

**DRAFT MINUTES of the Ordinary ROWDE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 7.30pm, Virtual Meeting operated and recorded by Zoom

	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> I Whittaker-Axon (Chair), P Bryant (from item3), J Hawkins, J Dalley, D Pullen, D Revell, C Stevens L Wills <b>PRESENT:</b> Cllr Laura Mayes (for items 1- 5)</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies &amp; Acceptance of Apologies</b> All Councillors were present</p>	
2.	<p><b>Register of Members' Interests</b> No interests were recorded.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Resignation</b> W Cherry has resigned from the Parish Council. The position will be advertised as a vacancy on the Parish Council. If there are any queries about village appearance, which W Cherry was going to be responsible for, please direct them to the Clerk in the first instance.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Chairman's Five minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no further updates given at this time.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update, with Cllr L Mayes</b> <b>New North Wiltshire School (Rowdeford site)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a follow-on update from the webinar on the North Wiltshire School community engagement event which immediately preceded this meeting.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that a full planning application will be submitted in Spring 2021. It is hoped that construction will begin in Summer 2021 with completion of construction work by Autumn 2023.</li> <li>• Many questions were raised during the webinar, in particular relating to construction work on the rural site and the implications for traffic on the A342 and particularly at the entrance area.</li> <li>• There will be more opportunities to engage with the planning process for the new school.</li> <li>• A new name for the school will be announced within the next two weeks.</li> </ul> <p><b>HfT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council is greatly saddened to hear the news about the proposed closure of HfT (proposed for June 2021), which has been an integral part of our community for many years. The Parish Council is concerned for those residents who will lose their homes, their friends and the life that they have known for many years. The Parish Council is also concerned about the loss of local employment for those people employed by HfT.</li> <li>• HfT has stated that their priority remains the health, safety and happiness of the people that they support. All residents will be re-housed in the local area.</li> <li>• HfT says that it is closing because residential settings for people with learning difficulties is not considered to be the best model now and that residents would benefit from being fully integrated into the community.</li> <li>• A director from HfT has submitted a written update on the current situation at HfT. The Clerk will circulate this update to all Parish Councillors.</li> <li>• Cllr Mayes advised the Parish Council and local community to consider possible future uses for land at HfT, so that the community is ready with a response if and when it comes to that point.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that the village could register the hall at HfT as a community asset.</li> <li>• The village needs to carefully consider that they want to happen to the HfT site when it becomes available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Covid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 482 new cases in Wiltshire (at the time of the meeting). There are 96 per 100,000 positive cases in Wiltshire. This compares with 243 per 100,000 for the rest of the UK. The seven-day case rate has stayed static. Increases in cases have grown mostly in the 60+ age group.</li> <li>• Cllr Mayes noted that whilst Wiltshire’s infection rate remains relatively low, our hospital capacity is not great. We do not have the hospital beds to treat huge infection numbers. Our hospitals are not at capacity yet.</li> <li>• There have been Covid outbreaks in 28 education settings around the County. There are 1000 children self-isolating across the county.</li> <li>• All schools have had to be ready with a virtual learning platform before the end of September for those children who are required to self-isolate.</li> <li>• It is believed that transmission of the virus is mostly taking place within households. This has caused increasing frustrations for businesses. Libraries and leisure centres have had to close again. The Household Recycling Centre remains open this time as they have sufficient Covid precautions in place.</li> <li>• Staffing levels at the Wiltshire Well-being hub have been increased. They are concentrating on residents who are classed as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’.</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council is looking for support from local communities to help other vulnerable members of the community.</li> </ul> <p>Rowde Covid support group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rowde Covid support group has be re-instated and contacted residents who received help from the group last time. This is being managed by L Wills &amp; P Bryant, with very many thanks from the parish.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the parish puts an article into the Rowde Village News giving details of contact numbers and other support.</li> </ul> <p>The boundaries for local wards are changing. Cllr Laura Mayes has been selected as the Conservative candidate for the newly formed Bromham, Rowde and Roundway Ward.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p><b>Public Question Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One resident commented that it would be ‘criminal to bulldoze HfT’.</li> <li>• A problem with footpath (ROWD 10 heading towards ROWD11) was raised. There is a steep incline past the first kissing gate which has become very slippery with mud. Four steps were installed some time ago. D Revell &amp; P Bryant agreed to look at the footpath and consider what remedial action is needed, in co-ordination with the landowner.</li> <li>• The siting of the highway safety mirror was raised. The Clerk will liaise with the landowner.</li> </ul>	DR & PB Clerk
8.	<p><b>Agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record: proposed by I Whittaker-Axon, seconded by J Hawkins. All Councillors who were present at that meeting accepted them as a true record.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Matter arising and actions from meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Wills and D Revell have been looking into the problem caused by overgrown ditches around Silverlands Road/Reed Place. Aster Housing have engaged and will clear out brambles in the areas that they are responsible for. The remaining areas</li> </ul>	



