



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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**MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2020
AT
ROCKBEARE VILLAGE HALL**

The Parish Clerk advised the Meeting that the proceedings would be recorded.

PRESENT: Cllr Jeremy Wollen (Chairman) and Cllrs: Jonathan Allen, Ron Forrest, Susan Wollen, Phil Franklin and Simon Brodie

Also, in attendance –two members of the public and Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (CC)

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Colin Please, Cllr. Ray Bloxham (Devon County Council)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

Public Participation Session:

Mr Andrew Barry advised the Meeting that his planning application for the property known as ‘Claranbeth’ has now been granted with four conditions.

Mr Ivan Randall referred to the last schedule of payments, requesting that two of the payees be identified.

AGENDA

476.0 MINUTES

476.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on **Wednesday 11th December 2019** at Marsh Green Village Hall, were considered.

476.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr Susan Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Forrest and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting held on 11th December 2019 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

477.0 REPORTS

Chairman's Report

- 477.1 The Chairman reported that, following the last meeting, he had attempted to set up a meeting with Helen Selby (Devon Highways) in order to discuss traffic calming measures in the village. The meeting was scheduled to be held on 9th January 2020. Unfortunately, Helen was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Therefore, discussions were held by telephone and email. Because there is no evidence of accidents within the village, the Parish Council stands little, or no, chance of having alterations carried out to the road network through the village. DCC will not pay for speculative work. Until such times as somebody is either injured or killed, the Parish Council has no weight to pursue a request for the suggested measures.
- 477.2 Helen has suggested that the Parish Council should consider installing vehicle activated signs. This is a measure which appears to have been adopted by several Parishes within the DCC area. This will remind people, who are driving through the village, of the speed limit.
- 477.3 DCC have no objection to the Parish Council installing such signs but the Parish must pay for them (minimum of £3,000 each). The Parish would require two such signs. One at each end of the village. Posts, maintenance and vandalism costs should be accounted for and submitted in writing to DCC. No costs are to be attributed to DCC, ` DCC will purchase and own the units (for insurance purposes, if the sign is cited in any incident as a collision factor). Speed signs which display the speed of the vehicle are not permitted. The signs must not be placed within 100m of the start of a speed restriction, or from traffic lights. The signs must be sited on new posts, away from trees.
- 477.4 For as 35 mph speed limit, the signs are set to activate at 35 mph.
- 477.5 Minimum of £5 million public liability must be in place and a copy of the document forwarded to DCC. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should check the Parish Council's Insurance policy to ensure compliance.
- 477.6 If we do wish to proceed with this, Helen Selby is prepared to meet the Chairman on site to discuss and plan.
- 477.7 This project will enhance the whole village and it is important to do this before Cranbrook increases in size and there is more through traffic coming into the village.
- 477.8 It was agreed that this matter should be subjected to further investigation.

478.0 Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC)

- 478.1 Cllr Randall Johnson stated that she would be referring to; the DCC Budget, The Police Liaison Meeting and the 20mph Speed Trial in Newton Abbot.
- 478.2 The Newton Abbot project is either an 18 month or two years project which imposes a 20-mph blanket ban on the whole area, except for the main route. If this works, DCC Councillors are keen to bring the speed limit down to 20mph, in villages across the whole of Devon. Helen Selby's advice relates to the situation at present but it is possible that the speed limit will change to 20mph. Cllr Wollen stated that, if that was to be the case, there would be no problem with reducing the speed limit on the Vehicle Activated signs.
- 478.3 Mr Randall suggested that it might be an idea to form a working group with representatives of other villages, the more Parish Councillors that there are, working together, the greater the leverage the Group would have to influence change.

- 478.4 Cllr Randall Johnson discussed the various traffic problems in the area, particularly at the M5 Exeter Services roundabout. The main thrust of her argument relates to the dualling of the railway line and an increase of trains stopping at Cranbrook. Arguably, whilst commuters may not wish to drive into Exeter, they may be willing to drive to Cranbrook and take the train from there. That model would reduce the traffic level in Exeter.
- 478.5 Cllr Allen raised the possibility of the five Parish Councils in the Cranbrook area (Cranbrook, Rockbeare, Whimple, Broad Clyst Clyst Honiton) about speed limits in our villages. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would correspond with these Parishes and ascertain whether such a meeting could be set up. To share experience and formulate a common understanding. Meet at Cranbrook.
- 478.6 Cllr Allen asked Cllr Randall-Johnson if she had any comment to make on the inspection of the Cranbrook Plan and asked how it was progressing. He added that he had read the information forwarded to Members by the Clerk. Reading through the questions in the document, it appeared that the Inspector was concerned about our Neighbourhood Plans being usurped. There were a lot of issues contained within the document that Cllr Allen expected EDDC to be uncomfortable with. Cllr Randall Johnson stated that she liked Cllr Allen's observations.
- 478.7 Mr Ivan Randall raised the matter of the footpath opposite Clay Hill (North side), asking if the footpath would continue to the Jack in the Green public house, or is it intended to stop that path where it is, at present. It would be beneficial to the village if the path was to continue to the Jack in the Green.
- 478.8 Cllr Wollen advised that to continue the path as suggested, would require several private gardens being crossed. Cllr Randall Johnson stated that it would be very unlikely that the footpath would continue as the private land would have to be compulsorily purchased. There is a footpath on the other side of the road, so it may be possible to cross the road and walk down to the pub, behind the houses. Mr Randall stated that the footpath on the other side of the road requires clearing. Cllr Randall Johnson alluded to the installation of a cycle way in that area.
- 478.9 Cllr Wollen raised the matter of the site for the new roundabout, which was supposed to be in place by around May 2019, yet the work has not been carried out. Cllr Randall Johnson stated that there had been a technical problem relating to the proposed roundabout. Highways England stated that because the road in question is a diversionary road (if the A30 was to be closed), the roundabout could not be constructed during the summer period. The roundabout will be constructed at some point, time unknown.

479.0 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

- 479.1 The Clerk advised the meeting that documentation, for the siting of the units, had been received. These were given to the Chairman as there would have to be site meetings in order to identify precise locations for the units.
- 479.2 The Parish Clerk is to contact the property owner at St Andrew's House at Marsh Green, in order to arrange an appropriate time for the Chairman to attend at the property to discuss the installation of an electricity line from his property.

480.0 STREET LIGHTING

- 480.1 Cllr Allen reported that most of the four-light strip, from the telephone box to the Burrington Estate, had been removed by Western Power. He believed that Western Power still wished to install lighting to the post at the Vicarage and the one that comes from the Old Post Office to just past the school. However, Western Power had also removed the wooden post, on the land next to Pound Cottage and replaced it with a metal post, then taken away the streetlight. Consequently, there is no streetlight in the centre of the village from the corner of Bridge View to Rose Cottage. Cllr Allen felt that the lack of lighting in that area was unacceptable. From the point of view of the School, the light

is usually on in the morning. At present, the mornings are becoming lighter, however, next Autumn there will be a problem as the site is not particularly safe (especially with no lighting).

480.2 It was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk would correspond with Western Power, requesting that the lighting be reinstalled in the area. A copy of the letter to be provided to Cllr Allen.

481.0 PLANNING

PA19/2669/FUL - Keyline Builders Merchants Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2HB
Erection of a portacabin and reconfiguration of external yard area and associated works – **No objection.**

482.0 **CORRESPONDENCE** - No matters for discussion

483.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE

483.1 The monthly payments schedule was considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Allen, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments would be approved. Unanimous. Carried.

483.2 Members were provided with a comprehensive list of cheques drawn against the Parish Council Account, for the current financial year.

484.0 PROJECT DISCUSSION

484.1 **TRIP** – has identified several services that might be provided to the Parish. The charity is still attempting to raised funds to replace its minibus. A project proposal was put forward whereby a sum of money would be ringfenced by the Parish Council to cover the cost of use of the TRIP service by qualifying Parishioners. An effective system could be operated, with qualifying Parishioners being issued with vouchers, which could be used as a guarantee of payment for the cost of any vehicular service provided by TRIP. TRIP would then redeem the value of the voucher from the Parish Council. It was suggested that such a scheme would be seen to support qualifying residents of the Parish.

484.2 Whilst qualifying Parishioners would include those of pensionable age and those with disability. It would be open for other Parishioners to make application to the Parish Council to be considered for inclusion in the scheme.

484.3 Discussions that ensued related to uptake and management of the system and publicising the system.

484.4 The Chairman stated that this was an excellent idea, but it would be necessary to ensure that people would have to be aware of the scheme. It was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk should explore this project further.

484.5 With regard to a donation towards the purchase of the TRIP minibus, it was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk should ascertain which other Parishes had donated to the charity and how many Parishioners were utilising the services of TRIP and what the Rockbeare Parishioners usage amounted to, as a percentage of total usage.

484.6 **Primary School Garden** – The Clerk advised the Members that she had been in contact with the Primary School and the Gardener, Mr Peek, about the project to create a garden at the school. A final sum for both the growing garden and the sensory garden has been submitted. It amounts to a total of £7,500, if both are created at the same time.

- 484.7 The Parish Council has already allocated £2,500 towards this project but the balance of the costs would prove onerous to the school. Cllr Wollen stated that the school was an important part of the Parish and asked how much more the Parish Council could donate to the project.
- 484.8 It was **proposed** by Cllr Wollen that, in principle, a donation of £5,000 in total, the provision of that sum being dependant on the Parish Council being furnished with a copy the plans for the project and agreeing to the same. The proposal was **seconded** by Cllr Franklin. All in favour. **Carried.**
- 484.9 Marsh Green Village Hall** – The Clerk advised the Members that she had been in communication with the Chairman of Marsh Green Village Hall, Mr Julian Turnbull, who had stated that there was a substantial amount of remedial work to be carried out to the floor of the hall. Mr Turnbull had asked if her could make application to the Parish Council for financial assistance with these costs. It was **agreed** that an application for a grant, accompanied by quotations / cost breakdown, would be considered.
- 485.0 FLOODING UPDATE – Mr Ivan RANDALL**
- 485.1 Mr Randall alluded to his report to the Parish Council at the last meeting, relating to the drain in the field. The overflow for this comes out at the bottom of Clay Hill, at the east side of the gates of their south entrance .It is a matter of concern that, now the drain has been cleared, there is a tremendous amount of water coming out, which is not picking up another drain. The water is coming out onto the road and is sometimes creating a pool 10 – 12 feet wide. If this was to freeze there may be an accident at that spot. If the ditch going up Clay Hill was to be piped (buried), so that it can be driven over, the width of the road could be increased, making the area safer. This would require a discussion with Helen Selby. However, the bottom of the hill requires consideration, there are several deep drains by the church, which have been cleared in the past. They may just need rodding but there could be a greater problem.
- 485.2 The drains from the Manor Gates to Lyons Farm, when clear, work well but at present there is a substantial amount of detritus on the roads, which enters the ditches. At present, surface water entering one drain and exits the next, so possibly Helen Selby could be asked to look at this.
- 485.3 Cllr Wollen advised the meeting that he will contact Helen and raise the matter with her.
- 485.4 Cllr Allen suggested that, considering the comments relating to surface water freezing, the Parish Council should consider procuring a salt/grit bucket to place by the laurel hedge by the west side of the south entrance (church enclave). This is to be raised with Helen Selby. It is accepted that the Parish Council may have to pay for this.
- 485.5 Mr Randall suggested that the Parish Council should have all the grey water drains in the village should be mapped.
- 485.6 Cllr Brodie advised the Parish Council that a Devon Bank in Silver Lane has been removed. He was advised that Planning permission must be sought for removal of the same.

The Meeting Closed at 20:40 hrs

Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th February 2020 - at Marsh Green Village Hall.