

Rockbeare Parish News - January 2016

Welcome to the second edition of the Parish Newsletter, we hope you find the contents interesting and informative. The aim is to produce a Newsletter every 3 months so if you want a newsworthy item included in the next issue contact Parish Councillor Mark Readman markjreadman@aol.com. Advertising space is also available see back page of this issue for advertising rates.

Since the last Newsletter Rockbeare Parish and Rockbeare Village in particular has been under attack from all sides. If it is not been raining in torrents and causing anxiety to property owners throughout the Parish it has been the relentless pursuit of property developers and landowners seeking permission to concrete over green belt in the name of housing provision (profit).

The 'once in a hundred years storm' now seems to be a once a year one with the effects of global warming being experienced in the South West every winter. Since mid-December we have received over 12 inches of rain with very little respite, this had led to some flooding, roads being closed and one instance in late December when the effects of the rain were so great that rivers of flood water were seen running down Rockbeare streets due to run off from local fields and the drains in Silver Lane being unable to cope with the large amounts of rain water. We have received communications via Devon County Council regarding actions that they will be putting in place, these include: Unblocking buddle hole in culvert in Silver Lane, jetting Blocked drains in London Rd and also at Rockbeare Bridge along with other measures. We will continue to monitor East Devon District Council's efforts to keep drains clear and hopefully ensure that drainage ditches are regularly cleared to ensure free flowing clearance of water.

In the last 3 months we have continued to receive planning requests from organisations keen to build on land to the South of the Old A30 and therefore narrow the 'green wedge' between our village and the ever growing Cranbrook. Your Parish Council will continue to resist some of these requests but in some instances a refusal gets taken out of local hands and is submitted for appeal at National level. This happened in the case of the application by a local farmer applying for Outline Planning Permission for '9' houses on farmland on a hill on the East side of Rockbeare. Despite strong local opposition from Parish Council and local residents on the grounds of access, building on the 'green wedge' and flood risk potential the appeal was granted by the Planning Inspectorate and Outline Planning permission granted.

Our thanks to all those who filled in and submitted their Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire. The 130 plus responses will go a long way towards the formulation of this much needed plan.

Rockbeare Village Hall News

Hello citizens of Rockbeare Parish!

If it is not too late to say, a happy new year to everyone and I hope all had a lovely Christmas! Seems a long time ago now as some of us try to get to grips with over indulgence and face trying to get back into shape (ok me)!

Much is happening at the village hall, but this year could be a real turning point in the fortunes of the village hall. I will be stepping down as Chair after our next annual general meeting and so will Laura, our Secretary, and Kate our Treasurer. The hall will therefore desperately need new officers and more committee members with ideas and bags of energy to be able to continue. Please, please think about how you can help and if you would be prepared to take one of the roles. Without people in these roles, and an energetic supporting committee, the hall will face a real risk of closure. I sincerely hope it does not!

On a more cheery note, towards the end of 2015 we had three really enjoyable fundraising fund-raising events. We completely filled the hall for our afternoon cream tea in October. This was a fabulous event with lots of people tucking into Laura's delicious scones! In November Nick, one of our committee members, hosted a brilliant quiz night and in December we had our "Spirit of Christmas" fundraising event.

Our "Spirit of Christmas" event was a new event for me during my time on the committee. It was a lovely event where children enjoyed fun games and we filled two large boxes with food to take to the Exeter Food Bank, which was particularly pleasing. Many thanks to all who supported us with these events and please do look out for more fundraising events through our advertising in the village, or our facebook page or have a look at our website www.rockbearevillagehall.org.uk/ for more details.

In terms of new regular hirers of the village hall we welcome a new scout group, which will run on Fridays between 7pm and 9pm, and I am delighted to see the toddler group up and running again which will take place on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 12pm. Please do go along and meet those running these groups if you are interested in attending.

As I have said before, running a village hall does not just involve having lots of fun at fundraising events. There are jobs to be done around the hall as well and we shall be giving the interior of the hall a lick of paint when the weather warms up. If you are interested in helping please do not hesitate in letting one of the committee members or myself know.

Finally, unfortunately one of the gates to children's play area in the field has gone missing which is very frustrating! If anyone knows who took it I would be grateful for its safe return.

Many thanks Mark Cornish

Chair, Rockbeare Village Hall Committee

The process has started with the beginnings of a steering group with the aid and advice of an experienced consultant on board. Your Parish Newsletter will keep you up to date with its development over the coming months. A steering group for the formulation of this plan is being

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings (all times 7.30pm) – all Rockbeare Parish Residents welcome

The next meetings will be held on:

17th February 2016 @ Rockbeare Village Hall

16th March 2016 @ Marsh Green Village hall

20th April 2016 @ Rockbeare Village Hall

New Scouts and Cubs Groups Starting

Are you interested in your son or daughter joining a scouts or beaver group? The 1st Cranbrook group is about to have its very own Scouts group. As of Friday the 5th of February they will be meeting at Rockbeare Village hall between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Anyone from the Cranbrook/Rockbeare area aged 10-14 are welcome to go along and see if they would be interested in joining the group. Also The 1st Cranbrook Beavers (age 6 - 8) are also moving to Rockbeare Village Hall, Fridays 5.45 - 6.15. For further information please feel free to contact the Group Scout Leader Mo Ricketts on 01404 823466, or 01404 823466 or by email moricketts@hotmail.co.uk.



Registered charity number: 1000289

Newly Refurbished Hall Available for Hire

The Marsh Green Village Hall at Allercombe Lane, Marsh Green EX5 2HE has recently been refurbished with a new kitchen and cooking facilities installed and the inside of the Hall has been re-decorated. Parking is available on site.

The Hall is available for hire on an exclusive basis for up to 50 people for parties and other events, including children's parties, talks, training and practice space. A Whist Drive is held every Tuesday at 7.30 pm.

Competitive rates are available for new users of £8 an hour and £20 a half day.

For enquiries and bookings, please ring 01404 823158 or email

julianandsara@btinternet.com



Rockbeare C of E Primary School & Pre School



Mrs J.Spencer-Smith

Headteacher

Rockbeare CE Primary School



January 2016

Dear All,

‘Happy New Year’ to everyone in our local community.

At Rockbeare Primary School, we were out and about in the parish during December. We welcomed the opportunity to take our wonderful Year 3/4 children to sing at The Court immediately before Christmas. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone there and singing their favourite carols. They were rewarded with kind words and sweets! This is an annual visit which we and The Court look forward to every year. Please take a look at some of the photographs on the front page of our website www.rockbeareprimary.co.uk

We also had many children and their families attend the carol service at St.Mary with St.Andrew on the 17th December. This was such a lovely service; with readings from different members of the community and singing from different groups. I felt especially proud of our children who sang so beautifully and conducted themselves so well. Their singing was commented on by many of the congregation afterwards.

This New Year, we have welcomed Miss Pilkington to our school. She is the class teacher for Year 3/4 and has settled in well. Miss Pilkington comes with lots of new ideas and with a passion for music which we intend to fully utilise in the coming months.

Future events, to which everyone is invited, will include our May celebration day and a special celebration day to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday this year. If anyone locally has any memories of the early years of the Queen’s life and reign I would love to hear from you and perhaps we can arrange for you to come and share those with our children nearer the time? This is a momentous occasion that we cannot miss. Please see our website for details nearer the time.

Julie Spencer-Smith

Headteacher

News from your Parish Church

It was a real joy and a pleasure to welcome so many members of the local community and other visitors to our services and the concert over the Christmas period. If you were one of them, we hope you enjoyed your time with us. We are very grateful to the Marsh Green Melody Makers for organising the concert in aid of church funds and besides a wonderful evening's entertainment, they raised over £800 for us.

We're delighted to announce that a new Team Vicar has been appointed to our Mission Community. He is the Rev'd Bernard Lane who is currently a hospital chaplain in Bristol and who also serves at the parish of St Edytha's, Sea Mills in Bristol. Bernard and his wife Catherine will be moving into Rockbears vicarage sometime in the spring. A date for the appointment to begin has not yet been set. Please do pray for them and their family as they prepare to join us. We look forward to telling everyone when his licensing service will take place.

Details of services at the Parish Church over the next 3 months are as follows:-

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 7 th February	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st February	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Together 4 Worship
Sunday 6 th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 20 th March	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 27 th March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 3 rd April	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th April	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Together 4 Worship

*For more information on services and other events,
please phone 01392 466257,
or visit www.clystmissioncommunity.co.uk*

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Tuesday 5th April 2016 at 7.30pm in church.

You are warmly invited to attend to discover what the church has been doing during the past year and learn about our plans for the future. Mary Franklyn Church Warden

MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM AT MARSH GREEN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr David Mason (in the chair) and Cllrs: Jonathan Allen*, Naomi Allen*, Colin Please, Mark Readman and Jeremy Wollen - Also in attendance: Cllr Peter Bowden and two members of the public plus

Mrs J Morris: Clerk

- 73. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on **Wednesday 21 October 2015** were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.
- 74. INTRODUCTION: To introduce Lucy Fellows who would like the Council's support to restart the Rockbeare Mother & Toddler Group:** Lucy introduced herself and explained that she was interested in restarting the Mother & Toddler Group. She had spoken to the Rockbeare Village Hall Committee who are happy to make the hall available for £10 per session and also provide storage for equipment and toys. She hopes to get the sessions started after Christmas with a three month trial, will promote with a leaflet drop, posters and via social media.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council will set aside £500 from its "support for parish organisations" budget to assist with setting up costs and hall hire if needed. Proposed Cllr Jeremy Wollen, seconded Cllr Colin Please.

75. REPORTS

(i) Chairman's Report: The Chairman's report included:

- Attended Joint Parishes meeting on 22 October to discuss plans for the future of Cranbrook.
- Planning Inspector visited the site behind the houses at Greenacres on 2 November in connection with the planning appeal. Hope to have a decision in the near future.

(ii) County/District Councillor Reports: Cllr Peter Bowden's report included:

- Potholes in Gribble Lane need serious repair and the lane required surface work, trying to get something done about it.
- Complaint about mud on the road has been dealt with. Local farmer has been asked to clear-up.
- Complaint about hedgerow that needs cutting back, could Parish Council approach land owner.
- Contrary to local rumour EDDC has not given permission for a gypsy site in Cranbrook but is looking for suitable sites, preferably 2-3 sites with no more than 10-12 pitches on each site. Looking for up to 30 sites all over East Devon but preferably discreet, small sites that do not disturb a village population.
- EDDC now has its five year land supply.

- Cranbrook growing at a rate of 350 houses per year and will continue to grow at about this pace until development is completed.
- Look at the phraseology to be used when lobbying for the protection of the green wedge.

76. PLANNING

(i) **East Devon Local Plan: Consultation on additional changes.** Members were asked to let the Clerk know if they had any comments which they would like passed to EDDC.

(ii) **Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan:** The Chairman to draft a response for circulation and approval. Concerns about sites being pushed towards the western section of East Devon.

(iii) **Neighbourhood Plan:** Questionnaire has been distributed and responses beginning to come back, deadline is the end of November. Draw to be carried out at the December meeting.

(iv) **Paper copies of planning applications:** EDDC will stop sending paper copies from 1 May 2016. The Parish Council will then need to find a means of showing plans, possibly using a laptop and projector. Other Parish Councils are in a similar situation and have suggested getting together to apply for a TAP Fund grant to pay for the equipment needed. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council pursues the suggestion of joining with other parish councils to apply for funding for a laptop and project to show plans.

77. BUSINESS & FINANCE

(i) **To receive financial statement for October 2015: RESOLVED:** That the Financial Statement for October 2015 is approved.

(ii) **Funding for IT equipment:** It would be useful for the Parish Council to have its own laptop which the Clerk can keep all the council's documents on as, at present, the council's records are held on the Clerk's personal computer. The laptop can then also be used for showing planning applications if a projector is also purchased. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council applies for grants to purchase IT equipment at a cost of approximately £700.

(iii) **Rockbeare Village Hall:** Would like to apply for a grant towards the cost of a Christmas tree. **RESOLVED:** That the Council, in principle, supports an application from Rockbeare Village Hall Committee for £50 towards the cost of a Christmas tree but would like a completed grant application form in order to consider the application formally at its next meeting.

78. **LICENSING: To consider application for Premises Licence for Rockbeare Manor;** Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they have any comments that would like forwarded to East Devon District Council about this application.

79. **TRANSPARENCY CODE:** Councils with a turnover of less than £25k are required to provide key spending and governance information on their websites. Rockbeare's turnover in 2014/15 was more than £25k and, if it is decided to apply for a

Neighbourhood Plan grant, it is likely to be more than £25k in 2015/16. Parishes with a turnover of less than £25k are able to apply for a grant towards IT equipment. **RESOLVED:** That the Council defers applying for a grant until it is known whether the turnover is more than £25k and whether it is able to obtain the funding for a laptop computer from the TAP Fund.

80. PARISH NEWSLETTER: The first issue has been circulated to households in Rockbeare parish, deadline for the next issue is 10 January 2016.

83. THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

(a) Highway verge and general grass cutting. Devon County Council has offered the Parish Council £143 if it wishes to cut the grass verges itself. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council does not accept the offer of but instead asks Devon County Council to continue to be responsible for cutting the highway verges in Rockbeare parish and then pays a contractor to cut any remaining areas that DCC no longer cuts.

(b) Snow Warden Scheme. Details of the scheme were provided to Cllr Colin Please.

84. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) Mr Randall asked the Council if it would ask the land owner to carry out another cut of the outside of the hedges along the road between Rockbeare and Marsh Green.

MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY

9 DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM AT ROCKBEARE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr David Mason (in the chair) and Cllrs: Jonathan Allen, David Mace, Colin Please, Mark Readman and Jeremy Wollen - Also in attendance: two members of the public and two police officers plus Mrs J Morris: Clerk

88. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on **Wednesday 18 November 2015** were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

89. REPORTS

(v) Chairman's Report: The Chairman's report included:

- Attended EDDC Town & Parish Council meeting on 1st December, speakers included: Devon County Council Leader John Hart and Devon Police Commissioner Tony Hogg.
- Residents of Silver Lane are concerned about the condition of the lane due to the activities of contractors.
- Attended Exeter Airport Consultative Group meeting, passenger numbers are continuing to improve. The airport, as a business would like to be consulted when Neighbourhood Plans are being drawn up.

- Andy Ward offered to attend the next Parish Council meeting to update the Council on what is happening in Cranbrook.

(vi) Police Report: Two Police Offices attended the meeting and provided details of the latest crime figures from 1 November to 9 December 2015: 1 no. burglary (building site), 1 no. theft (building site), 1 no. theft from a lorry (building site) and 2 no. domestic assaults.

In response to a question they stated they didn't feel that recent crime figures were unusually high but pointed out that the majority of the crimes were building site related. The poor condition of Silver Lane was discussed and it was stressed that reports of mud on the road need to be reported to the Police who can then go and ask the landowner to clear it.

90. PLANNING: To consider and make comment on any planning applications received since the date of this agenda.

91.

15/2628/FUL	Demolition of dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and garaging at Hill Crest, Rockbeare Hill	No objections
15/2719/FUL	Erection of four bedroom dwelling and garage at The Cedars (land off London Road), Rockbeare	Defer to allow Councillors to visit the site, they will then let Clerk have their comments

Neighbourhood Plan: 30% response to survey, Chairman had collated the responses and circulated a summary report to all Councillors. Mark Cornish drew out the winner of the prize draw, the winner was Melvyn Meek. Several local residents have offered to assist with the preparation of the Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk writes to all those that have expressed an interest in assisting with the Neighbourhood Plan to thank them for their interest and invite them to attend the Parish Council's next meeting.

92. BUSINESS & FINANCE

(i) Rockbeare Village Hall: To confirm grant for Christmas tree: **RESOLVED:** That Rockbeare Village Hall's application for a grant of £50 towards the cost of a Christmas tree is approved

93. Mother & Toddler Group: To receive update regarding arrangements for restarting the group: It was confirmed that, when it closed, the previous Mother & Toddler Group had ring fenced £500 to be used for hall hire for any new group started up.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Clerk arranges for the £500 being held for the new Mother & Toddler to be transferred to the Parish Council, to be used by the Council to pay the hall hire costs for the new group.
 2. That the organiser of the new Mother & Toddler Group is asked to provide details of the funding required to get the group up and running.
94. **YMCA: To receive quote for 2016/17 youth club provision:** The estimate for 2016/17 is £10,394 to run one youth session per week. This is double the £5,000 per annum paid for the last three years. The YMCA has explained that the increase is due to the YMCA having subsidised the sessions for the last three years but they can't continue to do this as it is not sustainable. They have offered to work with the Council to look at raising additional funding and have offered to attend a Council meeting to discuss. **RESOLVED:** That the YMCA is invited to the February meeting to discuss a way forward, in the meanwhile investigate funding opportunities.
96. **THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
- **Bus stop opposite Rockbeare Village Hall:** Step is dangerous.
 - **Silver Lane:** Letter, signed by 5 families, concerned about the condition of Silver Lane. It was suggested that they report the problem to the Police who will log the complaint and talk to the land owner.
 - **Rookwood to Rockbeare Primary School:** Discussion about how the route could be made safer for parents and children walking to school.
 - **Lord Lieutenant of Devon:** Celebrations to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday to be held in the UK on 12 June 2016. Communities are being encouraged to arrange street parties.

To illustrate some of the works going on behind the scenes to combat flooding threat the following is the abbreviated minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 16th December:

Present: Ivan Randall (IR), Chair Rockbeare Flood Group
 James Foley (JF), DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer (acting)
 Jonathan Allen (JA), Rockbeare Parish Council

The meeting was arranged by Ivan Randall, to introduce James Foley to some of the issues needing DCC Highways attention around the Parish, at various locations around the Parish

1. IR outlined the area of flooding in 2008 and some of the issues that had followed from that including the DEFRA "Flood Protection" grant, working from an EDDC flooding map. IR said that the Rockbeare Flood Group had photographs and maps showing the flooded areas.
2. The new drain cover at the gates of Rockbeare Manor that has been funded and installed by the Rockbeare Flood Group, in order to hand it over to DCC Highways and make sure that they knew of its design, existence and need for routine maintenance. JF happily accepted the installation on behalf of DCC and said that he would add it to the

regular lengthsman maintenance schedule, but noted that this would probably be on no more than an annual basis.

Whilst at Manor Cross, IR and JA thanked JF for the work that had been carried out by the Highways in Gribble lane, clearing guttering and sweeping the land.

3. Crossing into Gribble Lane and walking north, JF inspected the state of the ditch dug on the inside of the hedge on Manor ground. He agreed that it needed maintenance, but said that it was the landowner's responsibility to do the work. He added that DCC have no power to do the work or force the landowner to do it, but is in a position to encourage the landowner to fulfil their obligations and would consider doing so.
4. An inspection of Gribble Lane, to the bridge over the Rockbeare Stream was also made.
5. Marsh Green: IR pointed out that the ditching along the road between the Manor gates and Ragg Lane needed cleaning out, on both sides, but particularly on the north side. JF agreed and said that he might be able to find some money to do that work.
6. In Marsh Green, and Quarter Mile Lane it was observed the state of some of the gateways on the south-east side, showing how the banks were being constantly pushed back into the ditches by vehicles not taking adequate care and cutting the corners. JF agreed that erecting a wall section on each side of the gate to protect the ditches, preserve the width of the gateways and prevent bank collapse would be a sensible idea
7. On the way back to Rockbeare, JF conceded that he does have some money for cleaning and may be able to get some work done in these areas.
8. Gribble Lane North: IR showed JF where all the drains were and the presence of the linear wood along the Rockbeare side of Gribble Lane, running right down to the London Road. He asked if it would be possible to do anything to divert water flow out of the lane gutters into the linear wood. JF replied that there are issues involved in diverting water on to private land, but agreed that something could be done.
9. Junction of Gribble Lane and London Rd: blocked drain forcing water to flow (and pool) round into the next drain in Gribble Lane. JF will report this and make sure that a crew unblocked the drain on the London Road. IR and JF agreed that one of the planning conditions for the Cranbrook development on the north side of the London Road should be for the installation of a significantly sized drain to be installed under the London Road to drain the south side of the Gribble Lane junction into the Cranbrook stream and country park area at that point
10. Rockbeare village to Parsons Lane: IR and JF noted that the road edges are eroding quite badly in the section just before the first bend and on the corner of that bend itself due to too much and unsuitable traffic on the road, and could do with some concrete reinforcement. JF undertook to see whether he could find a little concrete or add it to his list as a drainage issue.

11. Silver Lane: we inspected the bridge over the stream that runs past the manor, behind the school and out to Parsons Lane. The south west corner side of the bridge needs clearing to direct water coming along Silver Lane – itself a perfect gutter – into the stream rather than running down into the village. JF observed that he could see where the grass on the banks had been swept and flattened, even up to 18 inches above the road surface. He suggested that it might be easier to clear the ditch on the east side of Silver Lane, with an obvious entry point on the bend just before the ditch (where water is currently pooling) to enter the stream just upstream of the bridge.

At the conclusion of the meeting, JF said that he and DCC were very open to local communities doing works they considered necessary and then handing them over to DCC for formal adoption and routine maintenance. The local communities would have to fund the work themselves, without any refund or budget assistance from DCC, who might however be prepared to help in the design work to ensure that it met the appropriate standards. JF recommended that a conversation be held with Richard Rainbow of DCC's Flood Risk team to see if any "flood" funding might be available – they do apparently have some money – rather than highways funding.

With thanks to Ivan Randall for all his work and for providing the minutes of his meeting with James Foley from Devon County Council

ADVERTISING RATES

Quarter Page	£15
Half Page	£25
Full Page	£50

Newsletter is published quarterly and is delivered to all households in Rockbeare Parish – population 682 (368 households).

For further information contact Mark Readman markjreadman@aol.com