	<p>holders. This will be emptied when it is full. It will be funded from the ring fenced allotment fund.</p> <p><b>Draft revision of allotment rules and tenancy agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft copy of the rules and tenancy agreement will be circulated to Parish Councillors first. When they have been approved, they will be shared with allotment holders. The documents will be available for all to view online through the Parish Council website.</li> <li>• The tenancy agreement will include provision for the Parish Council to review allotment rents annually.</li> <li>• The Clerk and L Wills will continue to review allotment rents and facilities in neighboring parishes. This information will be circulated to Parish Councillors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hedge cutting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent hedge/tree cutting along the playing field has left a gap in the hedgerow for some allotment holders. They have requested that this be replanted to create a wind break. The Parish Council will look at purchasing some whips to go in that area and also behind the PC shed.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk &amp; LW</p> <p>Clerk &amp; LW</p>
12.	<p><b>Playing Fields Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RoSPA safety reports on the play areas have been received. D Revell has kindly carried out some of the repairs required.</li> <li>• After the recent jet washing, some of the equipment will need to be re-painted. It was discussed whether this could be carried out by the local school or Community Payback. This will need to take place in the Spring now.</li> <li>• The Clerk will prepare a list of repairs that can be carried out by a playground contractor.</li> </ul>	
13.	<p><b>Footpaths Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D Revell has been carrying out repair work on some of the footpaths.</li> </ul>	
14.	<p><b>Social events and social media update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P Bryant is organizing a village calendar to help raise funds for local charities. Local businesses will be contacted about advertising in the calendar to help cover printing costs. P Bryant has asked for people to help to put the calendar together. The Clerk will put an article in the next issue of the Village Magazine.</li> <li>• J Dalley, D Revell and W Cherry will be putting up the Village Christmas tree on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020.</li> </ul>	Clerk
15.	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p>Payments were approved for the following, proposed by J Hawkins, seconded by I Whittaker-Axon. All Councillors were in favour.</p> <p><u>October invoices</u> (total: £3,469.06)  Admin costs: £1,236.92  Grounds maintenance: £498.24  Road sweeping; goal post fixing, highways safety mirror: £1,733.90</p> <p><b>Precept setting for 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tax base for Rowde has decreased this year. This means that if the Parish wish to ask for the same amount of precept money as for 2020, it will mean an increase for residents. If the Parish wishes residents to remain paying the same amount, they will receive less overall in the village precept.</li> <li>• It was noted that many people are suffering financial hardship due to the Coronavirus outbreak.</li> </ul>	

16.	<b>Meeting dates for 2021</b> – these will be circulated to all Parish Councillors. All meetings will be on zoom until it is safe to meet in person.	
17.	<b>Correspondence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next census is coming soon: March 2021. All households will be surveyed, mostly online. There will be provision for people who do not have online access to record their details.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>  <b>Parish Council meeting:</b> Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020, 7.30pm. <i>This will be a virtual Zoom meeting. Please contact the Clerk for a code to join the meeting, at least the day before the meeting.</i> Everyone is welcome to attend all meetings.	

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

Signed: ..... Chairman Date: .....