



**ROCKBEARE**  
**PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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## **MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

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

**Also, in attendance** – Three members of the public; Cllr R. Bloxham

**Parish Clerk:** Carolyn May

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. E. Rylance (EDDC)

**Declarations of Interest:** None

### **Public Participation Session:**

One Member of the Public raised the issue of holes on the road at the top of Clay Hill Rockbeare. It was accepted that the problem had been acknowledged by DCC Highways Department earlier in the year and that there had been a plan to address the issue. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact Highways to request that the matter is dealt with. The Member of the Public asked if the ditches from the Old Rectory to Rockbeare could be cleared after the leaves had fallen. It was noted that arrangements for such clearance were in hand.

One Member of the public questioned why the Public Session had been moved from the end, to the beginning, of the meeting. The Chairman advised that the change was effected in order to bring Rockbeare PC into line with other Councils. It was emphasised that the change had been brought about by way of a Members Vote and that it amounted to a Procedural Change.

One Member of the Public raised the matter of monies spent at Westcott. It was determined that the work had been carried out using monies provided by the FAB Project for that sole purpose. It was also noted that the work had been carried out with the authority of the Parish Council.

The state of the highways in the local area was discussed and a request that each Parish Councillors should take responsibility for different roads in the village was made. Some felt that this would be difficult. However, it was stated that Highways could not be prosecuted/sued if problems were not reported and that there was a requirement to protect Parishioners/ cyclists/ drivers.

Cllr Forrest advised that, where a road/ highway defect was in existence, provided the defect had been marked by Highways with white/ yellow paint, then no person having an accident could sue Highways, as there was an obligation to take care in the vicinity of the defect.

Cllr Allen asked if a standardised report proforma could be created by the Clerk, so that defects could be recorded and reported. Cllr Bloxham (DCC) advised that there was already a reporting website on the DCC system. He added that this could be accessed by Member of the Public, that a reference number for each

complaint would be provided, that the progress of repair could be monitored and that the report would be directed to the Road Maintenance Contractor directly.

## AGENDA

**348.0 MINUTES:** The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on Wednesday **12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**, at Marsh Green Village Hall were considered.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Allen, **seconded** by Cllr Please and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes represented a correct record of that meeting and should be accepted by the Council. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The Minutes were duly signed by Cllr. Wollen (Chairman).

### **349.0 REPORTS:**

349.1 **Chairman's Report** - Cllr Wollen reported that, on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018, he had attended a meeting of the Exeter Airport Consultative Committee. It was reported that passenger numbers had increased, and that Ryanair would be undertaking six flights per week from Exeter Airport from Spring 2019.

349.2 The Chairman also reported that, along with Cllr Forrest, he had attended a meeting at Cranbrook, Younghayes Centre, with the Youth Genesis Trust, an organisation which aims to transform the lives of young people through a range of dynamic activities and sessions that are designed to challenge, innovate and radically inspire them.

The Youth Genesis methodology is to work with community groups and organisations to bring together resources, local knowledge and assets to grow transformational resources for young people.

349.3 Cllr Ray Bloxham (DCC) reported that he would undertake to discuss the drainage issue at Westcott with DDC Highways.

349.4 Cllr Bloxham advised the meeting that there was still a sum of money available in the Capital/Revenue Funds at DDC and that the Parish Council may wish to bid for some of the same. The fund runs up until March 2019.

### **350.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**350.1 To consider and make comment on planning applications;**

#### **PA18/2136/FUL – Newbarn, Rockbeare EX5 2LU**

Comments: Members stated that the Planning Application for this building had never been made available for comment by the Parish Council. It was noted that the conversion had already been completed.

Whilst no objection would be raised in relation to the matter. It was **agreed** that the following would be recorded on the EDDC Website: 'The Parish Council submits that the Planning Department should seek to apply Policy ROCK 08 (Rockbeare Neighbourhood Plan) – Garden Development – and only seek to support applications where the development is achieved through good design and without harming local character and amenity.

#### **PA18/1095/LBC and PA18/1096/LBC – Ford Farm, Rockbeare**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Allen and **RESOLVED** that there would be no objection to these applications. However, it was **agreed** that the following would be recorded on the Parish Council's website: 'The Parish Council submits that the Planning Department should seek to

apply Policy ROCK 07 (Rockbeare Neighbourhood Plan) - Development Limits – and only seek to support applications for development on land within the defined settlement area of Rockbeare, where the development: i) benefits from a safe and suitable access; ii) does not impact upon the privacy of any adjoining properties; iii) is consistent with the character of the locality; and iv) does not increase flood risk; and is generally in compliance with other policies in the development plan. Areas outside the settlement boundary will be regarded as countryside. In exceptional circumstances, proposals for new buildings outside of this boundary may be supported. In these circumstances where the need for new buildings is justified, they must be well related to the village and sensitively designed to respect and enhance the character of the local area.

350.2 **To receive details of determinations since the date of the Agenda** - None.

### 351.0 Correspondence

351.1 Email from Cllr. Eleanor Rylance (EDDC) – apology and congratulation on the completion of the Rockbeare Neighbourhood Plan.

351.2 Email from Rockbeare Primary School – request for funding in relation to playground marking. Cllr Bloxham raised the matter of the availability of funding from the Locality Fund and undertook to send the link for the same to the Clerk. Parish Councillors discussed partial funding by the PC. It was stated that the PC was always keen to be supportive of the Primary School.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would request definitive quotations for the work, so that the true cost of the same could be determined (the estimate was £3,500).

It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Forrest and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would support the application for funding (on condition of the provision of appropriate costings). Four in favour, one abstention. **Carried.**

351.3 Email from Mr D. Stam – request to prune tree bough.

Cllr Wollen advised the Members that he has attended at the property, on 14<sup>th</sup> September, to assess the problem of the overhanging bough. There had been no response from the residents when Cllr Wollen knocked at the door. Cllr Wollen photographed the bough (photograph provided to the meeting). It was **agreed** that the house holder should be advised of his right to cut the offending bough and place it on the Millennium Field.

351.4 Email from Mr S. Gillon – Overhanging hedge

Mr Gillon reported that a hedge, owned by the Parish Council was overhanging the highway and obstructing the view of motorists leaving his property. The hedge boughs are very thick and, despite having tried, could not be cut with a domestic cutter. He therefore requested that the Parish Council should arrange for the hedge to be cut.

It was **agreed** that Cllr Please would attempt to arrange for the attendance of a contractor at the site, to deal with the hedge.

351.5 Request for Defibrillator at Marsh Green

A further request has been made for a defibrillator to be placed at Marsh Green. It was stated by Members that such an item would require Mains Electricity, therefore it could not be placed in the bus shelter.

### 352.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE:

352.1 **To approve the Finance Statement for September 2018**

Cllr Allen raised a query in relation to the sums received from EDDC (Precept & CTDG). He pointed out that the sums granted amounted to less than the precept bid for. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would investigate this matter, prior to the next meeting.

### 352.2 To approve payment of invoices as follows:

400724	Clerks' Salary	345.48
400725	Clerks' Expenses	82.70
400727	PFK Littlejohn (External Audit)	240.00
400728	Rockbeare Village Hall (M&T)	20.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£688.18</b>

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Wollen **seconded** by Cllr. Allen and **RESOLVED** that the payment schedule for October 2018 should be approved. Unanimous. **CARRIED**.

### 353.0 External Audit

353.1 The Clerk advised the Meeting that she had received the External Audit report from PKF Littlejohn. The content of the same was discussed.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Please, **seconded** by Cllr. Forrest and **RESOLVED** that the External Audit would be accepted by the Parish Council. Unanimous. **Carried**.

### 354.0 Village Signs

354.1 Cllr Please raised the issue of the disappearance of the 'Marsh Green' village sign at the entrance to the village, from Rockbeare Hill, and the poor state of the village name sign at Quarter Mile Lane (from Aylesbeare).

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact EDDC to request the replacement of the Marsh Green Village signs at the entrance to the village from Rockbeare Hill and the sign at Quarter Mile Lane.

### 355.0 Poppy Wreaths

355.1 Cllr. Please requested the permission of the Parish Council to purchase two Remembrance Poppy Wreathes (one for Rockbeare and one for Marsh Green) at an approximate cost of £50.00.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr. Forrest and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would purchase two Poppy Wreathes. Unanimous. **Carried**.

### 356.0 Highways Issues

356.1 Cllr Forrest reported that several of the previously discussed matters still have not been addressed, including the tarmacking on Ragg Lane. The matter involving the blocked drain pipe at Westcott is being discussed with Highways by Cllr. Bloxham (DDC)

356.2 Cllr Forrest advised the meeting that substantial resurfacing work needs to be carried out at Westcott Lane and that the lane will require to be reopened, once the airport road is closed. He added that the hedges on either side of the lane will require cutting.

356.3 Cllr. Please reported that the required fencing and gate, at the slurry pit on Turkey Lane, has now been erected.

356.4 Cllr Allen reported that there are potholes on the old A30 road, approaching Parsons Cross Roundabout from the east (B3174). It was **agreed** that the Clerk would report this matter to DDC Highways.

### **357.0 Youth Matters**

- 356.0 Cllr Forrest advised the meeting that he, and Cllr Wollen, had attended a Meeting with Youth Genesis Trust. There were representatives present from Rockbeare, Clyst Honiton and Cranbrook. Unfortunately, there was no representation from either Whimble or Broadclyst. It was, therefore, decided to arrange a further meeting to enable representation from those parishes to attend.
- 356.1 The Youth Genesis representative, Jonathan Oliverio, outlined the service which could be provided by his organisation. Although the organisation would manage the function, volunteers would be required to assist with the running of activity sessions.
- 356.2 It was suggested at the meeting that any new service should be run from Rockbeare/ Whimble / Broadclyst and that a bus should be purchased to enable the transportation of young people to activities.
- 356.3 Attendees of the meeting were advised that the service operates for thirty-nine weeks per year, undertakes a substantial amount of outreach work and maintains an attendance register for service users.
- 356.4 Costs for the project were discussed briefly. Cranbrook Town Council's costs were alluded to, with a total outlay of £21,250 being presented. Of this sum, the Town Council pays £9,325, for 68 attendees (£137,14 per person, p.a.) the balance of the sum is achieved through grant funding.
- 356.5 Cllr Allen expressed his concern at the potential total cost of the Service for Rockbeare. However, Cllr Forrest explained that the total cost would be shared by three villages.

### **358.0 Flooding Update**

- 358.1 Discharge Water at Permissive Footpath – repaired.
- 358.2 Highways have carried out ditch clearing at Marsh Green, this has alleviated some of the water problems.
- 358.3 Ditches in Rockbeare will be cleared after hedge-cutting has taken place. Hopefully, this will have been completed by the next PC meeting.
- 358.4 The Clerk confirmed that the PC's insurance does not cover non-employees clearing the trash screen.
- 358.5 The Clerk confirmed that the PC's insurers were not keen to provide Public Liability Insurance in respect of an attenuation pond. She added that the EA had not responded to her communication in relation to the creation of such a pond.

**The Meeting closed at 8.44 pm.**

**The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21st November 2018**