



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM, MARSH GREEN VILLAGE HALL

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

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

Carolyn May: Clerk

105.0 APOLOGIES: Councillors David Mace, Jonathan Allen (retrospective)

106.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest made.

107.0 MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on **Wednesday 14th December 2016** at Rockbeare Village Hall were considered and, subject to the following amendments, approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

Amendment 1. Section 99 -second paragraph removed.

Amendment 2. Section 100 – paragraph one, line three – ‘Parish Council’ substituted to Devon Council (Highways).

108.0 REPORTS:

108.1 Chairman’s Report: The Chairman reported that, following the receipt of the play area inspection report, he visited the site. Cllr Wollen stated that he concurred wholly with the points raised in the report, adding that the actions required were not excessive and could be easily undertaken. **Noted**

108.2 Police Report – No police (Crime Statistics) report had been received for the fourth month running, however, the Parish Clerk advised Members that an email had been received from Sergeant Boorn at Ottery St Mary, providing advice in relation to traffic problems in Rockbeare. It was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk would follow the suggested course of action and correspond with Devon Council Highways, in relation to the situation.

108.3 County/District Council Reports – Cllr Bowden (Devon Council) reported on the authority’s current financial deficit (£7 million). He advised the meeting that measures had been implemented by Devon Council, to enable the deficit to be addressed within the current financial year.

Cllr. Bowden reported that a Government Funding sum of £83,000 had been received by Devon Council for carriageway repairs. He advised the meeting that Gribble Lane, Rockbeare, had been selected for repair from the funding received.

It is anticipated that the repairs to Gribble Lane will be carried out in early course and that, rather than filling in potholes, sections of road will be dug up, reset and tar-macadamed. This will require the full closure of Gribble Lane and, he added, that the Parish Clerk would be advised of these closures, prior to the commencement of the planned work.

Cllr Forrest raised the issue of the poor condition of the carriageway from Westcott Road to Quarter Mile Lane (Long Lane). Cllr Bowden advised that repairs had also been planned for the route referred to.

Cllr Forrest also alluded to the condition of Westcott Lane, advising that the area was impassable, providing access only to three houses located there. He added that the lane was now closed to through traffic. Cllr Bowden queried this statement and it was **agreed** that Cllrs Wollen and Forrest would attend at the location to view the area and that a report, on the prevailing situation, would then be forwarded to Cllr Bowden.

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

Both applications had been received after the publication of the Meeting Agenda.

16/2997/MOUT - Outline application with all matters reserved for the construction of a High Voltage DC converter station and associated infrastructure. Temporary construction of access road. Land adjacent to Harrier Court Industrial Estate, Long Lane, Clyst Honiton.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would raise no objection to this application.

17/0011/VAR - Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 15/2061/VAR (revised layout) to allow changes to layout and design of solar farm and conditions 4, 5 and 6 to allow amended construction management plan. Next Solar GRHB Ltd, Great Houndbeare Farm, Aylesbeare, Exeter EX5 2DB.

It was **agreed** that no comment would be made in relation to this matter.

110.0 To consider the following planning determinations:

Application	Location	Decision
16/2202/V106	Land rear of the Jack in the Green, London Road, Rockbeare	Awaiting Decision
16/2179/PDQ	Lower Aller combe Farm, Roker, Exeter EX5 2HD	Withdrawn
16/2635/LBC	Lower Marsh Farm Marsh Green Exeter EX5 2EX	Awaiting Decision
16/2390/TRE	Middlemarsh Marsh Green Exeter EX5 2EX	Decided – Split Decision*

16/2453/FUL	Rockbeare Motors Ltd London Road Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2DZ	Approved – with conditions*
16/2439FUL	Flybe The New Walker Hangar Exeter Airport Clyst Honiton Exeter EX5 2BA	Approved
16/2493	Rockbeare Court Farm Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2EF	Awaiting Decision

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

111.0 Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr. Readman reported that the aims and objectives of the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been agreed and adopted. The Planning Group is now in the process of determining which of the EDDC existing policies can be utilised with the draft plan and what new policies must be drafted. It is anticipated that the decisions made will be presented to the next meeting of the group, at the end of January 2017.

Cllr. Readman alluded to the reduced sum now available to the Neighbourhood Planning Group (circa £550, as at 19th January 2017). He stated that the group would require further funding to bring the Neighbourhood Plan to fruition but advised that there may be no further grant funding available for that purpose. Cllr Readman provided an outline of the costs likely to be incurred in completing the project.

Members discussed the matter and agreed that it is important that this matter is brought to fruition.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Readman and **seconded** by Cllr Please that the Parish Council would accept the continuation of the project to its conclusion, the additional costs of the continuation to be met from Parish Council funds. All Members in agreement.

Resolved that the Parish Council would accept the continuation of the project to its conclusion

112.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE:

112.1 To receive the financial statement for December 2016

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Wollen and **seconded** by Cllr. Please that the financial statement for December 2016 should be approved. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the financial statement for December 2016 was approved.

112.2 To approve payment of Invoices as follows:

400444	Rockbeare Village Hall (Youth Club) Invoice 2016/17-83	50.00
400445	Rockbeare Village Hall (Neighbourhood Plan) Invoice 2016/17-83	60.00
400446	Rockbeare Village Hall (M&T Group) Invoice 2016/17-85	40.00
400447	Pollards (Invoice 301116)	248.00
400448	Carolyn Y. May (Salary)	382.68
400449	Carolyn Y. May (Expenses – December 2016 & January 2017)	81.54

400450	Royal British Legion	50.00
	TOTAL	912.22

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Please and **seconded** by Cllr. Mason, that the schedule of payments should be approved. All in favour.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments was approved.

113.0 Correspondence

113.1 The following items of correspondence were considered:

(a) Copy letter/ application from Mr Mark Cornish for S.106 funding.

Agreed: The Parish Clerk is to undertake enquiries with EDDC, to ascertain the availability and level of S106 funding for other projects within the Rockbeare Parish area.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Mason and **seconded** by Cllr. Wollen that the is application should be supported by the Parish Council.

Resolved: The Parish Council would support this application.

114.0 Clerk's Actions update – Appendix 'C' – noted

Members were advised by Mr Ivan Randall that the occupants of Rockbeare Manor are not responsible for the maintenance of the hedge, adjacent to the ditch and trash-screen, rather, this is the responsibility of Rockbeare Estate, which is the legal owner of the property. The estate is managed by Savill's Estate Agents.

115.0 Precept Setting

Members of the Parish Council agreed the following budget for the financial year 2017/18

PARISH COUNCIL EXPENSE	2016/17 BUDGET	2017/18 BUDGET	NOTES
Youth Fund	8000.00	10,500	Increase 31.25%
Hall hire for youth club	500.00	500.00	No Increase
Wages & salaries	5500.00	5,500.00	No Increase
General Administration	2000.00	2,000.00	No Increase
Website	150.00	150.00	No Increase
Staff & Councillor training	500.00	1,000.00	Increase 100%
Hall Hire	250.00	250.00	No Increase
Neighbourhood Plan	6700.00	7,000.00	Previously Grant Funded – Single Year Expense for Parish Council
Support for parish organisations	4000.00	3,000.00	Increase 25%
Maintenance of parish land	1500.00	2,000.00	Increase 33%
Flood prevention fund	2157.52	2,200.00	Increase less than 1%
Transparency Fund	649.97	340.00	Decrease 52%

Contingency	3000.00	3,000	No Increase
Hall Hire for M & Toddler Grp	500.00	500.00	No Increase
Total	36007.72	37,940.00	Increase 5.4%

Members considered to the level of spending required by the Parish Council for the financial year 2017/18 and **RESOLVED** to set the 2017/18 Precept level at a sum below projected expenditure sum, with the Parish Council absorbing the excess expenditure from reserves.

The issue of attendances at the M&T Group was discussed and it was **agreed** that this matter would be looked at by the Chairman.

It was **proposed by** Councillor Readman and **seconded by** Cllr. Forrest, that the Parish Council precept for 2017/18 should be raised to £31,644. All in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Precept for 2017/18, would be set at £31,644 and that the Parish Clerk would forward the relevant information to EDDC Accounting Department.

116.0 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

One member of the public raised the issue of flooding at Birchend, Rockbeare, and queried the response of Devon Council Highways, to the Clerk's communication about the same.

The Clerk explained that she has communicated on two separate occasions with Highways but had received no response. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would communicate by mail with Devon Council Highways and that a copy of the letter would be forwarded to Cllr Bowden.

The gentleman explained that he had personally spoken with a representative from Devon Highways and that he had met with another. Further to this, he indicated that Devon Housing was currently appointing a surveyor to inspect four of its properties in Birchend, as these had been adversely affected by the last flooding incident. It was suggested that Devon Housing intended to raise the issue of flooding with Devon Highways. If a site meeting is called, it was agreed that Cllr Wollen should be advised, so that he might attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

The issue of overgrown hedges obstructing the footpath in Rockbeare was discussed. It was **agreed** that Cllr Readman would place a general note in the village newsletter.

The Clerk advised the meeting that three requests had been made by her to EDDC, in relation to the erection of a 'No Dogs' sign in the old play area at Birchend. Despite promises, this has not yet materialised. The Clerk has now requested that the Dog Warden advises Martyn Jarvis of the need for this sign.

The matter of the installation of a ramp at Rockbeare village hall was alluded to and one member of the public advised Councillors that the design of the step, at the entrance to Marsh Green Village Hall was appropriate for Rockbeare, adding that a ramp does not make a safe step.

The meeting closed at 21:15 hours.

SIGNED _____ Date: _____