



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY
17TH MAY 2017 AT ROCKBEARE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Jeremy Wollen (Chairman) and Cllrs: Colin Please, David Mason, Jonathan Allen and Ron Forrest

Also in attendance – Two members of the public

Carolyn May: Clerk

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Discussions:

1.0 Rockbeare Village Hall Report was provided by Mr Mark Cornish.

In 2016/17 we welcomed our new chair in Delia Myers and a new secretary in Laura Reddin. There were also another four new committee members including Sara Hardwick who returned in the autumn as vice-chair with the loss of two members during the year. As at year-end our committee comprised nine members.

Whilst fundraising activity has not been as intensive this year as in previous years, our revenues from an increase in regular users and private hire have made up for this. The increase in hire revenue resulted mainly from new hirers coming in at the beginning of 2016 and the hall benefiting from a full year's revenue from these new hirers. We believe keeping our regular hire charges competitive makes our hall, with its facilities, an attractive option for regular hirers and for private hirers arranging parties. Additionally, making enquiries and booking easy through our website has helped, especially with the increase in private hire bookings.

Regular hirers of the hall have included:

- i) Michaela's Dance School;*
- ii) 1st Cranbrook Scouts Group;*
- iii) Youth Club;*
- iv) Rockbeare Parish Council;*
- v) Needles & Pins Group;*
- vi) Stay & Play Toddler Group;*
- vii) Baby Sensory Group; and*
- viii) Music with Mummys Group*

Sadly during the year the dog training class and the zumba class could not continue, however, we have recently welcomed the Cranbrook & Rockbeare Women's Institute as a regular hirer of the hall and the Exeter Panthers have been using the field more regularly for football matches.

The hall now has some form of usage almost every day of the week and we hope to see some new regular hirers in 2017/18.

In the year we have sought to reduce costs where possible and grass cutting has been an area of focus with responsibility for cutting grass in the playing field and in the play area now taken "in house". This was a decision taken especially as there were significant repair costs required to the tractor and mower during the first few months of 2016/17 financial year.

Fundraising activities this year have comprised:

- i) Football tournament; and*
- ii) Clayhangar quartet concert.*

Furthermore, at the beginning of our new financial year we held a successful fun quiz night that was well attended.

We have also needed to undertake running repairs and maintenance to the hall's surrounding area and the play area. These have included:

- i) Re-painting of the windows around the outside of the hall; and*
- ii) Replacement of fence panels surrounding the play area with those kindly provided by Colin Please.*

Our plans for 2017/18 include:

- i) Maintenance and some decorating inside the village hall;*
- ii) Further progressing our plans for extension to the lease with our landlord Gerard Noel;*
- iii) Continuing to work with East Devon District Council and our landlord Gerard Noel to release S106 monies for the development of play and sports facilities in the playing field;*
- iv) Making access to the front entrance to the hall easier for users with disabilities; and*
- v) Fundraising activities in the autumn and at Christmas.*

Finally, on behalf of the Rockbeare Village Hall Committee I confirm we look forward to working with, and receiving the continued support from, the parish council in the coming year.

2.0 Section 106 Funding - Mr Mark Cornish, Treasurer for Rockbeare Parish Hall advised those present that he had been in discussions with East Devon District Council (EDDC), in relation to the availability of S.106 monies. S.106 monies are available for sport and Rockbeare Village Hall Committee have made application to the fund in order to enable the purchase of new play equipment and to extend the existing basketball court.

The Village Hall Committee, currently has the sum of £8,500 ear-marked for both play and sport (total £17,000).

A discussion ensued about the current use of the football pitch. Mr Cornish advised those present that one of the regular hirers of the pitch had reduced its use of the same. He added that a second football team was currently using the facility.

Mr Ivan Randall asked if expansion and increased usage of the facilities would require the installation of more shower facilities. Mr Cornish advised that the project was not yet at the point where such matters have to be given consideration.

Mr Cornish stated that he was pleased that the Parish Council had voiced its support for the application for S.107 monies and added that, at some point, the Parish Council might be approached in order to assist with the bid process.

It was ascertained that S.106 applications do not require match funding.

At present, there are approximately 20 to 30 young people aged between 10 and 16 years of age, in the Parish.

2.0 Disability Ramp - Mark Cornish raised a question in relation to his application to the Parish Council for the cost of a disability ramp to be installed at the front of the Village Hall.

Discussions in relation to the cost of the proposed ramp and of alternatives to the same, were entered in to. The Chairman and Mr Cornish inspected the area.

No decision in relation to the application had been made and it was agreed that the matter would be placed on the agenda for consideration at the June Parish Council Meeting.

3.0 The Annual report from Rockbeare Primary School was read out by the Chairman.

'Since September 2016, the school has continued to grow in numbers and has become the school of choice for many families new to the area. We have taken in almost a full cohort since September (across all classes) and our roll now stands at 77, the highest the school has ever known. We are looking forward to seeing this growth continue, ensuring our school remains a strong, vibrant part of the local community.

We are in the process of becoming an academy and joining the First Federation MAT in the near future. This will open many doors for children, staff and stakeholders alike, ensuring we continue to go from strength to strength.

The school regularly visits church for the major festivals and welcomes Reverend Lane to lead worship fortnightly, along with monthly visits from Open the Book and ICE. We also enjoy taking our Singing for Fun choir to The Court at Christmas, and have been invited to visit more frequently. Our next visit being next week.

Ties with our Local Learning Community are very strong. We join in with inter-school physical education competitions and fun sessions, attended a music festival at the Corn Exchange recently and are currently embarking on an art project at Killerton jointly with the other LLC schools. Future projects are on the agenda.

Our Year 6 children feed into several of the local secondary schools. Last year the majority went to Clyst Vale Community College, this year the majority again will be going to CVCC but some also will be going to the Cranbrook Education Campus, The Kings School and Colyton Grammar School.

The schools' future is very robust and healthy.