

## DRAFT MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.30pm, Rowde Village Hall

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> L Wills (Chair), J Dalley, C Greenwood, E Watt, J Wills</p> <p>Public audience: 14</p> <p>Cllr Laura Mayes</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>M Somerville, C Stevens</p>	
2.	<p><b>Register of pecuniary interests:</b></p> <p>There were no pecuniary interests registered.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Chairman's five minutes</b></p> <p>The Chairman asked for the audience to continue to refrain from talking when Councillors are speaking.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Public Question Time:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request was made for the laurel hedge on Springfield Road at the junction of Marsh Lane to be cut down to 3ft high.</li> <li>• A reminder was made of the missing 30mph speed limit sign on Marsh Lane (Broad Corner). This has already been reported on the MyWilts App and to the Parish Clerk. [The Parish Clerk has reported this to A Cadwallader, Highways Representative for Wiltshire Council]. Councillor Mayes offered to look into this matter. A follow up request was made to move the siting of the 30mph limit to the other side of the 50mph signs on Broad Corner. C Greenwood confirmed that a full traffic survey would have to be done before a move could take place. C Greenwood agreed to look the siting of other speed limit signs approaching Devizes town.</li> <li>• It was requested that the ditch on Cock Road, near to Wick Farm is cleared. L Wills agreed to raise this request at the next Operational Flood Group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Melksham Campus. There was further discussion about flooding on the Common when the water table is high. There is a pipe that comes off the field which runs across the road and that can flood and ice over. A local landowner has offered to dig the ditch in that area and re-direct the water flow. The Parish Council accepted the kind offer.</li> <li>• It was noted that the permissive path is still not accessible. The heras fencing from the building work at Haymeadow Way has been moved to clear the access but the path has now become overgrown. J Dalley agreed to speak to the site manager and ask if the contractors could clear the gap in the hedge.</li> <li>• A further request was made for Wiltshire Council to survey the trees which border the highway on Marsh Lane, opposite the junction to Furlong Close. This has already been reported by the Clerk to Wiltshire Council. The Clerk will follow up on this matter.</li> <li>• A complaint was made about the overflowing litter bin in the Silverlands Play Area. {The Clerk has chased this and the bin will be emptied on 14/9/24}</li> <li>• A question was asked about when the speed limit outside Silverwood School would be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.</li> <li>• A question was asked about why the sewer pipe on Sands Lane was recently being inspected. It was commented that it is further evidence of the inadequacy of the sewerage pipe around the Bunnies Lane area. L Wills agreed to ring Wessex Water to find out more.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>LM</p> <p>LW</p> <p>JD</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>LW</p>

5.	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update</b></p> <p><u>Silverwood School</u>: work has now been completed on the new build. The first new students started there on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Cllr Mayes confirmed that the process of reducing the speed limit outside of the school to 40mph is taking place. Cllr Mayes asked the meeting if there were any problems with traffic backing up onto the A342. There was nothing to report. Cllr Mayes confirmed that it would be clarified with all school transport drivers that they must obey the speed limits and only use the main road.</p> <p><u>Sands Lane application appeal</u>: The planning application to build up to 50 houses on Land West of Sand's Lane, Rowde (PL/2023/00386) was refused by Wiltshire Council at the end of 2023. The applicant has appealed against that decision. The appeal is now with the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The community is encouraged to share their views on the appeal. The original responses submitted on the planning application will be forwarded to the planning inspector. The objections to the application must show demonstrable harm. It is recommended that as many residents as possible write letters to send to the Planning Inspector.</p> <p>Points to consider: Sands Lane is prime arable land which is outside of the settlement boundaries for the parish. The site also floods and was under water for three months this year. The Highways Officer was not happy with the potential increase in traffic on Cock Road that the development would result in. There have been no plans to adjust traffic flow on Cock Road. It was noted that the land outlined for the community building has no drainage structure and as such would make the land unsuitable for a community building to be built.</p> <p>It is stated by the appellant that Rowde does not have a made Neighbourhood Plan. However, it does have an emerging plan and this site has not been put forward for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The deadline for further submissions is 8/10/24.</p> <p><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u>: The new government is proposing reforms to the Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. The government is looking to change the land supply requirements of local councils and is planning to build 1.5 million homes.</p> <p>There has been an uplift on housing targets in rural areas, where there may not be the infrastructure to support the huge increase. The government is proposing to increase Wiltshire's housing target by 81%. This is not representative of targets across the country. It is reported that Wiltshire's land supply has fallen to 3.85 years. This will leave communities vulnerable to developer led building. Developers can get planning permission then choose not to build, also called 'land banking'. Wiltshire Council is fighting to change the proposed number of land supply years required.</p> <p>In Wiltshire Council's emerging Local Plan, Rowde would need to provide 67 new homes. However, the plan was caveated to say that due to local constraints on the NHS, and the lack of a doctor's surgery in the village, that the 67 houses could be built nearer the end of the plan 2038.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Review and agree the minutes from Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b></p> <p>The Council agreed to accept the minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 as a true record of the meeting (Proposed by J Dalley, seconded by E Watt).</p>	
7.	<p><b>Matters arising &amp; actions taken from 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C Greenwood updated the meeting that the Land Registry currently had a backlog of work.</li> <li>• The new buildings at Haymeadow Way will arrive on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.</li> </ul> <p>Six of these properties will be for social rent. There will be four properties for shared ownership sale (2x one bed houses; 2x two bedroom houses).</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Wills has been in contact with Ruth Simmons, Neighbourhood Officer for Aster to ask permission to site the Christmas tree on land at the Tanis. L Wills is discussing a potential Christmas tree donation with a local landowner.</li> <li>• A resident has requested a T-bar markings outside of their drive entrance to enable them to exit safely from their drive. The Parish Council has made an application to the Local Highways Footpaths and Infrastructure Group (LHFIG).</li> <li>• L Wills sent details of the Primary School’s previous walking bus route to a resident as requested.</li> <li>• There are currently only two residents from Rowde attending the Bromham and Rowde Monday Club. It was agreed not to give a donation from the precept at this time. This decision will be reconsidered in the next precept discussion.</li> <li>• The cost for replacing the safety mat under the rotator play equipment in the small playing field (Tower View), ranges from £1890 - £7,173 exc. VAT. This will be looked at with the other RoSPA recommendations from the recent report.</li> <li>• The toddlers’ square climbing frame and the goal posts have been photographed and sent to Rollalong building firm (Haymeadow Way) for repainting as part of a community project. The Clerk was asked to find out when this work would take place.</li> <li>• C Greenwood confirmed that five volunteers are needed to move the SID.</li> <li>• Speedwatch: C Greenwood noted that the Community Speed Watch Lead Co-Ordinator, Roger Fooks has left the role. The CSW team in Rowde is very short of members. The Clerk will put another request in the parish magazine.</li> <li>• It was asked when Wiltshire Council will address the man made trench in front of Buena Vista. This trench was dug nearly 3 years ago. Residents noted that this area continues to flood when it rains.</li> <li>• Concern was raised about the sale of land off the Common and the continued use of vehicles to access the plots across the Common.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk /JD</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8.	<p><b>Parish Council discussion on the consultation on the pre-submission draft Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document:</b> deadline 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to view the consultation documents, in particular the ‘Gypsy and Traveller site selection report’, p205 – 209 which shows why some sites were selected and others rejected. Comments can be made on the effect that a traveller site may have on the residential amenity; how the community looks and feels; anticipated problems with noise and traffic, light pollution. A suggestion could be made to reduce the number of pitches being proposed.</p> <p>A question was asked about guidance on co-ordinating a village response. There will be some local events to support residents with their response to the consultation.</p> <p>Some points to consider: the proposed site is visible from an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and Oliver’s Castle which has geological significance; the potential impact on local businesses; impact on nature (voles, in particular); agricultural grading of the land (grand 2).</p> <p>It was suggested that the Parish Council responds in the way that the information is presented in the site selection document, with red, amber and green coding.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal of application to build on land off Sands Lane (up to 50 houses). PL/2023/00386 - Land West of Sand's Lane, Rowde, Nr Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2QW - APP/Y3940/W/24/3348191. Deadline for comments 8th October 2024. Please see above, item 5.</li> <li>• Planning application: PL/2024/06413, 2 Rowde Court, Marsh Lane, Rowde, Devizes, SN10 2NW. Single-storey side extension in a traditional ‘Orangery’ style with brick</li> </ul>	

	<p>masonry walls incorporating painted timber window framing and French doors and a flat roof with cornice detail and two lantern features. Deadline for comments 23/9/24</p> <p>The Parish Council had no objections to the application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council made no further comments. C Greenwood noted that the National Grid has the stock to replant the hedgerows.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Policy amendments</b></p> <p><b>a. Co-option policy</b></p> <p>The co-option policy has been amended. The Parish Council will not be able to consider applications from residents who are in active dispute with the Parish Council. The amendment to the policy was proposed by C Greenwood, seconded by J Wills. All Councillors were in favour of the proposed change.</p> <p><b>b. Suggested new code of conduct</b></p> <p>The Parish Council considered a new model code of conduct prepared by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) for adoption by the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to accept this as their new Code of Conduct (proposed by E Watt, seconded by C Greenwood). All Councillors present agreed.</p> <p>C Greenwood offered to convert the document from a pdf file to word.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Finance Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for July 2024 <u>July 2024 invoices</u> (total: £4,878.84) Admin costs: £2,308.19 Ground's maintenance: £2,060.83 Allotments: £231.10 Fete celebration: £25.00 Bespoke noticeboards: £253.72 Invoices were accepted for payment by the Parish Council (Proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt. J Dalley. All Councillors were in favour)</li> <li>• Monthly bank reconciliation &amp; monthly invoices for August 2024 <u>August 2024 invoices</u> (total: £4,127.52) Admin costs: £1,812.18 Ground's maintenance: £1,259.74 Bespoke noticeboards: £1,055.60 Invoices were accepted for payment by the Parish Council (Proposed by J Wills, seconded by E Watt. J Dalley. All Councillors were in favour)</li> <li>• It was proposed that the ring-fenced C.I.L money is spent on the play areas.</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Councillor training: 19<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk was asked to arrange another date for Councillor training.</li> </ul>	
13.	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p><b>Update and vacancies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Dalley has arranged for collection of the remaining waste material at the allotments.</li> </ul>	
14.	<p><b>Playing field and Play equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RoSPA</li> </ul>	Clerk

	<p>The RoSPA reports have been carried out recently. The Clerk will email copies to the Parish Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on teams playing</b></li> </ul> <p>J Dalley has had a discussion with the Secretary of Devizes Town Football Club but no decision has been made about whether the field is needed for matches. There has been an offer to put a robotic liner on the pitch if the playing field is booked.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Update on grounds maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contract will go out to tender again next year as part of the usual two year cycle.</li> <li>• A question was asked about work that the groundswoker at Furlong Close has been carrying out. L Wills and the Clerk will arrange a visit with the groundswoker</li> </ul>	LW/ RJ
16.	<p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p><u>Facebook</u>: there have been no posts</p> <p><u>Party in the Barn</u>: there was some discussion about a potential venue. J Dalley agreed to speak with S Thompson, Rowdey Cow.</p> <p><u>New village noticeboards</u> are waiting to be put up. The posts need to be put into the ground first. A local landowner has offered the Parish Council use of an augur to make the holes.</p> <p>The village hall noticeboard has been erected. The Clerk was asked to send a thank you letter to the Devizes Men's Shed for the work that they have done.</p> <p><u>Request to take over the defibrillator</u> at Furlong Close: the Parish Council is responsible for the defibrillator at the Village Hall and does not wish to take over responsibility and cost of running another defibrillator.</p> <p><u>Community event by Wessex Water</u>: drop-in sessions at Devizes Library on Tuesday 17th September and 5th November 2024, drop-in session will be run between 10am-11am, with bookable slots available between 11.30am and 2.30pm.</p> <p><u>Fete Committee update</u>: B Zaccarelli gave a written update to the Parish Council. The fete committee has noted the request to open their own bank account and are investigating this. They have also noted that ring-fenced funds could be used for other community events. The first meeting to plan for next year's fete will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 at Maundrell Close. The Fete Committee hopes that one of two members of the Parish Council will join them for committee meetings.</p> <p><u>Christmas around the village</u>: there are plans for a Santa sleigh to go around the village. L Wills will liaise with all parties.</p>	JD  JD  Clerk
17.	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <p><u>Parish Emergency requirements</u>: L Wills agreed to check the levels of grit in the bins in preparation for winter.</p> <p>Discussion on proposed signage for Sands Lane track: C Greenwood has proposed to create a sign with computer software. The Clerk will suggest possible text.</p>	LW  CG
18.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Village Hall Chairman, Brian Cross, has written on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to thank the Parish Council for their donation of a bespoke new noticeboard for the Village Hall.</li> </ul>	
19.	<p><b>Date of next Parish Council meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting Wed 9<sup>th</sup> October 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: .....

