

MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 14th June 2017, 7.30pm, at Rowde Village Hall

<p>PRESENT: S Mundy (Chair), B Bentley, J Dalley, J Hawkins, S Howard-Ames (item 3 onwards), C Stevens, I Whittaker-Axon (item 3 onwards), L Wills (item 3 onwards), Cllr Cuthbert 8 members of the audience.</p>		
1.	<p>Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies: All Councillors were present</p> <p>A minute's silence was held for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks and the Grenfell Tower disaster.</p>	
2.	<p>Vote to co-opt new Parish Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Lisa Wills was proposed for co-option onto the Parish Council by C Stevens, seconded by B Bentley. All Councillors were in favour. Miss Sarah Howard-Ames was proposed for co-option onto the Parish Council by B Bentley, seconded by J Dalley. All Councillors were in favour. Mr Ivan Whittaker-Axon was proposed for co-option onto the Parish Council by C Stevens, seconded by B Bentley. All Councillors were in favour. <p>The three new Parish Councillors joined the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Dan Smith was observing the meeting with a possible view to joining the Parish Council. 	
3.	<p>Register of Members' Interests</p> <p>J Hawkins registered an interest in agenda item 14 on the planters. J Dalley registered an interest in item 14 on road sweeping.</p>	
4.	<p>Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office (all Councillors) & circulation of Code of Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Parish Councillors signed a declaration of acceptance of office, as required after the recent election. The new Parish Councillors also signed copies of the Code of Conduct. 	
5.	<p>Chairman's five minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair noted that intimidation of Parish Councillors from members of the public will not be tolerated. The Chair noted that Parish Councillors are volunteers who work hard for the village, trying to make things better for everyone. The Chair raised concern that Wiltshire Council is refusing to recognise areas of grass cutting that they have previously maintained. This possibility was considered by the Parish Council when it set the precept in January. 	
6.	<p>Public Question time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident raised concern about safety issues for drivers and pedestrians caused by overgrown grass verges, in particular past Slade's garage. Cllr Cuthbert responded to say that she is due to meet with the new Cabinet Member for Highways, Bridget Wayman on 28th June, 3pm at County Hall in the Members' Lounge, to discuss these matters. Cllr Cuthbert invited the Parish Council Chair to join her at that meeting. Cllr Cuthbert encouraged residents to report any safety issues relating to Highways through the My Wiltshire App, or if the issues are dangerous or hazardous by telephoning 0300 456 0105. Cllr Cuthbert recommended that the Parish Council should write a strongly worded letter to Wiltshire Council explaining how they have failed to maintain the highways and the verges. 	<p>S Mundy</p> <p>S Mundy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A question was asked about when the footpaths across Malthouse House farmland would be cut back. The Clerk will speak with the owners of the land [<i>Clerk's note: the grass was cut 18/6/17</i>]. 	Clerk
7.	<p>Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Cuthbert</p> <p>Cllr Cuthbert welcomed the new Parish Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The difficulties experienced in the country recently with three significant terror attacks were mentioned Residents were urged to sign up to community messaging service, through Wiltshire Police. It is a free service. The messaging service gives up to date information from the Police, and the Fire & Rescue service At the Area Board meeting held on Monday 7th June 2017, funding opportunities for local groups was discussed. Groups are advised to apply early in the financial cycle for any money that they need, preferably before October. It was noted that Wiltshire Council has made changes to its cabinet, including Cllr P Whitehead's move to the Finance Portfolio. Baroness Scott has been re-elected as the Leader of the Council. Cllr Cuthbert has been appointed to the Police & Crime Panel, which holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account and will scrutinise his work. Wiltshire Council's business plan goes to the Cabinet on Tuesday for approval. The Council's priorities are protecting the elderly and the vulnerable. 	
8.	<p>Agree the minutes of the annual and the ordinary Parish Council meetings on 10th May 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting were agreed by C Stevens, seconded by J Hawkins. All Councillors who voted agreed. The minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting were agreed by B Bentley, seconded by C Stevens. All Councillors who voted agreed. 	
9.	<p>Matters arising & actions taken from the meeting 10th May 2017</p> <p>Conscience Lane footpath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wiltshire Council has not replied with an official response from the tenant farmer regarding the possibility of a footpath from the junction of Conscience Lane. J Dalley reported that a pavement had not existed at 26 Tanis. A suggestion was made to consider narrowing the road at the junction of Conscience Lane with Devizes Road to incorporate a pavement that way. It was suggested that this proposal is put to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG), which will only consider funding new projects now. The Clerk will speak with Graeme Morrison, the Devizes Community Engagement Manager. <p>Grounds Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been many problems caused by overgrown grass verges over the last month. The Parish Steward visited the village on 7th June and strimmed alongside the pavement on the High Street and Devizes Road. The pavement along Marsh Lane, towards the Marsh Lane Bridge was impassable due to high grass. Residents had resorted to walking in the road [<i>Clerk's note: The grass was cut back on 14/6/17</i>] <p>Highways meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Hawkins attended the Wiltshire Council Parish & Town meeting on 24th May 2017 to discuss the county's grounds maintenance programme. The main message from the evening was to utilise the Parish Steward as much as possible. 	Clerk
10.	Grounds Maintenance	

13.	<p>Collaborative Working</p> <p>St. Matthew's Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Matthew's Church has made a tentative suggestion about hosting a play scheme for the children in the village in school holidays. The Parish Council was supportive of the idea and would consider contributing to the scheme. There is an issue with a Christmas tree planted on a ransom strip between St. Matthew's Close and St. Matthew's Church. It is not known who owns the ransom strip. The Parish Council is happy for the tree to be felled. In the meantime, the Parish Council will look into the ownership of the land. It was thought that the ownership of the ransom strip should be clearly stated on the deeds of the house concerned. <p>Tri-Parish Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that two representatives should be nominated to attend future Tri-parish meetings. B Bentley, J Hawkins and I Whittaker-Axon agreed to attend the meetings. It was suggested that the next meeting should be scheduled for September. <p>Annual Village Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes from the Annual Village meeting were reviewed. It was agreed that the meeting worked well being separated from the Parish Council's annual meeting. It was agreed to ask Rowde Primary School if the next Village meeting could be held there, on a date to be arranged in May 2018. 	Clerk
14.	<p>Village infrastructure</p> <p>Wiltshire Council review of parking restrictions in the parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council discussed the need for double yellow lines at the junction of Springfield Road with the High Street, and an application for a weight restriction on Springfield Road too. The entrance to Marsh Lane from the High Street was also suggested as suitable for double yellow lines, from the junction to the shop. The junction of Conscience Lane with Devizes Road was also proposed to have double yellow lines on it. There is concern about the use of the lay-by outside of the George & Dragon pub, with people sometimes parking outside of the layby and on the road. S Mundy agreed to write to the George & Dragon about this. Concern was raised again about parking issues on Bunnies Lane and possible obstacles for emergency and refuse vehicles. <p>Planters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for the next phase of the planter installation were discussed. S Mundy agreed to make a larger planter to be sited on the High Street alongside the existing ones, opposite Paradise Lane. There was some discussion about adding a bench to this area. J Butler has kindly offered to donate soil for the planters. S Mundy will follow up with A Seedhouse regarding receiving redundant planters from Devizes. The Clerk will send an outline of the planter project to the new Parish Councillors. Concern was raised about how the planters would be watered. <p>Road sweeper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowde is no longer on the Wiltshire Council schedule to have a road sweeper. It was proposed by B Bentley, seconded by I Whittaker-Axon that Grist will spend two hours road sweeping in the village, for approximately £150.00, depending on the amount of material that is collected. 	<p>S Mundy</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A complaint was made about horse waste left on the pavement at Broad Corner, Marsh Lane. I Whittaker-Axon kindly agreed to remove it.It was noted that there is a persistent offender who fails to pick up after their dogs. It was recommended that the Dog Warden should be notified.It was requested for the Clerk to make people aware of the problem through the Rowde Village News and also on the Facebook site.	Clerk								
15.	Parish Council finances <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of the Annual Governance Statements (Annual Return) 2017 – 2018, was proposed by B Bentley, seconded by C Stevens. All Councillors approved the return of the Annual Governance Statement.									
16.	Financial matters & monthly invoices for May (total: £1923.70) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The invoices for May were approved and cheques were signed for a total of £1,923.70. Proposed by C Stevens, seconded by J Dalley. All Councillors who could vote were in favour. <table border="1"><tr><td>Admin costs</td><td>1,181.30</td></tr><tr><td>Grounds maintenance/new bin</td><td>601.60</td></tr><tr><td>Refuse collecting</td><td>140.80</td></tr><tr><td>Total:</td><td>£1,923.70</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Accounting Statements 2017 – 2018 were approved for external audit. All Councillors were in favour.It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate the cumulative spend graph to Councillors in advance of Parish Council meetings.B Bentley is investigating whether the Parish Council bank accounts could receive more interest than they do.It was proposed by J Dalley, seconded by B Bentley that the Parish Council would arrange for a charge card. This is to prevent the Clerk from having to pay for purchases out of her own funds, which are reimbursed at a later date.It was agreed that the Parish Council would donate £30 towards the costs of engraving the allotment trophy.	Admin costs	1,181.30	Grounds maintenance/new bin	601.60	Refuse collecting	140.80	Total:	£1,923.70	Clerk
Admin costs	1,181.30									
Grounds maintenance/new bin	601.60									
Refuse collecting	140.80									
Total:	£1,923.70									
17.	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none">An invitation has been received to attend the AGM of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) on Tuesday 20th June from 5.45pm at Alton Barnes.A voucher has been received for free compost that has been awarded to the village for entering the Best Kept Village Competition. S Mundy has agreed to collect the compost before 30 June from the local recycling centre.A new Rights of Way map has been received from Wiltshire Council.A Community policing update has been received. The newsletter focused on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Their Summer Drink Drive campaign; calls to 101; anti-social behaviour in Devizes; theft from motor vehicles and locally a burglary in the Durlitt Road area on 16/5/17 when sheds were entered and batteries and fences were stolen. In addition, between 12/5 – 19/5 woodland, at the Diamond Jubilee Wood off Marsh Lane, has been sprayed with herbicide killing some trees.A verbal update was received of people trying to sell stolen goods: generators, knives. Morrison’s carpark has been targeted.	S Mundy								
18.	Date of next meeting Wednesday 12 th July 2017, 7.30pm									

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

Signed:

..... Chairman Date: