

## Draft Minutes from the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> L Wills (Chairman), J Dalley, C Greenwood, T Lines, S Rigby (by phone), E Watt, J Wills Public audience: 14 Cllr Laura Mayes.</p>	
	<p><b>Welcome</b> The Chairman reminded Councillors and parishioners of the need for everyone to be heard and to be respectful and listen when people are talking.</p>	
1.	<p><b>Absent</b> M Somerville</p>	
2.	<p><b>Register of pecuniary interests</b> L Wills and J Wills registered a pecuniary interest in allotment maintenance work carried out by R Wills.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Chairman's five minutes</b> There were no further items.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Public Question Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hedge in the playing field has been flailed free of charge, with kind thanks to a local farmer. An allotment holder asked if the hedge that borders the allotments with the playing field could be cut lower {The farmer has confirmed that it would be difficult to lower the height of the hedge with a flail without possibly causing damage to allotment sheds and other structures}.</li> <li>• The allotment holder also raised concern that the rules at the allotments are being broken, for example overgrown plots are not being tended.</li> <li>• A question was asked about the broken manhole cover on Cock Road at the entrance to the Village Hall. C Greenwood confirmed that the National Grid are going to replace it.</li> <li>• A further question was asked about the next steps for drainage work at the allotment car park. It was confirmed that this work would be carried out by the end of the year.</li> </ul>	All
5.	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update</b> Cllr Mayes updated the meeting on the happy occasion of The Princess Royal officially opening Silverwood School. Cllr Mayes attended the event in her role as the Chairman of Wiltshire Council and also due to work she carried out in her previous role as Head of Children Services. Cllr Mayes encouraged Councillors and residents to visit Silverwood School if they get an opportunity to. Cllr Mayes is still pursuing a speed reduction outside of Silverwood School, down from 50mph to 40mph.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gypsy and Traveller Plan: the strategy for creating the draft plan is being reviewed by the new County Council administration.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Staffing matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resignation of Clerk</b> R Jeffries has submitted her resignation as Clerk. She will work until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025. L Wills is concerned about the way that the Parish Council works as a group. L Wills has taken advice from the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) and suggested hiring an independent adjudicator to look at the current problems within the Parish Council and to outline steps for the council to work collaboratively. The cost would be £75.00/hr.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents are encouraged to submit evidence of people walking on the Devizes Road pavements towards Devizes, to build a case for the pavement to be repaired.</li> <li>C Greenwood noted that the Local Highways and Infrastructure Group (LHFIG) for Devizes are reviewing the speed limit on Dunkirk Hill.</li> <li>There is a site meeting planned on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the Tanis footpath between J Dalley, T Lines and L Wills.</li> <li>The damaged streetlamp at Silverlands Road has been made safe. Contractors for Haymeadow Way will pay for the damage.</li> <li>L Wills has contacted R Williams, Drainage Engineer, for Wiltshire Council. He is not aware of any broken pipes under Springfield Road. R Williams has asked if these can be highlighted on a map for further investigation</li> <li>The Parish Council formally thanked Mr Jason Rymes for supplying paint for the goal posts to be refurbished. Thank you to J Dalley for the labour to carry out this project.</li> <li>The Clerk noted that the RoSPA annual inspections have been completed. S Skelhorn agreed to look at an play item in the skate park and ascertain whether the piece can be saved. If the item cannot be repaired without a large expenditure, the item will be removed.</li> <li>Parish Councillors all require a key to the Parish Council shed. J Dalley will arrange this.</li> </ul>	<p>LW</p> <p>SS</p>
11.	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>PL/2025/04873 Football Ground, Sands Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2QW. Full Planning application: Proposed sports pavilion to support playing field. Deadline for comments 23/9/25. The Parish Council had no comment to make. They encouraged residents to comment on the application.</p> <p>PL/2025/02799 1 Manor Farm Cottages, High Street, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2ND. Amended plans: Erection of detached carport, two-storey side extension access and hardstanding. Deadline for comments 16/9/25. The Parish Council supported the application.</p> <p>PL/2025/06807 Upper Foxhangers Farm, Marsh Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 1RE. Full Planning application: Change of use of existing holiday to residential annexe. Deadline for comments 25/9/25. The Parish Council had no objection to the application.</p> <p>~ Update on removal of shutters at Ox House Farm The shutters and picket fence are being refurbished and will then be re-instated.</p> <p>~ Correspondence received from applicant for Seven Acres Dog walking field application to vary planning conditions. A further opportunity was given to the Parish Council to discuss this application.</p> <p>L Wills and J Wills did not take part in further discussions on this application. The Parish Council confirmed their original response but suggested that concerns about access from the A342 could be improved with the use of mirrors and better signage to the site and the concealed entrance. The Parish Council would not agree to opening hours that extended into darkness.</p> <p>~ Update on planning application for Cross Keys pub (PL/2025/02032) Wiltshire Council has approved the plans. The Parish Council has been asked to publish some of the conditions around the pavement. C Greenwood requested the landowners' contact details.</p> <p>~ Update on new homes at Haymeadow Way. All of the properties have been let or purchased through shared ownership now.</p>	<p>RJ</p> <p>CG</p>

	~ A resident on Marsh Lane has written to the Parish Council about trees overhanging their property. It was suggested that the Clerk contacts the new Tree Officer at Wiltshire Council.	RJ
12.	<p><b>Playing fields and playgrounds</b></p> <p><u>Approval of playground management signs</u> The Parish Council suggested that the signs need to be A3 in size. It was suggested that the sign is screen printed then mounted on to an aluminum sheet and fitted with the appropriate fixings.</p> <p>~ It is noted that the area where the drainage channel has been dug across Silverlands Play Area needs to be seeded. S Skelhorn agreed to ask for grass seeds from the Haymeadow Way contractors.</p> <p><u>Football use</u> J Dalley reported that the goal posts need new fixings for the goal post nets.</p> <p><u>Progress on The Hub – community building</u> The planning application to site a structure at the playing field is live with Wiltshire Council. As the Bromham hub is no longer available, the Parish Council will have to source an alternative container.</p> <p>If the planning application is approved, plans will be made to install drainage on the site. There will need to be a full design plan for the drainage and costings approved. The Parish Council has not voted or approved this work yet.</p> <p>The Parish Council is looking for a group of interested parishioners to set up a management group who would manage the building. They would be able to apply for grant funding.</p>	RJ SS
13.	<p><b>Highways and footpaths</b></p> <p><u>Discussion on data from Speed Indicator Device</u> It was reported that on average 92,500 vehicles travel on the High Street, Rowde, in one month. At night, drivers come through village doing 40/50mph on average. The Parish Council supported the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device (SID), approximately £2,500.</p> <p><u>Update on Community Speedwatch: date for camera use in the village</u> C Greenwood informed the Parish Council that he was due to meet with the Community Speedwatch lead on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September to discuss potential new Community Speedwatch sites.</p> <p><u>Update from C Greenwood from LHFIG meeting on 4/9/25</u> C Greenwood discussed the planned review of the speed limit from the Nursery to the other side of Devizes.</p> <p><u>Rowde19 footpath link up</u> Mid Wiltshire Ramblers are pursuing a link between footpath ROWD19 which is a dead end with BROM40 to create a continuous path.</p> <p><u>Permissive path:</u> It was noted that the permissive path from the Rowdey Cow to Marsh Lane has been diverted around the new Haymeadow Way estate. The maps that are located at the Rowdey Cow end of the path, Board Corner and the new entrance off Reed Place/Haymeadow need to have updated maps of the new route.</p>	RJ RJ
14.	<p><b>Monthly financial matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monthly bank reconciliation: monthly invoices for Aug 2025</b> Total: £3,468.64 Admin costs: £1,920.09 Ground's maintenance: £1,298.55 Allotments: £50.00 Playing field: £200</li> </ul>	

