Wootton Bassett school to Bromham. The Club House will need to be set on a semi-permanent installation at the large playing field.</p> <p>A digester or similar will be needed to deal with waste. There needs to be planning permission to site the Club House at the playing field. This will cost an estimated £500-£600. C Greenwood has contacted the Scottish and Southern network to obtain a quotation for installing power to the site from Sands Lane. The Chair expressed a preference for using solar panels to power the unit.</p> <p>Questions were asked by members of the public: is there a hard copy proposal for this building? What is the residential value of the building? How old is it? What will the upkeep costs?</p> <p>J Dalley noted that the village needs facilities for village children and people. The Parish Council has been to visit the Club House.</p> <p>It is suggested that there needs to be a separate committee to run the building and to be able to apply for grants, for example from the Area Board, and Community First. There is a need for a business plan.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed to progress a planning application to site the Club House on the large playing field, off Sands Lane. The Parish Council agreed to spend up to £600 on the application. All Councillors agreed.</p> <p><u>Update on the use of field by football teams</u></p> <p>The goals posts and nets are ready for use. The white lines have been painted by a robot, courtesy of Devizes Town Football Club. The grass is in good condition after its first cut with the new contractor. The weather has been wet so no games have been played there yet.</p> <p><u>Discussion tender process for grounds maintenance tasks</u></p> <p>Tasks need to be agreed on the new grounds' maintenance tender bid.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
9.	<p>Village Appearance</p> <p><u>Discussion on entering the Best Kept Village Competition</u></p>	

	<p>The Chair championed the village’s entry into the competition last year. Unfortunately, the village were not successful in their efforts. It was proposed that there could be a working group that meets regularly, for example, on a Sunday morning to carry out tidying up tasks around the village. It was agreed that the village would work towards keeping the village tidy this year and not enter the competition this time around.</p> <p><u>Dog Waste</u></p> <p>S Rigby raised concerns about dog waste in the children’s playing area at Tower View, adjacent to St Matthew’s Church. It was noted that there is so much waste that it is not safe for children to play on the play equipment. The Parish Council agreed to purchase new ‘no dogs’ signs for the three access points to the church.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p>Planning matters</p> <p><u>Progress report on new development at Haymeadow Way</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council has encountered difficulties with the original proposed route for the drainage path across Silverlands.</p> <p>A new route has been suggested which would cross the children’s play equipment. Wiltshire Council said that they would reinstate the equipment and wet pour when the work had been completed. The Parish Council discussed the request but object to the new route due to the planned disruption to the play area, some of which has just been installed.</p> <p><u>Planning application:</u> PL/2025/00879: Land to Southwest of Rowdecroft Farm Cottage, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 1SU: Removal of 15m of hedgerow in three sections. Deadline for comments 19/2/25. This application relates to the National Grid Visual Improvement Project to set pylons underground. The Parish Council did not object to the application, provided there is a proper reinstatement of the hedgerow when the work is completed.</p> <p><u>Notice of planning application:</u> PL/2025/01153: Mulberry Lodge House, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2QQ: Conversion of existing garage and garage loft to form studio/workshop and annex over.</p> <p>The application arrived after the agenda for the Parish Council meeting had been posted. Discussion on the application has been postponed until the next Parish Council meeting, on 12th March 2025.</p> <p><u>Notice of Lime Down Solar Park Statutory Consultation:</u> Notice has been received publicising an application for a Development Consent Order regarding solar array sites on 878 hectares of land north of M4. This solar installation will stretch from Malmesbury to Melksham.</p>	
11.	<p>Highways and footpaths</p> <p><u>Pedestrian safety concerns</u></p> <p>See agenda item 5: Public Question Time.</p> <p><u>Permission to site village amenities on Aster land</u></p> <p>Aster proposes charging the Parish Council £400 for the initial licence to site a noticeboard and grit bin on land they own at Tanis. The Parish Council notes that these items are beneficial to the local community. The Chair has asked for details about the proposed ongoing annual fee.</p> <p>A member of the audience asked about Aster rights to the parking area outside of Maundrell Close. The Chair will look into this.</p> <p><u>Discretionary Gully service</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council will deploy a discretionary gully clearing service around the county. They have asked residents to report gullies that need to be cleared (not on ‘A’ roads). It was noted that there are three gullies on the Common; Close Lane and Springfield Road which all need to be cleared.</p>	LW Clerk

16.	Date of next Parish Council meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next meeting Wed 12th March 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.	
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A reminder that all requests for work/or goods must be presented to the relevant Committee first for authorisation.

Signed: Chairman Date:
