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**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM, ROCKBEARE VILLAGE HALL

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

Also in attendance – Cllr. Peter Bowden (DC) and two members of the public

Carolyn May: Clerk

117.0 APOLOGIES: none

118.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Please made a declaration of interest in relation to Agenda Item 5.2 – Planning Application 17/0362/HRN.

119.0 MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on **Wednesday 18th January 2017** at Marsh Green Village Hall were considered and, subject to the following amendment, approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

120.0 REPORTS:

120.1 The Chairman had nothing to report to the Meeting;

120.2 No Police Report had been received;

120.3 The Members received a service update, in relation to the Rockbeare Youth Club, from Mr Gareth Sorsby (YMCA representative).

Mr Sorsby reported that the Youth Club service has supported 27 different young people during the past year, 16 in the past 12 weeks. Additionally, the service has provided enhanced family and youth support during three separate police incidents (where police interviews were undertaken, YMCA representatives accompanied the young people to meetings and helped to explain what is happening, to their parents).

The service has also provided intensive one to one support to two young people who had dropped out of school, securing apprenticeships for them at Bicton College.

The service has also facilitated joint agency meetings with CAMHS, social services, police and the careers service to determine the best means to meet the needs of some of the young people assisted.

Youth Club attendances were alluded to. In September of 2016, the age range for attendees was altered.

During Quarter 3 (2016), ten Youth Club sessions were run. The average attendance rate during this quarter was 6.4 young people. The lowest number of attendees at any one session was 4 and the highest was 10. Figures for Quarter 4, thus far, indicate that the average attendance has been 6.5 per session, the lowest attendance rate has been 3 young persons and the highest 10.

The Youth Club facilitators report that they have encountered difficulties in relation to the use of Rockbeare Village Hall. In particular, there has been a lack of set-up/ preparation time afforded to the facilitators. This situation arises because of the dance classes that are run, immediately before the youth club starts. Further problems arise because of the lack of suitable space for activities and, the 'them and us' divide remains. A further complication arises from the fact that the (salaried) Youth Club Co-ordinator is leaving the service and it will be necessary to advertise for a replacement.

Mr Sorsby advised the Members that the service was now fully funded for the remainder of the 2016/17 financial year, with a sum of £4,000 having been received by way of grant funding. He acknowledged that the high cost to the Parish Council, of running the youth club, for a relatively few number of young people might cast doubt upon the continuance of the same. He suggested that the service might continue in some other form.

Discussions ensued in relation to the potential impact of allowing the Youth Club to close. Mr Sorsby surmised that there would likely be an increase in the incidence of vandalism around the village hall. Some young people from the village might choose to attend the new youth club, set up by Genesis, at Cranbrook.

Cllr. Allen stated that the Rockbeare youth club has been a means of providing support to young people who require support (safeguarding). Mr Sorsby agreed, adding that should the service cease to exist, there is a likelihood that vulnerable young people would 'slip off the radar'.

Cllr. Readman asked if the YMCA would still be involved in the area, if the youth club ceased to exist. Mr Sorsby indicated that the service would continue to work, in some capacity, in Rockbeare.

Cllr Allen suggested that the discussion, relating to the Youth Club, should be continued in a less formal meeting, the conclusions from which could be reported to the full Parish Council. He further suggested that funding for the Youth Club should continue until the end of July 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr Wollen, seconded by Cllr Readman and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Allen and Readman should meet with Mr Sorsby to discuss the future form of the Youth Club and that they should report upon the same to the full Parish Council. Unanimously **CARRIED**.

120.4 The Members received a report from Cllr. Peter Bowden (Cornwall Council).

Cllr. Bowden alluded to Item 11. On the Agenda, the Boundary Commission Decision. He outlined the major changes to ward boundaries and emphasised that Rockbeare will not be subsumed into Cranbrook. It has been recommended that Whimble and Rockbeare will become a ward and that Tallaton will form another. It has been suggested that Sowton and Clyst Honiton, along with

Poltimore, should form a third ward. He added that, at the next election, there will be two County Councillors for Broadclyst and Cranbrook.

Cllr Bowden informed Members that, following a meeting between Devon Council and the Environment Agency Chairman, the flooding issue at Whimple is now being addressed at 'Ministerial level'.

Cllr. Bowden is stepping down at the next election.

121.0 To consider and make comment on planning applications as follows:

17/0163/ FUL - Siting of storage container for storage of equipment at Village Hall, Rockbeare.
Applicant: Mr M. Ricketts, 1 Lower Three Acres, Cranbrook, EX5 7DZ

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Please and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council does not object to this application. Unanimously **CARRIED**.

Received after the publication of the Meeting Agenda.

17/0362/HRN – Removal of 130m length of hedgerow at the land south of Lions Far, Rockbeare, Exeter EX5 2LT. Applicant: Delia Griffiths, Lion Farm, Rockbeare, EX5 2LT

It was **proposed** by Cllr Wollen and **seconded** by Cllr Allen that this application should be opposed on the following grounds:

The removal of the hedgerow may have a substantial and adverse environmental impact on the area and to its' wildlife.

The Parish Council also wishes to emphasise the view set out in the following draft policy, which is collateral to the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Rockbeare.

Policy: Rock01 Local Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows – Development proposals that will cause the loss of, or damage to, trees, woodland or hedgerows that contribute positively to the character and amenity of the area, must demonstrate that there is an overriding need for the development proposed and must provide for appropriate replacement planting together with a method statement for the on-going care and maintenance of that planting. Any development proposals that would result in the loss, damage or deterioration of trees, woodland or hedgerows will be resisted.

One abstention, four in favour: **CARRIED**

121.1 To consider the following planning determinations:

Application	Location	Decision
16/2149/FUL	Crosspark, Whimple, Exeter EX5 2PL	Approved

RESOLVED: It was resolved that the determinations would be noted.

122.0 Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr. Readman reported that there had been two meetings of the group, since the last Parish Council Meeting. The initial draft of the Plan (33 pages) will be published in March 2017 and a link to the draft document (to be hosted on the Parish Council website) will be highlighted in the March edition of the newsletter. Hard copies of the draft document will be made available at strategic place in the village.

123.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE:**123.1 To receive the financial statement for January 2017**

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Please and **seconded** by Cllr. Readman and **RESOLVED** that the financial statement for January 2017 should be approved. Unanimously **CARRIED**

123.2 To approve payment of Invoices as follows:

400451	Paul Weston (Invoice:1334)	3,255.00
400452	Pollards (Invoice192537)	133.20
400453	Rockbeare Village Hall (Invoice 2016/17-99) Youth Club/ Parish Council	35.00
400454	Rockbeare Village Hall (Invoice 2016/17-92) M&T Group	30.00
400455	Clerk's Salary	382.68
400456	Clerk's Expenses	41.50
400457	Marsh Green Village Hall Invoice	110.00
	TOTAL	£3,987.38

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Please and **seconded** by Cllr. Allen and **RESOLVED**, that the schedule of payments should be approved. Unanimously **CARRIED**

123.3 Internal Audit Arrangements

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Please, **seconded** by Cllr. Forrest and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should make appropriate arrangements for the Internal Audit to be carried out. Unanimously **CARRIED**.

124.0 On-going Flooding Issues

Cllr Wollen reported that ploughing work had now been carried out and the ditch adjacent to Rockbeare Manor cleared. The hedge close to the ditch has also been cut.

It was suggested by a member of the public that it would be advantageous to co-ordinate hedge cutting and drain clearing in to ensure that the drainage pipes are kept clear.

One member of the public, present, advised Members that he had been in communication with Jessica Bott, Devon Council Flood Risk Officer for the area, in relation to the flooding problem at Birch End. Ms Bott has stated that she wishes to meet with residents of the area and Council representatives, in the near future. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Wollen, would attend the meeting, on behalf of the Parish Council.

125.0 Westcott Lane

Cllr. Wollen reported that he and Cllr Forrest had attended at Westcott Lane to review the flooding problems in the area.

Cllr Wollen advised Members that most the flooding problem arises because of the drainage ditches not being cleared and that water flowing along one has no place to go once it reaches the gateway of a field. Heavy rain causes the ditch to overflow onto the road. The volume of water entering the drain in the road causes the 'too narrow pipe' from the same to 'back up', which results in flooding issues within the domestic dwelling, known as 'The Coach House'.

Cllr Forrest advised that the problem could be suitably addressed by clearing the ditches. He suggested that this would, probably, involve three days' labour and requested that the Parish Council agree to meet the cost of the same. He added that it would be advisable for the drains either side of the gateway to be connected by a pipe to provide for the free flow of water in the ditch. Cllr Forrest added that, ideally, the pipe under the road should be replaced by a 30/40 cm pipe, which would better cope with the problem of the drain 'backing up'. However, this work is the responsibility of the Devon Council Highways Department.

Cllr Wollen stated that much of the problem could be addressed through the clearing of the ditches.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Allen and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Forrest should ascertain the cost of clearing the ditches. Should the task would not take longer than four days, Cllr Forrest was then authorised to have the works carried out, without further recourse to the Parish Council. Unanimously **CARRIED**.

Note: It was later raised by Mr Ivan Randall, that it might be advantageous for the Parish Clerk to discuss the matter with Devon Highways, putting forward a suggestion that the work could be carried out in partnership, with the PC meeting the cost of the drain clearing and Devon Council addressing the issues of pipe work. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would speak with Helen Selby in relation to this matter.

126.0 Mother & Toddler Group

Cllr Forrest reported that he had met with Lucy Fellows, organiser of the Mother & Toddlers Group. It was ascertained that the average attendance per session is 5 parents with eligible children. Two of these attendees live in Rockbeare; 3 in Cranbrook and 1 in Whimble.

Accounts provided to Cllr Forrest indicate that the income generated from the group, amounts to £440.50 for the past 12 months.

Ms Fellows advised Cllr Forrest that she will be relinquishing her position of Co-ordinator on 21st July 2017, as her son will be moving on to pre-school. She is currently seeking someone else to take over the task of running the group.

Cllr Forrest suggested that, in the event that the group was to continue, Cranbrook Town Council should be asked to contribute 50% of the grant to the same, as residents from that area currently comprise that proportion of attendees.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Forrest, **seconded** by Cllr Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should continue to fund the Mother & Toddler Group up until 21st July 2017 and that the continued financial assistance for the same should be reviewed at the Parish Council meeting following that date. Unanimous **CARRIED**

127.0 Littering at Parson's Lane

Cllr Wollen reported that the level of litter along Parson's Lane is increasing and is unacceptable. He added that much of the litter is comprised of wine bottles and beer/ lemonade cans.

It was agreed that the problem of littering is difficult to address and the siting of 'no litter' signs would, likely. Have little effect.

The area requires regular clearing to prevent an unacceptable build-up of debris.

It was suggested by Mr Ivan Randall that the Parish Clerk should ascertain the cost to EDDC of clearing the lane and that the information should be printed in the Parish Newsletter, so that residents of the village are made aware of the same.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Forrest and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk should contact the Clerk at Cranbrook, to highlight the problem on Parson's Lane and to discuss ways in which the problem might be addressed. The Parish Clerk is to ascertain, from EDDC, the cost of clearing the litter from Parsons Lane and advise Cllr Readman of the same for publication in the Parish Newsletter. Unanimously **CARRIED**

128.0 Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were considered:

- (a) Copy letter from Mr Mark Cornish re: S.106 funding – **noted**
- (b) Copy letter from East Devon Environmental Health – **noted** – action agreed
- (c) Letter from Mr Peter Faithfull – **noted** – action agreed
- (d) Letter from Devon Council Highways – **noted** – Minute 124.0 refers
- (e) Letter from Devon Council Eastern Highway Neighbourhood Team – **noted**: to be forwarded to Cllr. Readman
- (f) Letter from Mr Julian Turnbull - **noted**

129.0 Clerk's Actions update – Appendix 'B' – noted

130.0 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Ivan Randall suggested that the Parish Council Assets should be recorded and that a copy of the record should be provided to Members.

One member of the public raised the issue of the blocked drain in Rookwood Lane. The gentleman has reported the problem on three occasions to Devon Highways, which agreed that the drain was indeed blocked but that the department would not carry out any work to alleviate the problem. Members were advised that the road surrounding the drain has started to sink. The Enquiry No. for the complaint is 17973570. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would follow this up.

The meeting closed at 21:05 hours.

SIGNED _____ **Date:** _____