

MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 8th January 2020, 7.30pm, at Rowde Village Hall





	<p>PRESENT: J Hawkins (Chair), J Dalley, C Stevens, S Taylor, (left at item 10), I Whittaker-Axon (left at item 10), L Wills</p> <p>Present: Cllr Cuthbert (left after item 5).</p>		
1.	<p>Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies</p> <p>All Parish Councillors were present.</p>		
2.	<p>Register of Members' Interests</p> <p>All Councillors registered their interest in setting the precept.</p>		
3.	<p>Chairman's five minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair noted that Wiltshire Council has issued parking tickets to cars parked near the Marsh Lane Bridge where there are double yellow lines painted. A planning application to build on land adjacent to 41 Tower View has been received by the Council on 7/1/20. The Clerk has asked Wiltshire Council for an extension on time to consider this application {Clerk's note: this request was refused by Wiltshire Council as they have experienced an administration error which has meant there were delays in getting the application out to consultees} 		
4.	<p>Public Question Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks were given for the work that has been undertaken to side out the pavements from beyond Rowdeford School to the old Queen's Head pub at the bottom of Dunkirk Hill. A resident expressed surprise that the work had been done. {Clerk's note: Discussion about this work and quotations were recorded in the Parish Council minutes for September & November 2019. The Parish Council has received permission from Wiltshire Council for the work to be done}. There is concern about the condition of the pavements around the village now that the encroaching grass verge has been removed. It was asked whether the Parish Council will report this to Wiltshire Council. The Clerk will report this. A request was made for a new village sign on the A342 on the approach from Devizes. The Clerk will investigate this. A comment was made about double yellow lines fading away on Cock Road. A question was asked about when the Aster containers situated on a grassed area at Tower View will be removed. The Clerk will investigate and report back. A request was made for the central white lines through the village to be repainted, especially after the recent collision with the wall at Mulberry Lodge 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	
5.	<p>Wiltshire Council Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Cuthbert updated the Parish Council on forthcoming council tax increases for Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will set a precept increase of 2%, in addition to an adult social care levy. The combined council tax increase will be 3.99%. Wiltshire Council is conducting public meetings around the county about the proposal. The details of all of the public meetings are on Wiltshire Council's website. There is an electronic simulator which will illustrate what the County's priorities are and how the money will be spent. Cllr Cuthbert informed the Parish Council that there is some money left in the Area Board budget if there are any local groups that want to submit an application for funding. More details can be found on the Wiltshire Council website. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner is looking to increase his budget by a pound a month. The increase is to protect front line officers in the community. Local residents are being consulted on the proposal. Cllr Cuthbert informed the Parish Council that if double yellow lines have washed away, they are not enforceable. If pavements are in poor condition, they need to be reported through the My Wilts App. The Parish Council noted that Bromham Parish has had some of its pavements resurfaced by Wiltshire Council recently. Rowde Parish is concerned that it has not had the same support to get similar work carried out in Rowde. 	
6.	Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 11th December 2019 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record: proposed by C Stevens, seconded by L Wills. All Councillors who were present at that meeting accepted them as a true record.	
7.	Matter arising and actions from meeting on 11th December 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk has written to some local residents and invited them to a meeting about the Common which will be held on Wednesday 22nd January to discuss ongoing maintenance issues. The Parish Council shed has been insured. There will a small additional premium due in June 2020 when the insurance is renewed. The Clerk contacted Atkins about mud that was left on the pavement along Devizes Road when they carried out the resurfacing of Conscience Lane. Aktins were unable to clear the mud as it has been seven weeks since the resurfacing work has finished so it is difficult to prove that it was caused by them. They have raised an issue on the MyWilts App and asked that the pavement is swept by the Parish Steward. The Clerk has contacted the PCSO about cars parking on the pavement on the High Street, adjacent to Slade's Garage. The parking is considered dangerous and the Police will issue warning notices. It has been suggested by the Police that the Parish Council applies for a long-term solution, by putting double yellow lines on the road. The Clerk has contacted Wiltshire Council about whether the proposed new builds at Reed Place will achieve a Community Infrastructure Levy. As the development is for affordable homes, they will be exempt from the CIL regulation. However, if s. 106 payments are required these will be requested by the necessary officers and secured by means of a unilateral undertaking, as Wiltshire Council developments must be treated in the same way as any other. If s. 106 payments are secured, Wiltshire Council will notify the PC. The Parish Council has purchased signs to warn people not to climb on the new Parish Council shed and also to remind people not to use unauthorised vehicles on the playing field. 	Clerk
8.	Planning Matters <u>Proposal by Wiltshire Council to build on land adjacent to Reed Place.</u> Wiltshire Council has the opportunity to provide more housing than originally proposed on the site next to Reed Place. After a request by the Parish Council, the offer has been extended to include building a 1 x 3 bed rented property on the site. The proposal is to build: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x 1 bed social rented bungalow 2 x 1 bed social rented houses 2 x 2 bed social rented house 1 x 2 bed social rented bungalow Plus 2 x 1 bed shared ownership house 	

	<p>Plus 2 x 2 bed shared ownership house Plus 1 x 3 bed rented property. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to confirm where the access point to the site will be.</p> <p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>The Clerk has been contacted by Etchilhampton Parish Council about a planning application for a farm track, at Manor Farm, All Cannings. It has been suggested that this application will result in more tractor transport through Rowde to the bio-digester in Bromham. The Parish Council could not see direct evidence that this track would increase tractor traffic through Rowde. It was noted that other farmers use the A342 too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk noted that Cllr Whitehead has called the application in, which means it will be decided by Councillors and not planning officers. The case is still to be heard. 	Clerk
9.	<p>Precept setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk circulated budget papers and a precept proposal document. The draft budget figures were also considered at the December meeting of the Parish Council. The Chair outlined the forthcoming financial issues that face the Parish Council. These include possible legal issues around 'The Common', the creation of the Tanis footpath, possible funds needed to evict travellers; funds to deal with potential fly-tipping and funds to create a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Devizes. These costs are not fully known at present and can only be estimated. It is hoped that the Parish Council will know more about the Tanis footpath project at the CATG meeting in February 2020. The Parish Council discussed the financial issues that it faces and deliberated on the rate at which to set the precept. The budget suggested a higher increase in the precept. It was agreed to propose a lower increase of 9% in the village precept. It was proposed by L Wills, seconded by I Whittaker-Axon. All Councillors were in favour. This will result in a precept of £37, 973.42. Payment for a band D house will increase from £70.58 to £76.93 per annum: an increase of £6.35 over the year. 	
10.	<p>Highways Update</p> <p><u>The Hill – update on access to Cock Road by large vehicles & ongoing damage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are witnesses to very large vehicles accessing Cock Road from the High Street and causing damage to the Hill in the process. These are farm vehicles and construction vehicles. There are concerns that there is a hedge overhanging the entrance to Cock Road, which also makes the road narrower. There was a general discussion from the audience. It was suggested that cars should not park along the entrance to Cock Road. It was suggested that the Village Hall Committee should be approached and asked if they would open their car park for villagers to use. The Clerk has been asked to approach the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council will continue with their attempt to create a lay-by parking area opposite the entrance to Malthouse Farm. The Parish Council is investigating whether some of the grass can be removed from the Hill, on the side adjacent to the junction with Cock Road, approximately three feet wide and be replaced with hardcore standing. It was agreed that J Dalley will meet with our grounds maintenance contractor to discuss what may be possible. The Clerk will continue to try and obtain permission from Highways, Wiltshire Council. <p><u>Update on the recent accident on the High Street, near to the junction with Close Lane.</u></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>JD</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>A car has crashed into the wall of Mulberry Lodge, and caused considerable damage. It was noted that the road surface is inadequate at the section and has no surface grip. Resurfacing work is due to take place in February along A342. The Clerk will confirm with Highways if this area is going to be covered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a query about whether the road has narrowed at the section by West End Farm and Mulberry Lodge. It was suggested that a road narrowing sign is requested for this section of the road. • A resident requested a street sign for Close Lane. <p><u>Discussion on the need for further waiting and parking restrictions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the Parish Council will request that double yellow lines are installed on the A342 from the junction with Bunnies Lane to Slade's Garage. • The Parish Council considered a request from a resident to extend double yellow lines further down Springfield Road and thought that this would exacerbate parking issues around the village. <p><u>Update on Conscience Lane resurfacing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new road surfacing will be re-laid in April 2020 due to the immediate degradation of the surface. The most serious potholes will receive immediate attention. <p><u>Pavements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk has been asked to contact Wiltshire Council about the dangerous leaf debris which covers the pavement along Dunkirk Hill. If Wiltshire Council is unable to sweep this pavement, it was suggested that a team of volunteers do it. • It was noted that the bank is sliding down onto the pavement along Dunkirk Hill. An engineering solution needs to be considered by the Highways department. <p><u>Road Closures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a temporary closure from Cock Road, Rowde to Netherstreet, Bromham for carriageway resurfacing works. This will take place on 14th February 2020. • There will be a further temporary closure from the Marsh Lane junction with the High Street to the Conscience Lane junction of Devizes Road for carriageway resurfacing. This will take place on 17 February 2020. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p>Grounds Maintenance</p> <p><u>Review of pavement siding out work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pavements around the village, including along the A342 have been sided out by our grounds contractor. Large amounts of soil have been removed to reveal the full width of the pavements, to improve pedestrian safety. There has been lots of positive feedback from residents. • It was not possible to anticipate in advance how much soil would be removed. It is estimated that 60 tonnes of soil was removed. The Parish Council proposed and agreed to pay the grounds contractor an extra £500.00 towards the cost of disposing of the soil. Proposed by L Wills, seconded by C Stevens. All Councillors were in favour. • It was proposed at the meeting that the work should be continued to side out the pavements along Marsh Lane, from Broad Corner to the Marsh Lane bridge, so that the whole village has been completed. The quotation for the work is £460, plus £200 for the disposal of the soil. All Councillors were in favour. • The grounds contractor has been asked to supply a quotation for sweeping the pavements now that the work has been carried out. 	
12.	<p>Use of the large playing field</p> <p><u>Review of condition of the pitch</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The playing field is being used again after the wet weather. There is ongoing concern about damage that is being done to the pitch areas. 	
13.	Allotments Update <u>Security issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The car park by the allotments and playing field is being used for illicit activity. This has been reported to the Police who will include the area in their rounds. It was agreed that the Parish Council will purchase a camera and a new security padlock for the allotment area. The Clerk has been asked to purchase two signs to warn people that the area is under CCTV surveillance: one for the allotment gate and one for the tennis court. The Parish Council's grounds contractor has helped to clear an allotment plot and move horse manure. 	Clerk
14.	Village Amenities <u>Update on the quotations for RoSPA recommended repairs to playgrounds</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk has obtained three quotations for repairs to the play equipment and wet pour. They will be considered in full at the Parish Council meeting in February. <u>Village Christmas tree.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Village Christmas tree has been taken down. Thanks were given to J Collett for disposing of the tree. It was agreed that the Christmas tree had been a success this year. The Parish Council thanked everyone who was involved with the Christmas tree project, including local residents and Parish Councillors and their families. 	
15.	Communications update <u>Facebook</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been reported that the bridge on the permissive footpath opposite the Rowdey Cow needs repairing. It has been repaired by the Parish Council twice already. The Clerk will report it to the Rights of Way department now. 	Clerk
16.	Financial matters & monthly invoices for December (total £3,518.56). <u>December invoices breakdown</u> Admin costs: £1, 309.62 Grounds maintenance: £2, 054.24 Signs, defibrillator: £128.70 Christmas tree: £26.00 Total: £3, 518.56 [Payments to the Village Hall for meeting room hire and a donation towards the cost of the electricity for the Christmas tree lights: £102.50, plus the donation to the Cross Keys for the cost of the electricity for the defibrillator: £30.00, plus payment to the grounds contractor for waste disposal: £500.00, were approved at the meeting and are included in the overall total above] Payment for invoices were proposed by L Wills, seconded by C Stevens. All Councillors were in favour.	
17.	Proposed meeting dates <u>The Devizes Area Board meeting:</u> Monday 13 th January 2020, 6.30pm, Devizes Library <u>VE preparation meeting:</u> Wednesday 15 th January 2020, 7pm, Village Hall. <u>The Common:</u> There will be a meeting on 22 nd January 2020 for people who live or own land adjoining the Common. The meeting will discuss issues of grounds maintenance, historic use of the land and legal issues. A public meeting to discuss the Village requirements in relation to the Common will be held at a later date. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u>	

	The first public meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 th February 2020. The Clerk will arrange for a banner to be made to advertise the event. L Wills kindly agreed to help with a leaflet drop. The Clerk will provide some information for the Facebook page.	Clerk
18.	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 19.11.19 in Rowde, a pedestrian was walking along the road when a vehicle hit the pedestrian's arm, causing the wing mirror to snap off and causing bruising to the pedestrian's arm. The driver made no attempt to stop. On 15.12.19, officers were conducting mobile patrols in the area when the in-car ANPR system informed them that a driver did not have insurance. The driver was stopped and the car was seized. 	
	Date of next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 12th February 2020.  The next Area Board Meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2020 at Devizes Library at 6.30pm.  Next VE day celebration meeting: 15th January 2020.  The first Neighbourhood Planning meeting will be on Tuesday 11th February 2020. <p>Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.</p>	

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

Signed: Chairman Date: