

## Draft Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> J Dalley (Chair), C Greenwood, S Rigby, M Somerville, E Watt Public audience: 4 Cllr Laura Mayes.</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> J Wills, L Wills</p>	
2.	<p><b>Register of pecuniary interests</b> M Somerville registered a pecuniary interest in invoices for the grounds maintenance work that he carries out for the Parish.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Chairman's five minutes</b> The Parish Council send condolences to L Wills and J Wills. <u>Elections</u> The notice of election was published on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Nominations to join the Parish Council are open until Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 4pm. A nomination form can be obtained from the Clerk, or through the Wiltshire Council website. <a href="https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-elections">https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-elections</a>. [The Clerk confirms that the 'proposer' can be the candidate. The 'seconder' needs to be a person in the parish who is registered to vote]</p>	
4.	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Laura Mayes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Mayes updated the meeting that Anthony Dixon was still looking after the Silverwood Development project. It was noted that the remainder of the pavement outside of Silverwood School will be tidied.</li> <li>• The Gypsy and Travellers Document Plan has been withdrawn at this time due to concerns about the process. Cllr Mayes spoke out against the plan at Cabinet level. The Council still has to have a Gypsy and Travellers strategy so the plan is only paused and the site in Rowde is still being considered.</li> <li>• A member of the audience wished to contact Cllr Mayes about a potentially suitable site for gypsy and travellers. The Clerk will exchange contact details.</li> <li>• Cllr Mayes noted that Wiltshire Council approved their budget last month. Council tax will increase by 4.5%, which is lower than the maximum 4.99%.</li> <li>• J Dalley raised further concerns about the condition of the pavement along Devizes Road after a resident used the route with a mobility scooter and had their tyres punctured by the recently cut hedgerow clippings.</li> <li>• C Greenwood noted a dead badger and deer along Devizes Road and asked if the Parish Steward could remove them.</li> <li>• There was no update on the Sands Lane appeal.</li> </ul>	Clerk
5.	<p><b>Public Question Time:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C Greenwood and team were thanked by a member of the audience for turning the Speed Indicator device around. It was commented that a second Speed Indicator Device in the village would be useful.</li> <li>• It was noted that there is a large Wiltshire Council sign roadside in Calne warning people to take their rubbish home. It was asked whether Rowde could have a similar sign to warn people against speeding. C Greenwood agreed to speak with Gareth Rogers (Highways) about this.</li> <li>• It was noted that there has been less dog waste in the Tower View Play park in the past few weeks after a dog owner was spoken to by J Dalley. The Clerk has purchased new 'No Dogs' signs for the Tower View and Silverlands Play Areas.</li> </ul>	CG



11.	<p><b>Village Appearance</b> No further items were discussed.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Highways and footpaths</b> <u>Discretionary gully service</u> It was advised that Parish Councillors walk the village and see where the drains appear blocked and report this back to the Clerk. <u>Community Speedwatch</u> See above item 7 Matters arising <u>Correspondence from Aster regarding parking issues in Springfield Road/Ferris Close</u> See item 15 Correspondence</p>	
13.	<p><b>Finance Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for February 2025</li> </ul> <p><u>February 2025 invoices</u> (total: £4,129.51) Admin costs: £1,832.97 Ground's maintenance: £1,526.40 Misc, including defibrillator battery/pads, signs, flags: £520.14 Donation: Rowde Village News: £250 It was proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by E Watt that the invoices should be accepted and paid. All Councillors agreed (M Somerville abstained from the vote).</p> <p><u>Donations to Rowde Village News</u> The Parish Council agreed to give £125 per issue toward the publication of the Village News. Each edition costs £585 to print. The decision can be reviewed at the request of the Village News team. The value and importance of the Village News was emphasised. The whole Parish Council and the village appreciate all of the hard work that goes into producing the publication. There was some discussion about alternative streams of funding.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Allotments</b> <u>Update on plans for drainage improvements</u> A contractor has been assigned to repair the broken fence on the car park side of the allotments. Some drainage work will be undertaken before the fence repair takes place. J Dalley agreed to discuss this further with R Lewis <u>The Hub (community clubhouse).</u> There was discussion about drainage requirements for the new building. This will form part of the planning application.</p>	JD
15.	<p><b>Community engagement</b> <u>Village – Party in the Barn – update on plans</u> Planning for the party has been paused due to Councillors' commitments. <u>Update from Village Fete Committee: request to borrow PC marquee for Rowdefest event and generator</u> The Parish Council agreed that the Village Fete Committee could borrow the generator and also the Parish Council marquee for their event. J Dalley confirmed that he would deliver the generator for the event. <u>Facebook posts</u> No posts to report</p>	
15.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence has been received from the Housing Officer at Aster, asking for residents in Springfield Road and Ferris Close to park respectfully. Cars have been</li> </ul>	Clerk

	<p>double parked, parking on pavements, parking too close to junctions and blocking access for emergency vehicles. It is increasingly difficult for service vehicles to get around the parked cars. Aster note that such parking practices create hazards and violate parking regulations. Residents are asked to please park respectfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council suggested that Aster contacts local residents door to door with this message.</li> </ul>	
16.	<p><b>Date of next Parish Council meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next meeting Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall</b></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: .....