

Draft Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th June 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: 15 Cllr Laura Mayes.</p>	
	<p>Welcome – the meeting was recorded.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies M Somerville</p>	
2.	<p>Register of pecuniary interests There were no interests registered.</p>	
3.	<p>Chairman’s five minutes The Chairman reminded everyone to be respectful when people are speaking.</p>	
4.	<p>Wiltshire Council update Cllr Laura Mayes was re-elected as the Wiltshire County Councillor for Bromham, Rowde and Roundway in the election in May 2025. It is noted that there are a few changes in the leadership at Wiltshire Council. Previously, Wiltshire Council was a Conservative run Council. The Liberal Democrats now have a minority leadership team. There is a new cabinet. Cllr Mayes is now the Chairman of the Council. Cllr Mayes updated the Parish Council that the T-bar marking requested around the entrance to 6 Bunnies Lane will be completed with other jobs at the end of July 2025. It was reported that the 30mph speed sign has been replaced on Marsh Lane. The Bunnies Lane road sign is due to be replaced this week (w/c 12/6/25) Cllr Mayes updated the meeting on plans to improve safety on Caen Hill. The plans will be publicly available to view in July 2025. Views will be sought on the proposed changes. There is discussion on reducing the speed limit on Caen Hill too. It was noted that Silverwood School is having an open evening on 27th June. Everyone is encouraged to attend. It was suggested that a notice is put onto the Facebook pages. Tickets are available through Eventbrite. Q: The Chairman asked a question about whether there is any update on reducing the speed limit outside of Silverwood School. The Highways department say that the junction does not warrant a 30mph speed restriction, as the 30mph stretch would run from St Edith’s Marsh, Bromham to beyond Rowde Primary School. Q: The issue of the condition of the pavement from Rowde to Devizes was raised again. It was noted that a metro counter has been put down on the road just before the bend on Dunkirk Hill. It was noted that this might not be the most effective location to capture speeding vehicles. Cllr Mayes suggested that there needs to be a speed review for the whole area. J Dalley complained about the new surface repair work on Devizes Road near to the bus stop. Cllr Mayes has reported the poor standard of work. There was some discussion about potentially requesting further yellow lines around the village. It was noted though that this might have the effect of pushing parking and traffic issues further around the village.</p>	LW
5.	<p>Public Question Time No questions were raised.</p>	
6.	<p>Review minutes of Annual Parish meeting: 14th May 2025</p>	

	The minutes were accepted. Proposed by J Wills, seconded by S Rigby. All Councillors present agreed.	
7.	Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14th May 2025 The minutes were approved. Proposed by S Rigby, seconded by E Watt. All Councillors present agreed.	
8.	Matters arising and actions taken from the meeting: 14th May 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident has raised concerns about access around the village for wheelchair users. Two additional areas have been highlighted as difficult to navigate: the Hill, and the pavement by the George and Dragon. It was suggested that the areas are recorded and then submitted to the LHFIG group for a potential substantive funding bid. It was proposed that the Parish Council meet with the resident to discuss the problem areas. • The Clerk has requested that Wiltshire Council deploy the road sweeper in Rowde. • The small areas grounds maintenance tender has been sent out to potential contractors. • Persimmon would consider covering the legal fees for the Parish Council, if the Parish Council wishes to take over ownership of the ransom strip at the back of Springfield Road and adjacent to the footpath to the back of the school. • The initial admin fee has been paid to Aster for a licence to site a village noticeboard and grit bin on their land at Tanis. • The Clerk has contacted Silverwood School and requested a tour of the school (date proposed 8th July 2025) • The Clerk has contacted Community Payback and asked for help with some tasks around the village. They are happy to help with community value jobs provided there are toilet and hand washing facilities available. 	LW
9.	Parish Councillor responsibilities A list of Parish Councillor roles was circulated to the Parish Council, prior to the meeting. Some tasks have been grouped so that Councillors can work together on them. T Lines, S Rigby and E Watt agreed to join the Finance Committee. Community engagement, safety and village appearance: L Wills, C Greenwood, T Lines, E Watt, J Wills. Rights of Way: proposed for Mark Somerville Highways and Transport: C Greenwood Playing fields and parks: J Dalley, C Greenwood, T Lines, J Wills. Planning and Neighbourhood Planning: C Greenwood Allotments: all Councillors Social media: L Wills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L Wills raised an issue about an out of date Parish Council website which can be viewed on the internet. It is not known who set up the website. C Greenwood offered to look at getting the website removed. 	
10.	Planning <u>Planning application:</u> Amended plans/Additional information PL/2025/02799 1 Manor Farm Cottages, High Street, Rowde, SN10 2ND: erection of detached carport, two storey side extension, access and hard standing. The Parish Council had no objections. It was asked if the owner could cut back the hedge that borders the school, roadside.	
11.	Playing fields and playgrounds <u>Progress on The Hub</u>	

