

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

**Held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall**

	<b>PRESENT:</b> L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, M Somerville, E Watt, J Wills. Public audience: 10	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> C Greenwood, C Stevens Cllr Laura Mayes	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Register of pecuniary interests:</b> M Somerville registered an interest in his grounds maintenance invoices and did not vote to accept the payments. No other interests were registered.	
<b>3.</b>	<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.	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Public Question Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A question was asked about the removal of an Oak Tree by the National Grid, carrying on the project to drop electricity pylons underground. There has been a recent planning application to request the removal of further hedgerow along Conscience Lane along with 3 trees. L Wills &amp; J Dalley agreed to look into this matter further.</li> <li>• It was noted that the Parish Council needs more members. L Wills suggested carrying out a leaflet drop around the village to encourage people to join the Parish Council. R Berry kindly offered to help deliver the leaflets. Printing companies were suggested to the Parish Council.</li> <li>• G Clingsby-White spoke on behalf of Rowdefest. It was asked if the playing field will be available for the Rowdefest event. It was also asked whether the Parish Council wished to be involved with the event by attending committee meetings. It was confirmed that the committee has 28 members. The Parish Council confirmed that they have previously supported the event by providing use of the playing field, insurance, use of the generator and other services. Current Parish Councillors have said they are not able to commit to attending Committee meetings at this time. It was confirmed that the full donation of £1,000 was gifted to The Mind Tree Café, this included an amount from the Parish Council’s Chairman’s fund to top up the final amount. A question was asked about the Party in the Barn, Parish Council event. The Rowdefest Team offered to help with this event.</li> </ul>	LW/ JD  LW
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update</b></p> <p>Written update was sent by Cllr Laura Mayes and there were the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Mayes has contacted Andy Cadwallader (Highways) about the missing 30mph sign. {The Clerk has reported this again on the My Wilts App too}.</li> <li>• Cllr Mayes posted a model response to the Gypsy and Traveller Site Consultation on the Rowde All About It Facebook page. Cllrs Mayes also delivered over 50 letters to residents who are closest to the proposed site. There were around 20 responses to that letter which have been forwarded to the relevant officers at Wiltshire Council.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cllr Mayes has visited Silverwood School in the past week and notes that it is a wonderful facility. The Headteacher has confirmed that the arrivals and departures are working well. Cllr Mayes continues to pursue a speed reduction outside of the school.</li> <li>● It was noted that the Sands Lane appeal has closed. Cllr Mayes will let residents know when the outcome is announced.</li> </ul>	
Item moved from no. 9	<p><b>Funding request from The Mind Tree Café – Furlong Close</b></p> <p>The Mind Tree Café (Community Interest Company) directors requested a donation of £1,800 from the Parish Council to purchase a reconditioned barista machine to help open the café facility at Furlong Close.</p> <p>This is the first time that the organisation has made a request for funding from the Parish Council. L Newton discussed the streams of funding that they have been able to access. It was highlighted that a coffee machine would benefit many people in the village. Proof of a donation from the Parish Council is important for The Mind Tree Café to release other funding streams. The total cost to refurbish the café is estimated to be £24k.</p> <p>A member of the audience praised the work that the team has done and for making the funding model work.</p> <p>J Dalley proposed that the full amount was donated to the Mind Tree Café of £1,880 to purchase a barista machine. This was seconded by M Somerville. Three Councillors were in favour, two Councillors abstained. The Parish Council would like this donation to count towards any possible future requests over the next 3 years.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes were proposed to be accepted by J Dalley, seconded by E Watt. All Councillors were attended that meeting were in agreement.</p> <p>- A member of the audience noted a reference to the planning application: PL/2024/07322. Conscience Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2JD: Hedgerow removal notice: removal of 50m of hedgerow and 3 trees. Deadline: 27/8/24</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed this application at the meeting on 11th September. It was discussed at that meeting that there was a replacement hedgerow planting scheme in place. At the time of the meeting, the Parish Council did not have any concerns about the application.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Matters arising &amp; actions taken from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● L Wills &amp; J Dalley have met with a local landowner from the Common to discuss ongoing issues. A proposal was made to extend the pond on the Common next to Cherry Tree Farm, Berhills Lane to encourage wildlife. The Parish Council agreed to this proposal.</li> <li>● The Clerk has arranged to meet a contractor to discuss cutting the laurel hedge on the edge of Springfield Road/Marsh Lane.</li> <li>● It has been recorded that there are dead trees in the grass verge along Marsh Lane, opposite Furlong Close. These are the Highways' responsibility. This matter has been reported to Wiltshire Council, who have responded to say that the issue does not meet their intervention levels. They will continue to monitor the situation.</li> <li>● L Wills has discussed areas that flood with Emma Biggs at Wiltshire Council drainage team. E Biggs said that Buena Vista is on the list for CCTV to view the drainage from the ditch that a resident has dug to Conscience bridge. Regarding the culvert at Silverlands Road and the culvert capacity, Richard Williams will be looking into the drainage in Rowde and she will put him in touch.</li> <li>● L Wills has discussed further the trench dug by a resident along the Devizes Road with Planning Enforcement. Steve Jenkins will chase up the Highways and Drainage teams to see what the plan is.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It was noted that the Community Speedwatch group has not met. This is due to insufficient volunteers.</li> <li>● A question was asked about whether bicycles are permitted to cycle on pavements. Police do not enforce this.</li> <li>● L Wills &amp; M Somerville will help C Greenwood to move the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the next few weeks. A member of the audience has kindly offered to help move the SID moving forward.</li> <li>● L Wills is still in communication with Aster to seek permission to install a permanent sleeve on a grass verge in Tanis to site a Christmas tree.</li> <li>● There have been complaints about a resident driving over the grass verge in Tanis to access their property. This is being investigated by Aster.</li> <li>● The Parish Council was disappointed to hear that Rollalong (Haymeadow Way constructors) may not be able to carry out the community work that has been proposed. The Clerk will confirm the situation with them.</li> </ul>	Clerk
8.	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update on the consultation on the pre-submission draft Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document – deadline for consultation response 4th October. The outcome of the consultation is expected in December 2024. Residents have raised concerns about flooding and light pollution among other matters. The Parish Council has submitted a response to say that the site is unsuitable for the proposal. If the site is approved, the Residents’ group will re-convene to look at the matter again.</li> <li>● Update on response to the appeal PL/2023/00386 - Land West of Sand's Lane, Rowde, SN10 2QW - APP/Y3940/W/24/3348191. Deadline for appeal response 8th October.</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council has responded to the appeal, in addition to local residents. No date has been set for the appeal to be determined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PL/2023/08887. Listed building consent. Creation of new dormer to single storey wing to the rear of the main house to facilitate the installation of a platform lift (previously approved) Silverwood School, Rowde, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2QQ. Deadline for comments: 17/10/2024.</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council had no objections to the application. It was agreed that the lift would be needed by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PL/2024/08495 Full planning permission. Change of use of agricultural building to rural worker dwelling (resubmission of PL/2023/10888) Stroud Farm, Rowde, Devizes, SN15 2JL (off The Common) Deadline for comments: 24/10/2024.</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council completely objects to the application. This is at least the third application from the same applicant to achieve the same purpose – effectively retrospective planning permission for a property building with no permission. It was noted that there are ample, empty dwellings in that area if rural workers need accommodation.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Finance Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for September 2024 <u>September 2024 invoices</u> (total: £3,330.27) Admin costs: £1,823.58 Ground’s maintenance: £1103.49 Playground inspections: £403.20 Payments were proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt All other Councillors were in favour.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Allotments</b> <u>Update and vacancies</u></p>	

	<p>There will be two vacancies shortly. There are two parties interested in taking on those plots. The ground is now too wet to be able to remove the waste around the oak tree with a grab lorry. A water butt has been kindly donated to the allotments.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Playing field and Play equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Action plan for RoSPA recommendations</u></li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council needs to budget to replace the swing frame in the Silverlands Play area. M Somerville and J Dalley will check the bolts on the swing. There is an advisory note on a piece of equipment in the Skate park. The Clerk was asked to contact the previous Youth Council as this equipment was their responsibility to maintain and they hold ring-fenced funds for its maintenance. <u>Update on teams playing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There are currently no teams playing on the field.</li> </ul>	Clerk
12.	<p><b>Update on grounds maintenance</b></p> <p>The grass on the playing field is in good condition with a combination of cuts that have been arranged by the Parish Council.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p><u>Facebook – there were no updates</u> <u>Christmas tree:</u> please see item 7 for plans for a Christmas tree in Tanis. The Parish Council has ordered the village Christmas tree, which will be sited at the Village Hall again. L Wills requested that the tree remains whole when the season is over, so that it can be easily and appropriately disposed of.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There were no further updates</li> </ul>	
	<p><u>The Common</u> Complaints have been made about a track being laid across the Common to access agricultural land without permission or discussion with the Parish Council. The contractor was asked to desist and to not lay any further material by request of the Parish Council. The grass verge along the Common has been damaged by vehicles using it to access the field. It was agreed that the Parish Council Chairman would write to the landowners to ask them to remove the track. The Parish Council agreed to purchase some saplings trees to infill an area that was cut down by SSE to access the wires.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was no correspondence to update on.</li> </ul>	
16.	<p><b>Date of next Parish Council meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next meeting Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.,30pm, Rowde Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.</li> </ul>	

A reminder that all requests for work/or goods must be presented to the relevant Committee first for authorisation.

Signed: ..... Chairman Date: .....