

## Draft Minutes of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, M Somerville, Elaine Watt, J Wills. Public audience: 11 Cllr Laura Mayes The meeting was recorded.</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> C Stevens</p>	
2.	<p><b>Register of pecuniary interests:</b> M Somerville registered an interest in the grounds maintenance invoice and did not take part in the vote. No other interests were registered.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Chairman's five minutes</b> The Chairman asked everyone to be respectful when other people are talking so that everyone can hear the business of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Rigby was observing the meeting with a view to joining the Parish Council.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Public Question Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- G Clisby-White sent apologies for the meeting. G Clisby-White submitted a question about the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. C Greenwood updated the meeting that a new consultant has been hired after the previous consultant retired. S Fisher will hand over the brief when he leaves his post at the end of the year.</li> <li>- A concern was raised again about the small number of Councillors on the Parish Council. A further offer to help distribute leaflets to promote the Parish Council was made. The leaflet has been drafted, and a price has been obtained for printing the leaflets. The Clerk noted too that there will be an all out election next year and Councillors will be required to reapply for their posts.</li> <li>- Concern was raised about the upkeep of a building in the village with listed status. The Parish Council will contact the Listed Building Officer at Wiltshire Council. A further comment was made about an overgrown garden in the centre of the village.</li> <li>- The Parish Council was asked to contact a local business about the use of fireworks near an adjacent property.</li> <li>- A resident from the Common asked the Parish Council for permission to cut the grass area near the centre of the Common. It is not suitable for making hay. If the area is cut regularly it will help with the maintenance of the area. The Parish Council agreed to this request.</li> </ul>	Clerk
5.	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update</b> Cllr Mayes informed the meeting that Wiltshire Council's building of 10 affordable homes is progressing well. Cllr Mayes thanked all residents in Springfield Road, Silverlands Road and Reed Place for accommodating the movement of the large modular structures. It was noted that Rowde is only one of three areas in the whole county to benefit from such a project. Wiltshire Council has made a strategic decision to try to build as many council houses as possible for Wiltshire residents. There will be ten new homes; a mixture of bungalows, flats, and houses: 4 shared ownership, 6 for social rent. The houses will have</p>	

	<p>EV chargers, solar panels. They will be local homes for local people. A question was asked about the priority that will be given to Rowde residents. Rowde residents who are in need of housing will be prioritised.</p> <p><u>Highways</u>: the government has given Wiltshire Council £20million for Highways improvements. Wiltshire Council is adding £22million to this amount. Cllr Mayes believes that Wiltshire Council manage their finances well by carrying out a lot of preventative work. This enables them to invest more in highways maintenance. Wiltshire Council has purchased a Bobcat machine, which can be used for a variety of tasks and achieve them in a short period of time. Cllr Mayes has requested a repair to the road surface on Devizes Road, near to the Tanis bus stop. C Greenwood noted that Springfield Road needs to be resurfaced.</p> <p><u>Sands Lane planning application appeal</u>: there is no news to update on. There are concerns that the government plans to increase Wiltshire’s housing target by 81% from next year. It costs Wiltshire Council money to oppose developers that appeal their refused planning applications. There is no date for a decision, due to the volume of appeals that have been lodged.</p> <p><u>Proposed Gypsy and traveller site in Rowde</u>: the consultation paper is coming to the December Cabinet meeting of Wiltshire Council. A summary of all of the comments will be presented. If the Cabinet agrees, the site will be go forward to the Planning Inspector for a decision to be made. Cllr Mayes has objected to the proposal.</p> <p>Planning: it was asked why permission for change of use has now been granted on a house that was built without planning permission.</p> <p><u>Pavement on Devizes Road</u>: complaints were raised about the overgrown pavement, especially after the Parish Council had been told that a couple of years ago that Wiltshire Council would carry out a total reinstatement of the pavement. Cllr Mayes agreed to speak with the Highways department about this</p> <p>It was noted that Bromham have cleared a pavement on the A342 recently. This was paid for by their Wednesday Club.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b></p> <p>All Councillors who attended the meeting agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting: proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Matters arising &amp; actions taken from 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembrance: L Wills laid the wreath on behalf of the village at the Remembrance Day service.</li> <li>• C Greenwood has spoken with the contractors at the National Grid project and also to local residents. Some of the trees along the site have been over-pruned. There is a programme in place to replant hedgerows and trees that have been removed.</li> <li>• A double-sided leaflet to promote the Parish Council can be printed for £54.64. Councillors agreed for the leaflet to be printed.</li> <li>• The Parish Council responded with no objections to the planning application: PL/2023/08887 Silverwood School.</li> <li>• The Parish Council objected to the planning application: PL/2024/08495 Stroud Farm.</li> <li>• The Rollalong team (Haymeadow Way) have requested a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council in the new year to discuss possible community projects. J Dalley offered to attend this meeting.</li> <li>• J Dalley has spoken to a member of the former Youth Council. They have agreed to release their remaining funds to the Parish Council to carry out necessary repairs to the skate park and BMX track. Luke Smith requested to be notified of any updates</li> </ul>	LW

	<p>in the first year and asked where the money held by the previous Youth Club is. The Chair has agreed to contact Iain Marr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair and the Clerk had a meeting with the grounds worker at Furlong Close. It was agreed that they would stop work over the winter months. In Spring, the Parish Council will set specific tasks for the grounds worker to carry out.</li> <li>• The Parish Council is sourcing quotes for installing the new bespoke noticeboards.</li> <li>• The laurel hedge on Marsh Lane/Springfield Road junction will be cut on 30/11/24.</li> <li>• The Clerk has reported the missing 30mph speed limit sign to A Cadwallader, Highways representative, and through My Wilts App.</li> <li>• Christmas tree in Tanis: the Chair is in discussion with Aster’s legal team about siting a tree on their land. Aster has asked the Parish Council to enter into a licence to give permission to do this. The Chair will request further details.</li> <li>• The Local Highways and Footpaths Infrastructure group (LHFIG) have given permission for a T-bar to be painted across the entrance to a resident’s drive on Bunnies Lane. There is no funding though for this work to be done. The resident will be invited to pay for the markings.</li> </ul> <p>(J Wills temporarily left the meeting: 8.23pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C Greenwood noted that Rowde and Seend will put out a combined community Speedwatch team around the Christmas period.</li> </ul>	LW
8.	<p><b>Flooding and drainage matters</b></p> <p>The Chair has met with Richard Williams – a Drainage Engineer for Wiltshire Council. R Williams has confirmed that CCTV drainage survey of Devizes Road will take place in Rowde before Christmas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been problems with flooding from Silverlands to Manor Farm. A Wessex Water map shows there is a culvert there which may need to be cleared. It may be necessary to contact all land owners along the route of the culvert to ask them to clear their ditches and drains. Wiltshire Council has shared a template letter which the Parish Council is permitted to use to contact landowners.</li> <li>• Along Paradise Lane there are big drains that the landowners are responsible for maintaining.</li> <li>• R Williams suggested asking residents who have properties along the culvert whether they would consider funding a CCTV drainage survey. This will show any damage to the culvert and could prevent further risks of flooding to the properties.</li> <li>• There will be a CCTV drainage survey in Spring 2025 on Marsh Lane (past the bridge towards Caen Hill) to look at flooding issues in that area.</li> <li>• The Chair updated the meeting on suspected subsidence at Reed Place. Wiltshire Council has commissioned an independent survey of the site. Some ditches may need to be moved further away from the properties. There are concerns about the effect of Rowde Primary School having filled in the ditch that runs through the centre of the school grounds.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Highways and footpaths</b></p> <p><u>SID matters:</u> M Somerville has strimmed the area around the SID socket on the Devizes Road, opposite the bus shelter. There is still some overhanging overgrowth. The Clerk will ask the Parish Steward to cut this back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to M Somerville, R Wills and L Wills for turning the SID around in its current location. It was suggested that the solar panels are tilted to catch more sunlight to help power the batteries. There was some discussion about requesting a further SID post to be located near Rowde Hall.</li> </ul> <p><u>Update from National Grid on VIP project:</u> From week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October, National Grid were taking deliveries of 5m diameter drums carrying 1000m of electricity cable to</p>	Clerk

	<p>install underground. There will be three deliveries per day, with a total of 72 deliveries taking place over the coming months. Deliveries will take place during weekdays and during daylight hours. The cables will be moved on large flat-bed trailers, travelling at slow speeds. The trucks will approach from the Beckhampton direction and will deliver the cables through the construction compound through the Hopton Industrial Estate. Deliveries will be completed in January 2025. If you have any questions for the VIP project team, please call 0330 134 0051, or email: <a href="mailto:visualimpact@nationalgrid.com">visualimpact@nationalgrid.com</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary road closure: C249 Devizes from its junction with A342 to its junction with the A361 will be closed for 2 days to carry out carriageway reactive patching and other associated works, recommencing from 15 January 2025.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Planning</b>  PL/2024/09662 Full planning permission: Lower Farm, Devizes Road, Rowde, SN10 2LX Devizes Roofing of Existing Silage Clamp. Deadline for comments 6/12/24. The Parish Council had no objections.  <u>Progress report on new development at Haymeadow Way:</u> The Project Manager for the development has reported that the new homes are progressing well. The modules arrived at the end of September. Wiltshire Council thanked local residents for their co-operation. Work is underway fitting out the units internally. Externally electrical connections have been made and roofing work is underway with scaffolding erected around the site. It is anticipated that the buildings will be completed in March 2025. The Chair will contact M Kalvis, Project Manager, and ask when the properties will be advertised on Homes4Wiltshire.  J Dalley noted that some soil has been deposited on the permissive path. J Dalley has asked for this to be moved.</p>	L Wills
11.	<p><b>Finance Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for October 2024</li> </ul> <p><u>October 2024 invoices</u> (total: £3,036.06 )  Admin costs: £1,850.68  Ground's maintenance: £1,047.70  Misc: £137.68</p> <p>The payments were proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt. All Councillors (not M Somerville) were in favour of the payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget setting: the tax base for the parish has increased, which means the parish will receive slightly more money in their precept even if they do not ask for an increase from residents.</li> <li>• The Parish Council agreed to go out to tender now for the large grassed areas in the village: Silverlands Play Area, Tower View Play Area, Large Playing field.</li> <li>• The work schedule for the smaller grounds maintenance jobs is being revised. Some of these tasks can be carried out by the Parish Steward.</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Allotments</b>  <u>Update on fencing repairs and removal of waste piles:</u> The sports field is too wet now to use for access to the allotments. It could be possible still to remove the remaining waste from the allotment car park. Quotes to replace the fencing in the allotment car park will be sourced.  Allotment tenancy agreements: The Chair has suggested revisions to the allotment tenancy agreement and the allotment rents. There is discussion around a possible 5% increase in rent prices. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.</p>	ALL
13.	<p><b>Playing field and Play equipment</b>  <u>Action plan RoSPA:</u> J Dalley and M Somerville agreed to inspect the swing set in Silverlands Play Area.</p>	

14.	<p><b>Update on grounds maintenance</b></p> <p>The grassed areas have been cut over the past couple of weeks. It was agreed that grass cutting should finish for the season.</p> <p>J Burroughs was thanked for cutting the hedge inside the large playing field for no charge.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p><u>Facebook</u> – there were no updates.</p> <p>There has been a theft from a property in the village, where lead and metal were stolen. This has been recorded on CCTV.</p> <p><i>J Wills returned to the meeting: 20.54</i></p> <p><u>Christmas tree planning:</u> The Clerk will confirm the delivery date of the tree. C Greenwood has the equipment to erect the tree; L Wills has the lights.</p> <p><u>Update on installation of village noticeboards:</u> plans are still being made to hire equipment to install the noticeboards.</p>	
16.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>No correspondence to update on.</p>	
17.	<p><b>Meeting dates for 2025</b></p> <p>Meeting dates were circulated to Parish Councillors. The Clerk will confirm the date for the May meeting in respect of the local election timetable.</p>	
18.	<p><b>Date of next Parish Council meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December 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: .....