	<p>The Parish Council has applied for planning permission to site Bromham’s hub on the large playing field. The Parish Council is waiting for a response from Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the needs and requirements of the village for a pavilion/hub. J Dalley expressed frustration that the Parish Council did not seem to be working together to achieve this for the village and the children of the village. Other Parish Councillors expressed concern about the proposed location for a sports building. It was asked if the Village Hall could be used to host a Youth Club. It was proposed that a new Playing Field Association is re-constituted, to concentrate on this project and to help obtain grant.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed to wait to hear the outcome of the planning application before deciding on the next steps.</p> <p>Playgrounds: a reminder to all dog owners not to take their dogs into the play areas. All areas are clearly signed. The play area is for children, families and people wishing to use the space for leisure.</p> <p>A concern has been raised about footballs being kicked into cars from the fenced play area at Silverlands Road. J Dalley noted that when the drainage works for Haymeadow Way have been completed, the children can return to the main grass area. It is proposed that the Parish Council continue with their plans to purchase two goal posts for this area for the children, to keep footballs away from residents’ cars.</p> <p>Park signs: the ‘no dogs in the park’ need to be secured using aluminum strips.</p> <p>All play areas also need signs showing Parish Council’s responsibilities for the areas.</p>	JD/P C
12.	<p>Grounds maintenance and village appearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to look for a handman (self-employed) to help with small tasks around the village. <p>It was agreed to advertise for a self-employed handyman who can help with tasks around the village on an ad hoc basis. Some members of the audience offered to help with tasks.</p>	
13.	<p>Highways and footpaths</p> <p>The following footpaths have been reported as being overgrown/difficult to navigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROWD27 reeds have completely grown over the path. The bridge across a stream to the canal is disappearing. This has been reported to Wiltshire Council again. • ROWD19 bridleway is not accessible due to overgrowth (Wiltshire Council has said that this path is not a priority as it is a dead end). • ROWD6 from Tanis towards Silverwood School is difficult to navigate due to crop planting (Wiltshire Council has provided an update that they have contacted the landowner). • L Wills attended the Operational Flood Working Group meeting. The landowner on Devizes Road will be asked to fill in the trench that has been dug there. 	
14.	<p>Monthly financial matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly bank reconciliation: monthly invoices for May 2025. The Parish Council was presented with a bank reconciliation for May 2025 and a schedule of invoices for payment. The total amount for payment was £8,337.77). Payments were approved (proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by E Watt. All Councillors were in favour). 	
15.	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollalong, the contractors from Haymeadow Way, have carried out community work to tidy the memorial plot at the allotments. It was proposed that the area should be seeded with grass seed so that the area can be mowed. • A question was asked about when further drainage work will be carried out in the allotment car park. • There was a discussion about a request made by an allotment holder to build a shed bigger than the usual size permitted by the Parish Council, on grounds of 	

	disability. {The Parish Council agreed to the adapted shed after the meeting and informed the allotment holder}.	
16.	<p>Community engagement & social media</p> <p>Facebook: There was a post about cars parking on Cock Road, by the Village Hall. Further posts were made on site selections for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Rowdefest update: B Zaccarelli shared a review of the recent Rowdefest event. The new event times, from 1.00pm to 7.00pm, worked well. The Facebook comments and photos were overwhelmingly supportive, including a message from local MP Brian Mathew. The Rowdefest Committee thanked the Parish Council for their support with the event, including the use of the generator. The Fete Committee are now financially independent. B Zaccarelli will be stepping down as Chair of the Committee. A new Chair will be elected in the autumn.</p> <p>The committee will be holding an Open Gardens event on Saturday 28th June 2025, from 2.00pm – 5.00pm. Tickets are £5 and can be bought at the church where tea and cakes will be served.</p> <p>The Parish Council will send a letter to B Zaccarelli to thank her and the team for all their hard work and for hosting an amazing event, which was enjoyed by so many villagers and friends.</p>	
17.	<p>Correspondence No further items to report.</p>	Clerk
18.	<p>Date of next Parish Council meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting Wed 9th July 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall <p>Apologies noted for L Wills and J Wills. C Greenwood will Chair the meeting. 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: