

**DRAFT MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall**

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|    | <b>PRESENT:</b> L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, C Stevens, E Watt, Josh Wills.<br>Public audience: 6  |    |
| 1. | <b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Laura Mayes<br><b>Absent:</b> M Somerville   |    |
| 2. | <b>Register of pecuniary interests:</b> There were no business interests recorded.  |    |
| 3. | <b>Chairman’s five minutes</b><br>The Chairman reminded parishioners that public question time was the time when comments from the audience could be made. It is noted that interruptions from the audience make it difficult for the Parish Council to hear and to conduct the business of the Council.  |    |
| 4. | <b>Resignation of Parish Councillor – B Zaccarelli</b><br>B Zaccarelli has resigned from the Parish Council. The Parish Council thanked B Zaccarelli for her huge contributions to the Parish Council, including running the fete committee for the past few years and for all of her work in joining the community together.   |    |
| 5. | <b>Query about access across the Common</b><br>Farmers are permitted to access their land using agricultural vehicles, when conditions allow. It was noted that the grass verge along the Common (beyond Berhills Lane) has been damaged by vehicles constantly driving over it, in all conditions. It was commented that this is criminal damage.<br>A plot of land off Berhills Lane, Rowde has been divided into four plots for sale with vehicular access.<br>The Parish Council is taking legal advice on the matter.<br>The Parish Council agreed to contact the auctioneer again about concerns around access to the plots for sale [Clerk contacted the auctioneers office again on 11/7/24].<br>C Greenwood agreed to speak with the Land Registry.  | CG |
| 6. | <b>Public question time</b><br>A member of the audience raised concerns about the narrow footpaths along the High Street/Devizes Road. A question was asked about whether the Council could apply for traffic calming measures. The Chairman mentioned a previous walking bus route to school, and that there used to be a Traffic Crossing person. It was suggested that the Acorn Academy may wish to revisit the walking bus route for safe passage of children to school. L Wills offered to send details of the previous walking bus route to the interested resident. C Greenwood suggested that concerned parents and residents write individually to Wiltshire Council to request a pedestrian crossing or traffic calming measures through the village.  | LW |
| 7. | <b>Wiltshire Council update – written update from Cllr Mayes</b><br><u>Silverwood School</u> continues to make good progress and they are on track for a phased opening in September. It is believed that the new internal road will alleviate congestion, but Wiltshire Council will continue to monitor this when the number of children increases. At the moment, Wiltshire Council Highways department is committed to a speed reduction to 40 mph. Cllr Mayes is continuing the dialogue to see if this should be 30 mph.<br><u>Gypsy &amp; Traveller Proposed Site</u><br>Wiltshire Council, as other local authorities, has a statutory responsibility to provide land for gypsy and traveller sites to meet that community’s needs. The Council is currently updating their plan and has identified potential sites across the county that may be suitable. One has been identified in Rowde – Land at Oxhouse Farm, on the left as you |    |

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|     | <p>leave Rowde heading towards Devizes. The Cabinet will discuss the plans on Monday 15th July, and the papers have now been published. Reference to the Oxhouse Farm site is on page 62.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents will be able to give their views on the proposed sites. A consultation will start on 19th August and end in early October. There will be a series of engagement sessions, including one in Devizes, plus an online webinar event. Dates will be shared as soon as they are published. Once the consultation is finished, the Plan will go to the Cabinet and Full Council in December. Once adopted, the Plan will sit alongside the Wiltshire Local Plan review and will form the Local plan for Wiltshire and complete the update of the Wiltshire Core Strategy. It is likely the plan will be adopted in 2025.</li> </ul> <p><u>Police Crime Commissioner</u> public consultation 'Use your Voice' is open to gather public views on future policing priorities, from 5/7/24 to 2/8/24.</p>  |                 |
| 8.  | <p><b>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b><br/>C Stevens proposed that the minutes should be accepted. This was seconded by E Watt. All Councillors were in favour.</p>  |                 |
| 9.  | <p><b>Matters arising &amp; actions taken from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish's litter collector has been asked to check the bus shelters for litter every time they visit the parish.</li> <li>Notices have been purchased to ask people to use the bins in the bus shelter.</li> <li>The Clerk is obtaining quotes for new grass matting under the Rotator piece of play equipment in the Tower View play area.</li> <li>The contractors of the new houses at Haymeadow Way have asked if there are any community jobs that they can carry out for the parish. The Parish Council has asked if they can re-paint the goal posts, the toddler climbing frame, and also the Jubilee gate.</li> <li>Further information has been requested about the new houses to be built at Haymeadow Way. The Clerk will clarify the size of the properties and the balance of social rent with part-ownership. Interested parties need to be registered on the Homes4Wiltshire website to be able to bid for one of the new properties. L Wills will ask the Headteacher at Rowde School to post information on their Facebook page to promote the properties.</li> <li>The permissive path at the back of the school has been blocked off by the contractors building Reed Place. This has not been agreed with the Parish Council. The Clerk will ask for the path to be reopened.</li> <li>L Wills has reported the flooding on the Marsh Lane footpath (inside the field) to Wiltshire Council.</li> <li>The next Flood Operational Working Group will be on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024.</li> </ul> | Clerk<br><br>LW |
| 10. | <p><b>Finance Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for June 2024</li> </ul> <p><u>June 2024 invoices</u> (total: £ 5,682.09)<br/>Admin costs: £1,830.39<br/>Ground's maintenance: £1,435.09<br/>Fete celebration: £1,190.07<br/>Misc: solicitors fees, planter, defib, noticeboards: £1,226.54</p>   |                 |

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|     | C Stevens proposed the invoices for payment, seconded by C Greenwood. J Dalley abstained from voting on the payments. All other Councillors voted in favour of accepting the invoices for payment.  |       |
| 11. | <p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p><u>Update on water repairs.</u></p> <p>The water trough has been repaired, with kind thanks to J &amp; P Dalley. It was noted that the metal water trough should have a lid on it. J Dalley will look at sourcing a lid for the trough.</p> <p>L Wills agreed to measure the circular water butts for a lid to be placed on them</p> <p><u>Waste:</u> there is still some waste remaining in the allotment car park. The cheapest way to move the waste is to hire a digger and a dumper. Prices for a 2-ton digger were discussed. It was suggested that a 6-ton digger is needed.</p> <p>The Parish Council has requested that no further waste or horse manure is left in the car park.</p> <p>It was proposed that the allotments will be managed centrally by the Parish Council. There will not be a separate Allotment Representative. The allotment plots should manage themselves. Any issues can be reported directly to the Clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed that the children’s play area would be removed, as it is sited under the Oak Tree, which is a safety issue. The Councillors shared the opinion that a play area was not suitable for the allotments.</li> </ul>  |       |
| 12. | <p><b>Playing field and Play equipment.</b></p> <p><u>Update on ground maintenance.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council continues to monitor the grass cutting in the playing areas.</p> <p><u>Update on teams playing.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that junior teams are charged £25.00 a game. The Parish Council may need to purchase new nets. There is sufficient liner available.</li> </ul>  |       |
| 13. | <p><b>Community engagement and social media</b></p> <p><u>Village Fete</u></p> <p>The Parish Council discussed their future involvement with the hosting of the village fete. The Clerk was asked to write to the fete committee to ask them to open their own bank account for the event.</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed that the ring-fenced funds were for ‘community events’, not exclusively to host a village fete. There are plans to hold another ‘Party in the Barn’ event. This will be discussed further at the Parish Council meeting in September.</p> <p><u>Emergency Prepared Event – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024</u></p> <p>The event was not well attended. The Parish Council will arrange for a flyer to be circulated around the village so that vulnerable people are able to register their needs and for others to volunteer in any capacity that they can.</p> <p>There was some discussion about hubs which could be used in the event of an Emergency, for example the Village Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was commented that the grit bins are solid. It was suggested that the Parish Council purchases a buck rake tine to loosen the grit.</li> </ul> <p><u>Christmas tree for Tanis</u></p> <p>C Stevens has proposed having a Christmas tree this year in Tanis, to be sited on the grass verge next to 1 Tanis near the noticeboard. The Clerk will contact Aster to ask permission for the tree to be sited there.</p> | Clerk |
| 14. | <p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PL/2024/05012 Rowde Primary School, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2ND<br/>Removal/variation of conditions: Variation to conditions 4, 5 &amp; 6 (car park) on planning application PL/2023/05341 (Permission being sought to infill swimming</li> </ul>   |       |

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|     | <p>pool before creating a new parking layout). Deadline for comments 12/7/24. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PL/2024/05486 Malthouse Farm, 1 Bunnies Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2QB, Convert existing offices and garage into accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling.16/07/2024. The Parish Council did not object to the application on condition that the ancillary building is not sold off as a separate dwelling.</li> <li>• PL/2024/05520 CONSCIENCE LANE, ROWDE, DEVIZES SN10 2JD: Hedgerow removal notice. Remove 3m of hedgerow. Deadline for comments 9/7/24. The Parish Council had no objections to the application as it is part of the ongoing project by the National Grid to remove overgrown electricity pylons.</li> <li>• PL/2024/05937 Householder planning permission MANOR HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ROWDE, DEVIZES, SN10 2ND Internal alterations to attic and the addition of a new dormer window. Deadline for comments 1/8/24. The Parish Council had no comment to make on the application.</li> <li>• PL/2024/06162: MANOR HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ROWDE, DEVIZES, SN10 2ND : Listed Building Consent Internal alterations to attic and the addition of a new dormer window. Deadline for comments 1/8/24. The Parish Council did not wish to comment on a listed building application. It agreed to leave the decision to the Listed Building Officer.</li> </ul> <p><u>Neighbourhood planning</u><br/>The Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group met on 2/7/24. Rowde Parish Council has put forward 3 sites for consultation. This would give 57 new houses; 67 are required. The Group is going to confirm the number of sites which have been committed and completed in the past 5 years.</p> |  |
| 15. | <p><b>Village Appearance</b><br/><u>Update on village clean up – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024</u><br/>The clean-up was not well attended. Thank you is given to the Parish Councillors, their families and the residents who did turn up to clear weeds and the gutters. Some residents cleaned outside of their houses. The road sweeper came through the village on 27<sup>th</sup> June, paid for by the Parish Council. It was agreed to plan the village clean up earlier next year.</p>   |  |
| 16. | <p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b><br/><u>Speed Indicator Device – update.</u><br/>The Speed Indicator Device is still located on Devizes Road.<br/><u>Community Speedwatch – progress on scheme</u><br/>Two further volunteers have resigned from the team. The team can not come out to use the camera unless more people volunteer.<br/><u>Request for help with parked cars on Bunnies Lane.</u><br/>A resident is unable to safely access their drive due to cars parking right up to the entrance. It was suggested that a white T-Bar could be applied for. The Parish Council would support this application. C Greenwood suggested that the residents apply directly to LHFIFG with their request.</p>  |  |
| 17. | <p><b>Correspondence</b><br/>There was no further correspondence to report.</p>  |  |
| 18. | <p><b>Date of next Parish Council meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meeting in August</li> <li>• Next meeting Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.,30pm, Rowde Village Hall.</li> </ul> <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: .....