

Draft **MINUTES OF ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
Held on Wednesday 11th February 2015, 8.00pm, at Rowde Village Hall

PRESENT: J Bawden (Chair), B Bentley, S Mundy, S Stapleton, C Stevens Clerk: R Jeffries Wiltshire Councillor: P Whitehead		
1.	Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies – P Evans, A Seedhouse, J Graham Absent - I Marr	
2.	Register of Members' Interests B Bentley registered an interest in item 10: Discussion in principle about possible donation to the Devizes Area Tourism Partnership.	
3.	Chairman's five minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors. The Parish Council agreed to publicise the vacancies with a leaflet drop around the village. Clerk/Chair to draft a flyer and bring to the next PC meeting for circulation. The cost for work on the new Marsh Lane footpath is expected to come in under budget. It was agreed that the remainder of the money should be ring-fenced for work on footpaths in the future. A section of the Jubilee Wood is water logged. A grant of £250 has been allocated by WC Paths Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) for work to be carried out to build up a section of the footpath. A group of volunteers has offered to do the work. A planning application has been received with a deadline of 26th February 2015 for Parish Council response. The application did not arrive in time to appear on the agenda for this Parish Council meeting. It was proposed by the Chair that in the circumstances an exception was made and that the item should be added to the agenda, as item 12, in order for it to be dealt with at the meeting. All Councillors were in favour. 	Clerk/Chair
4.	Wiltshire Council update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr P. Whitehead updated the Parish Council on changes to the garden waste recycling collection. In spite of a recent consultation, Wiltshire Council has agreed to return the scheme to an opt-in, paid for service. Residents who wish to use the service will have to pay £40 per year. Cllr Whitehead also informed the Parish Council that the Hopper bus to the RUH, in Bath will cease. The current cost to WC is £130k per year. WC will continue to support the Link service and the RUH wishes to discuss with WC an alternative transport arrangement to the Hopper bus. WC has also cut funding to voluntary agencies by 10%. The Chair enquired about the forthcoming 'Beat the Streets' programme'. 'Beat the Streets' is a new health initiative that is being launched in Devizes on 6th May for 6 weeks. This is to encourage fitness and to help curb obesity. The Chair asked whether Rowde could be included in the route. Clerk to contact Cllr Whitehead in writing with the request. Devizes Area Board update: Meeting on 26th January 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain areas of the canal towpath will be made available for adoption, by groups such as The Guides, for example. All Cannings parish has started a petition for super-fast broadband. This can be viewed on-line. A proposal for the Devizes campus has been lodged with WC. The Police service has been consulting on a possible increase in its precept. The consultation closed on 4/2/15. 	Clerk
5.	Public Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was asked who cut the hedge along the pathway from the Village Hall to the Church, and who filled the Church compost bin with the cuttings. The Clerk 	

	confirmed that this is not part of the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contract. <i>(Clerk's note: The Clerk has checked with the contractor and he has not cut the hedge in this area).</i>	
6.	Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th January 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were approved. Proposed by S Mundy and seconded by B Bentley. All Councillors voted in favour. 	
7.	Actions taken from the meeting on 14th January 2015 <p>Village Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defibrillator: BT has confirmed that there are no plans to decommission the payphone in the village. BT runs a yearly rationalisation programme and the phone is not included in this year's list. Clerk will approach the landlord of the Cross Keys to discuss a possible siting there. Play equipment: The damaged goalforce wall in the small playing field is due to be removed and repaired in early February. A quote will be given for repairing the backboard, once the item has been removed. <p>Village Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village salt: Salt for village use needs to be ordered in August for the following winter season. In the meantime, the Parish Council will work on a 'parish weather response plan'. B Bentley will complete a draft plan and submit to the Parish Council meeting in April for consideration. Wiltshire Council has agreed to move the bin situated on 'The Hill' to a site on Springfield Road. A further bin has been purchased by the Parish Council and will be sited on Marsh Lane near the junction of Rowde Court Road. <p>Planning update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14/11247/OUT Outline planning permission to build a pair of semi-detached dwellings on land at Springfield Road has been approved with a number of conditions. The scale, layout, external appearance and landscaping of the development is still to be approved, including a parking breakdown and provision for bin stores for existing and proposed residents. <p>Highways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to make pedestrian crossing safer on Caen Hill is due to take place in March/April. The crossing work has been timed at the same time as some resurfacing as it will save a considerable amount of money in road closure costs. Road narrowing at West End Farm: CATG has agreed to monitor the situation with officers taking time when passing to observe traffic. WC is happy to receive on-going views from the Parish Council and reports of any actual incidences. <i>(Clerk's note: A further incident took place in w/c 9/2/15. This was reported to the Police and WC).</i> <p>Large Playing Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints have been received about the poor condition that the changing rooms have been left in after recent football matches. The matter has been discussed with the home team and a report has been made to the league division regarding the away team's behaviour. Electricity supply: An energy company has visited the site. A power supply will not be possible from Rowde Court Road. Chair will chase a quote for supplying electricity to the playing field. <p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 2 vacant plots available. Interested parties should contact the Clerk. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>BB</p> <p>JB</p>
8.	Update from Neighbourhood Planning Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk attended a planning forum on 3rd February 2015, led by Devizes Town Council. Devizes Town Council has produced a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Roundway Parish Council and Bishops Cannings Parish Council. Potterne and Urchfont parishes are in the process of developing neighbourhood plans too. The estimated cost of developing a plan is approximately £12,000 - £15,000. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Parish Council briefly discussed whether Rowde should have a neighbourhood plan and whether by its nature such a plan would be too focussed on planning issues and not community development. The Clerk agreed to attend a public consultation in Potterne on 24th February to see how their plan is progressing and report back to the Parish Council at the next meeting.Clerk agreed to find out from Wiltshire Council what percentage of new housing developments has to be social housing.	Clerk Clerk								
9.	Preparations for renewal of grounds maintenance contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none">The current grounds maintenance contracts expire on 31st March 2015. J Bawden & S Mundy and the Clerk will meet to discuss the tender requirements.	Chair/SM/Clerk								
10.	Financial matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monthly invoices totalling £1367.34 were approved (proposed by S Stapleton, seconded by C Stevens) and the cheques signed. <table><tr><td>Staff costs and printing</td><td>909.84</td></tr><tr><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>395.70</td></tr><tr><td>Allotment water rates</td><td>61.80</td></tr><tr><td>Total:</td><td>1367.34</td></tr></table> <p>Devizes Area Tourism Partnership: This group started when the Tourist Information Centre closed in Devizes and is solely funded by Devizes Town Council. The group has received a grant to fund a tourist leaflet and a B & B telephone line. The work carried out by the partnership also benefits the parishes around Devizes. The Parish Council was asked in principle whether it would considering support the group financially. B Bentley agreed to submit a proposal to the Parish Council for consideration at the next meeting with a suggested donation amount.</p>	Staff costs and printing	909.84	Grounds Maintenance	395.70	Allotment water rates	61.80	Total:	1367.34	BB
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11.	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none">A letter has been received from the Canal & River Trust stating that volunteers will start work on 2nd February to help restore lengths of the towpath. In addition to these remedial works, their contractors will start to resurface the area between Marsh Lane Bridge and Lock 27, Marsh Lane Lock. These works are due to be carried out from the start of April 2015.									
12.	Additional Planning Application <ul style="list-style-type: none">15/00747/FUL: West End Farm: Erection of 2 steel portal framed structures to replace fire damaged barns. The Parish Council had no objections.									
	The next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2015, 8.00pm, Village Hall.									

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

Signed: Chairman Date: