



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE 2017 AT ROCKBEARE VILLAGE HALL

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

Also in attendance – Two members of the public

Carolyn May: Clerk

179.0 APOLOGIES: None

179.1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Allen declared a prejudicial interest in matter 9.2 on the agenda. Cllr. Readman advised the meeting that the matter would not be discussed due to the application not being completed, as yet.

180.0 MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on **Wednesday 17th May 2017**, at Rockbeare Village Hall were considered. It was **proposed by:** Cllr. Please, **seconded by** Cllr. Forrest and **RESOLVED** that these 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)

181.0 REPORTS:

181.1 The Chairman reported that, on 24th May 2017, accompanied by Cllr Forrest, he attended a special presentation at the Flybe Academy. The subject was the FAB Project and the presentation was given by the FAB Development Manager, Chris Jenner.

It was felt that the event was both informative and interesting.

At the Q&A session, the Chairman raised his concerns relating to the vast increase in commercial traffic using Long Lane and the impact of the same, particularly for residents of Westcott; in view of their limited access/egress by other routes.

He also asked if the company might be willing to part-fund work on the Ridgeway, in partnership with Devon Highways, in order to improve matters.

The event was followed by the normal ACC Meeting, where much concern was raised over the proposal of the construction of 900 houses on land north of Tithebarn Lane. This is situated at the end of the runway and may impede future development of the airport.

The Chairman advised the meeting that, on 13th June 2017, he had been contacted by Hamish Marshall from Spotlight to provide the BBC with the Parish Council's view of the FAB Project. The Chairman advised that his two principal concerns were (a) construction traffic and its impact and; (b) the environmental issues with such a large undertaking, of which he believes the general public are not aware of.

181.2 No Police Report had been received. The Parish Clerk advised Members that she had raised this issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner and had now received a full response to the same, which was read out to the meeting (attached at 'A')

181.3 No other reports had been received.

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

PRE-APPLICATION ENQUIRY – Proposes Telecommunications Radio Base Station Installation at Land at the Storage Yard, London Road, Rockbeare, EX5 2EE: NGR 301791/095451

Cllr Please advised the Members that the current position of the mast is not viable and there is no problem with the same being sited at the proposed location. It was **proposed** by Cllr Please and **seconded** by Cllr Forrest, and **RESOLVED** that there be no objection to the pre-application. **UNANIMOUS.** Carried

Reference	17/1145/MRES (NEIGHBOURING PARISH)
Alternative Reference	PP-06004443
Application Validated	Thu 18 May 2017
Address	Ecology Park Tillhouse Road Cranbrook Devon
Proposal	Reserved matters application seeking approval of access, appearance, landscape, layout and scale for the construction of an Ecology Park and drainage basins (This application is made pursuant to outline permission 03/P1900) (EIA Development) (This is a revised application)
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown

It was **proposed** by Cllr Wollen and **seconded** by Cllr Forrest, and **RESOLVED** that there be no objection to the application. **UNANIMOUS.** Carried

Reference	17/1145/MRES (NEIGHBOURING PARISH)
Alternative Reference	
Application Validated	Fri 19 May 2017
Address	52 Oakbeer Orchard Cranbrook Exeter Devon EX5 7BL
Proposal	Retrospective application for the removal of front garden & replacement of gravel for parking.
Status	Awaiting Decision
Appeal Status	

It was **proposed** by Cllr Allen and **seconded** by Cllr. Readman and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should object to this application on the grounds that it could set a precedent and that there has already been a substantial loss of green space. **UNANIMOUS. Carried.**

Reference	17/1145/MRES
Alternative Reference	17/1306/FUL
Application Validated	Wed 24 May 2017
Address	Woodhouse Farm Silver Lane Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2LP
Proposal	Construction of two storey side extension, single storey extension to front with balcony over, and construction of detached garage/store/games room.
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	

It was **proposed** by Cllr Wollen and **seconded** by Cllr Please, and **RESOLVED** that there be no objection to the application. **UNANIMOUS. Carried**

183.0 Planning Determinations – none.

184.0 **Neighbourhood Plan Update** – Cllr Readman advised the Members that the EDDC had requested further evidence to support, what was referred to as ‘a firm stance’, relating to the proposal that no building should be permitted on the ‘green wedge’ between Rockbeare and Cranbrook. EDDC stated that the draft plan had not provided any evidence that the assertion represents the policy of the parishioners. Manor Farm objects to the proposal.

184.1 Cllr Readman advised that an additional questionnaire, addressing the issue, had been provided to every household in the Parish (400 households), approximately 10 days prior to the meeting (9 days left to respond). It was considered that 80 responses (20% of households) would be an acceptable rate of return of questionnaires.

184.2 Once the result of the additional questionnaire have been collated, the result of the same will be submitted to EDDC, within the NP. If the NP comes back from EDDC ‘clean’, a referendum will be held to enable the Parishioners to vote upon the same.

185.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE:

185.1 To receive the financial statement for May 2017

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Please and **seconded** by Cllr. Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the accounting statement for May 2017 should be approved. Unanimously **CARRIED**

185.2 To approve payment of the following invoices:

400479	John Robertson (Gardening Services)	120.00
400480	Pollards	86.40
400481	Clerk Salary	422.15
400482	Clerk Expenses	75.40
400483	YMCA (Youth Club)	2750.00
400484	M&T Group (Hall Hire)	30.00
400485	HMRC	56.2
	TOTAL	£ 3540.15

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

185.3 Members considered the low interest rates currently being offered on bank deposit accounts. The Clerk stated that the current banking arrangements were difficult due to the lack of Co-operative Bank Branches in the region. Further to this, she intimated that on-line banking might be advantageous. It was agreed that the Clerk would undertake research into alternative banking arrangements and identify the banks offering the best interest and terms rates for investment deposits. This information is to be brought to the September 2017 meeting.

186.0 Correspondence

186.1 **Youth Club** - The Clerk advised the Members that the YMCA had submitted an invoice for £2,750 for the previous financial year. The YMCA had failed to forward the same during the relevant period.

Cllr Forrest stated that he did not feel that the invoice should be paid, as it related to the previous financial year. The Clerk advised that the service had been received and should be paid for. When next year's Annual Return is submitted, it will be necessary to restate the C/F balance to reflect the payment.

The Clerk referred to the email received from Mark Cornish, Treasurer for Rockbeare Parish Hall. In that email, Mr Cornish had queried whether the YMCA had actually been using the hall.

Members were aware that the YMCA was seeking to appoint a new Youth Leader and questioned whether this had yet occurred; or whether the YMCA had elected not to progress the youth club. It was noted that since the second re-modelling of the service, no interim report had been submitted to the Parish Council for consideration.

Cllr Forrest advised that he felt uncomfortable with the amount that the Parish was expending on the Youth Club. He had been advised that the hall was not being used and that only two Rockbeare residents were members of the Youth Club. He felt that the Parish Council could be funding something that does not exist.

Cllr Readman reminded Members that the Parish Council had agreed to finance the youth club until the end of the summer holidays. He also stated that the second re-modelled plan for the service provided for outdoor activities with only one meeting in three (or four) being held at the Parish Hall.

Cllr Allen advised that the Parish Council needed to be clear of the following, prior to any decision being taken;

- Has the YMCA recruited a new Youth Leader?
- Are Youth Club sessions continuing?
- Is use of the hall required and;
- How many young people are using the Youth Club?

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would correspond with the YMCA in relation to these matters and report the responses to the Parish Council at the next meeting. The Parish Clerk is also to request that an interim report should be submitted to Members for consideration.

186.2 **Co-option** – The Clerk advised the meeting that the statutory process for advertising Parish Council vacancy had now been completed and that the relevant documentation for seeking to co-opt Members had been forwarded by EDDC.

The Clerk advised that the co-option opportunities would be advertised on the Parish Council website and requested that it also be placed in the Parish Magazine.

It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the relevant copy to Cllr Readman, for inclusion in the magazine.

186.3 **District Councillor Information** – noted

186.4 **EDDC Community Buildings Fund** – noted

186.5 **Recycling Advisor** – noted

186.6 **Devon Highways Letter** – A30 Bridge – noted

186.7 **Highways England Letter** – A30 Bridge – noted

187.0 **Highway Matters** – The response from Devon Highways, relating to Westcott Lane/ Watery Lane, was read out to Members (Attached at 'B'). Cllr Forrest advised Members that the area from the new bridge to Cranbrook Road is currently being resurfaced. Yet, the stretch did not appear to require the same. He added that if Westcott Lane is not repaired, the road leading from Westcott to the airport will require widening by 3 to 4 feet, to accommodate construction traffic.

Cllr Forrest added that, if Westcott Lane deteriorates any further and is not repaired, then Long Lane will be the only way out of the village. In view of the fact that the FAB Project is going to impact on Westcott and Long Lane, perhaps the FAB Project could provide some finance for improvements to the road, working in conjunction with Devon Highways.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should correspond with Hugo Swire MP, on this matter.

188.0 Councillor Forrest reported that airport users were habitually parking on the 'T' junction (Long Lane/ Airport), rather than pay £1.00 to park in the short-term car park. This practice is causing problems as vehicles cannot easily pass. There are double yellow lines on both sides of the road.

Cllr Forrest has requested that the Clerk correspond with Devon Highways, requesting that the yellow lines be replaced with red lines.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk would follow this up.

189.0 Funding Applications

189.1 Rockbeare Village Hall Ramp – Members considered the request for £800 for a ramp to be purchased for the Rockbeare Village Hall. Members felt that the problems relating to disabled access could be addressed by the provision of a concrete ramp, covered with a suitable screed. It was therefore agreed that the sum of £200.00 should be provided to the Parish Hall Committee, as a donation towards the cost of addressing the access problem.

Rockbeare Primary School – not considered

190.0 To Receive Questions from the Public

190.1 One member of the public asked if Manor Estates had been asked to clean out the ditch adjacent to its property. The Clerk stated that she had written three times, to no avail. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the body again.

190.2 The member of the public asked if the private grass areas at Cherry Tree Close and Greenbank, Rockbeare could be added to the grass cutting schedule carried out by John Robertson. He stressed that he was not suggesting that the Parish Council should incur the cost of cutting the same. Rather, the area at Cherry Tree Close has been managed by an elderly couple in the past but the lady has been recently widowed and the task of maintaining the area is becoming too onerous.

It was agreed that Cllr Wollen would speak with John Robertson and report back to the Council.

190.3 The issue of a Parish Notice Board was raised. Initially it was suggested that this might be placed on the land, next to the post box in the village. However, it was ascertained that the land is owned by Devon Highways. The Clerk advised that it is not lawful to place such an item on land owned by another and suggested that an appropriate position might be at the village hall fence.

It was agreed that the Clerk would correspond with Devon Highways, in order to ascertain whether that body would agree to the erection of a notice board at the site.

190.4 A member of the public raised a concern that the passing places on the road between Rockbeare and Marsh Green had not been trimmed. This was deemed to be a danger to road users, due to the bends in the road. - Noted

The meeting closed at 21.05 hours.

SIGNED _____ **Date:** _____