

Draft MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 14th November 2018, 7.30pm, at Rowde Village Hall


PRESENT: J Hawkins (Chair), J Dalley, S Mundy, Y Pullen (from item 3), C Stevens, I Whittaker-Axon, L Wills		
1.	Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies Apologies: Cllr L Mayes	
2.	Register of Members' Interests There were no items recorded.	
3.	Co-option of Yazmin Pullen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed by C Stevens, seconded by S Mundy that Y Pullen should be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All Councillors were in favour. The co-option of Brigitte Cresswell was deferred. 	
	Chairman's five minutes Malthouse Farm Update J Hawkins attended the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting on 1st November 2018. The application to build on land at Malthouse Farm was debated (17/08775/FUL). The application is a Hybrid Planning Application seeking outline permission for residential development of 3 market sector dwellings including siting, access and parking; and Full planning permission for the change of use of the retained buildings to form 3 market sector dwellings including external appearance and parking. The hybrid application has been passed. The owners will need to submit a full planning application for the detail of the houses to be decided. Special Schools consultation After three years of consultation, it has been proposed that the special schools provision at Rowdeford school will be extended with the creation of additional smaller units. There will be a £20 million pound investment in the new school on the Rowdeford site. This will provide special education education in the north of the county. Exeter House in Salisbury will provide for children with additional needs in the south of the county. It is proposed that St Nicholas in Chippenham and Larkrise School in Trowbridge will close in 2023. The Parish Council agreed that this was a positive proposal for children with special educational needs and for the community of Rowde. The proposal will be voted on at the Cabinet meeting on 27 th November at County Hall. The Parish Council will send a representative to speak in favour of the proposal.	PC
5.	Public Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that there is a blocked drain opposite the Tanis Farmhouse, on Conscience Lane. The culvert was damaged during recent utilities work. The Clerk will report this to Wiltshire Council [<i>Clerk's note: reported 16/11/18</i>]. A question was asked about the reference in the Rowde Village News to Central Government deferring the setting of referendum principles for Parish/Town Councils for three years. Parish Council precepts are not currently capped by central government. Parish Council can levy their precept at the level that they chose to set, within reason. If central government caps parish council precepts, and the Parish Council wishes to carry out a large project in the future, the Parish Council would have to ask the parish through a referendum if they agreed to the expenditure. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about the damaged wooden pillars at the uncontrolled crossing point by the bus shelter on the High Street, opposite the Cross Keys pub. It was asked whether it was necessary to replace them as the pavement is already narrow at this point. The Parish Council confirmed that they form part of the pedestrian safety measures to help people cross the road safely and that they should be re-instated. The Clerk will confirm this with Wiltshire Council. • A further request was made for the kerb area around the uncontrolled crossing to be cleared. The Clerk will request that the work is carried out by the Parish Steward. • A further complaint was made about the tractors using A342 to feed the bio-mass plant in Bromham. It was highlighted that the government is in favour of renewable energy and that the work is seasonal. It was suggested that residents should visit the bio-mass site if there is an opportunity to do so. • A comment was made about the proposal to increase special education provision at Rowdeford School and the need for improvements to be made to the village pavement infrastructure. 	Clerk Clerk
6.	Wiltshire Council Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Devizes Area Board meeting will be held on 19th November in Devizes School. • It was noted that Sunday and Bank/Public holiday car parking charges will apply from 19th November 2018. 	
7.	Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th October 2018. The minutes are accepted as accurate: proposed by C Stevens, seconded by L Wills. All Councillors who were present were in favour of accepting them as a true record.	
8.	Matters arising & actions from the Parish Council meeting held on 10th October 2018 Youth groups in the Village: The Clerk has spoken to the leader of the Youth Club. There are currently not enough volunteers to run the club. The club will fold in the Spring if no one is able to help run it. The money will be divided between local youth groups. The Youth Council said that they will spend money on benches and bins for the large playing field. A request was made from a member of the audience for the contact details of the two youth groups. The Clerk will forward their contact details. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk has made a request to Wiltshire Council to deploy a tractor with a rip brush through the village to remove the kerbside weeds. • J Dalley has removed the felled tree which was propped up adjacent to the pavement leading to the back of the school. • The tyres on Marsh Lane, near to Furlong Close, will be reset in the spring. It might be necessary to replace them with new ones. • J Dalley will contact a supplier for a quote for a new village sign post (sited at Marsh Lane, Broad Corner). • An information leaflet on the dangers of not picking up dog waste has been created and circulated to houses around Rowde Primary School in response to multiple bags of dog waste being collected from the school playing field. • New policies have been added to the village website: social media & electronic communication policy; document retention and disposal policy; and removable media policy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L Wills and family, & W Fudge were thanked for circulating copies of the New Councillor leaflet around the village. • Twenty five members of the West Wilts Ramblers group met in Rowde on Friday 19th October 2018. They walked 6 miles around the village, after parking in the Sands Lane car park. 	
9.	<p>Village Infrastructure</p> <p>The Pavilion – proposal to demolish the building</p> <p>The Chair outlined the current position regarding the pavilion. The pavilion was originally a Woolaway bungalow which the parish received second hand. It was sited on the large playing field in 1989 and has deteriorated over the decades. There has recently been an opportunity to carry out decoration work on the building through the Community Payback scheme. However, the building needs considerable remedial structural work to be carried out, including treating woodworm in the roof, replacing fascia boards, which would require scaffolding work, removal of concrete cancer in side panels, asbestos removal (gable ends). A recent conditions survey red flagged nine items which need to be remedied. This is in addition to a report several years ago saying that ideally the building would be demolished. The Parish Council does not think that the building is still viable and it was proposed that it should be removed and then replaced when it can be. It is thought that without an existing structure, there is a better chance of achieving grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building has been locked up now with new locks. Key holders are J Dalley, D Packer & the Clerk. • It was proposed that there needs to be toilet facilities at the allotments. The Parish Council will look into providing this. • It has been proposed that the grounds contractors take over the white lining of the pitch. This will be evaluated when the grounds maintenance contracts are reviewed in March. <p>It was proposed by L Wills, seconded by C Stevens, all Councillors were in favour of seeking to demolish the pavilion.</p> <p>The Clerk will obtain three quotes for demolition with a view to demolishing the building in the spring. It was noted that the ground needs to be left in good condition.</p> <p>Future of Silverlands Play Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council is not satisfied with the way that the Silverlands Play Area is managed by Wiltshire Council. The swings have now been removed, with no reason given. There is a retained base unit which the parish Council has considered to be a trip hazard for over a year. There are no immediate plans by Wiltshire Council to replace this equipment. • The Clerk has confirmed the maintenance schedule of the Silverlands Play area with Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council states that the area is inspected weekly by their contractor idverde. Idverde's contract with Wiltshire Council is due to be reviewed in 2020. • RoSPA contractors Playsafety has confirmed that they do not carry out weekly or annual inspections for Wiltshire Council. If the Parish Council wish to instruct RoSPA to undertake a safety report on the Silverlands Pay area it will cost £225 plus VAT and the inspection would take place within six weeks. • Wiltshire Council is looking for parishes to take over the management of their play areas. The Clerk has asked Wiltshire Council what the protocol is for 	Clerk

	<p>adopting the play area if it is something that the Parish Council wants to pursue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Mundy has made a Freedom of Information request to see the maintenance schedule of the Silverlands Play area instructed by Wiltshire Council. • Village fete: S Mundy has contacted the original fete committee and they have agreed to transfer the money promised for an item of play equipment. <p>War memorial Maintenance</p> <p>The Chair & the Clerk has met with Rev Ruth Schofield & M Cornwell to discuss the maintenance of the war memorial. The War Memorial Trust has said that cleaning with water and a soft bristle brush should be sufficient to remove lichen from a memorial. M Cornwell has kindly agreed to undertake this. All further works have been deferred. The monument will be reviewed by St. Matthew's PCC annually and any requirement for work to be done will be passed to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Village Christmas Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council discussed in detail the requirements for siting the Christmas tree on the Hill. It was warned that there are utilities running under the Hill, and also there is tarmac not far below the surface as the area has been used for parking in the past. <i>[Clerk's note: it has since been decided that it will not be possible to site the tree on the Hill. The Clerk will consult with the Village Hall committee as to whether it might be possible to site the tree on their land again].</i> • It is hoped that the tree will be put up on the weekend of 25th/26th November. 	
10.	<p>Highways – consideration of CATG responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request has been made to the Devizes Area Community Transport Group (CATG) for improvements to be made to pedestrian safety from West End Farm to Rowdeford School. <p>Springfield Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the parish would purchase two 'Cul de Sac' signs for the two closes off Springfield Road to prevent HGVs turning into them and to ensure pedestrian safety when they try to turn around (proposed by I Whittaker-Axon, seconded by S Mundy. All Councillors were in favour). The cost will be £150 per sign. The Clerk was asked to confirm whether installation costs and VAT are included in this price. • The Parish Council agreed to pursue a white H bar for the first Springfield Road close off Marsh Lane to prevent drivers parking on the junction. • Cars are being parked on the grass verge on Springfield Road. Parking issues need to be reported to the police. • A question has been asked by a resident about why double yellow lines were not put on both sides of the junction of Springfield Road with Marsh Lane. The Parish Council believe that the double yellow lines have improved access and safety at the junctions. <p>Reed Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about whether Wiltshire Council will provide a grit bin for Reed Place. Parish Councils have to purchase grit bins and often the salt to go in them. <p>Blocked gullies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council has confirmed that it will only empty blocked gullies that are causing house flooding or road safety issues. 	Clerk

11.	<p>Village Appearance</p> <p>Report on the upkeep of the grass verge along the Common</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Martin has kindly cut back the scrub and brambles on the north side of the Common. It is hoped that this will enable the grass and wild flowers to re-establish themselves next year. <p>Refuse bins site outside of properties A complaint has been received about bins being sited at the front of people's properties in Springfield Road. It was suggested that the Clerk writes to local residents/landlords and ask if the bins can be sited elsewhere, or to propose that a bin store is created.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p>Village Publicity</p> <p>Rowde Village Walks leaflet</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed updating the Rowde Village Walks booklet, created by Barrie Barrett, to include the new permissive footpath from the Rowdey Cow to Marsh Lane.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk, I Whittaker-Axon and L Wills would meet with Barrie Barrett to discuss this project further.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>Planning Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application by Devitera, at the New Bakery, High Street to sell alcohol on site during business hours Monday to Saturday, 8am – 6pm. The Parish Council did not object to the application. However, they re-iterated their concerns about pedestrian access and safety to the site. There are no pedestrian passing places. It was recommended that there should be a 5mph speed limit approaching the brewery. 18/08287/FUL: Lower Farm, Rowdey Cow Cafe, Devizes Road, Rowde, SN10 2LX: conversion of redundant farm building into 2 retail units; construction of timber frame 'gazebo' to play area. The application has been passed. Oakwood Stud Marsh Lane Rowde Devizes Wiltshire SN10 2NW Proposal: Use of land and stables for new equine business. Extension to stables. Erection of storage barn. Stationing of mobile home. This application was refused. 	Clerk
14.	<p>Allotments Update</p> <p>Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed that the entrance gate at the allotments is replaced with a spare gate. The allotment gate will then be moved to replace the damaged field gate at the entrance to the small playing field, off Tower View. It was agreed that up to £50 could be spent on welding costs if needed. 	
15.	<p>Facebook Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A concern has been raised about cars still parking on the entrance to Springfield Road, off the High Street, opposite the double yellow lines. This matter has been reported to the Police. Pewsey Parish Council has liked S Mundy's piece on 'Parish Councils are the first tier of local government'. 	
16.	<p>Financial matters & monthly invoices for October (total £1,633.28).</p> <p>Payment for invoices were proposed by J Dalley, seconded by L Wills, all councilors were in favour.</p> <p>October invoices breakdown Admin costs: £967.02 Grounds maintenance: £517.50</p>	

	<p>World War 1 Remembrance project - £148.76</p> <p>Total: £1,633.28</p> <p>A further invoice for £28.56 for padlocks for the pavilion was approved for payment at the Parish Council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft taxbase figure has been received for the financial year 2019/2020. It has increased slightly on the figure for 2018/2019. This means that if the Parish Council vote for a 0% increase for council tax payers, the money the parish receives will be slightly higher than last year. 	
17.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Police have provided a local update. There was an incident of rocks being thrown at a resident's fence in Rowde. Police have been investigating this matter and giving words of advice to the suspects. The Highways department, at Wiltshire Council has also supplied its monthly update. 	
19.	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p> Next Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 and 9th January 2019 for precept setting.</p>	

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

Signed:

..... Chairman Date: