



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE 2020

**This was a 'Virtual' Meeting, conducted through the medium of Video Conferencing.
The Parish Clerk advised the Meeting that the proceedings would be recorded.**

PRESENT: Cllr Jeremy Wollen (Chairman) and Cllrs: Colin Please, Susan Wollen, Phil Franklin and Simon Brodie

Also: Cllr Ray Bloxham (Devon County Council) and Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (Devon County Council)

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Readman and Forrest

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None required

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION: None

AGENDA

501.0 MINUTES

501.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Colin Please, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting of the 6th May would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

502.0 REPORTS

502.1 **Chairman's Report – None**

502.2 **County/ District Councillors** – substantial information has been received and disseminated to Members. Cllr Randall-Johnson reiterated the need to follow personal hygiene guidance in

502.3 respect of Covid-19, including handwashing regularly, social distancing, shielding, proper disposal of masks and refraining from attempting to recycle tissues. The latter items are inappropriate for recycling as the Covid-19 virus can live for up to 72 hours.

503.0 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT

503.1 Members had been provided with a copy of the Annual Internal Audit for 2019/20. She reported that the Parish Council is currently in a very good position and that the body had not been 'picked up' for anything.

503.2 Cllr Wollen thanked the Clerk for her hard work. The Clerk responded by stating that the success of the body was the result of the combined efforts of the Members and the fact that the Council was currently running a 'happy ship'.

503.3 It was **proposed** by Cllr Colin Please, **seconded** by the Chairman and RESOLVED that the minutes for the meeting would accept the report. Unanimous. **Carried.**

504.0 ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT

504.1 Members considered the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20.

504.2 The Annual Governance Statement was considered by the Meeting and it was **proposed** by Cllr Susan Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Colin Please and RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 would be approved. Unanimous. **Carried.**

504.3 The Annual Accounting Statement for 2019/20 was then considered by the Meeting. It was **proposed** by Cllr Phil Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr Simon Brodie and RESOLVED that the Annual Accounting Statement for 2019/20 would be approved. Unanimous. **Carried.**

504.4 It was **agreed** that the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the signing of the document and for the submission of the same to PFK Littlejohn.

505.0 PLANNING

505.1 **20/1093/V106** – 1 Wellington Way, Skypark. It was **proposed** by the chairman, **seconded** by Cllr Simon Brodie and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not object to this application Unanimous. **Carried.**

505.2 **20/1046/CM** – New Ford Farm, Quarter Mile Lane, Marsh Green. It was **proposed** by Cllr Colin Please, **seconded** by the Chairman and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not object to this application Unanimous. **Carried.**

505.3 **20/0990/FUL** – Cedars Lodge, Cedar Court, London Road, Rockbeare. It was **proposed** by the chairman, **seconded** by Cllr Simon Brodie and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not object to this application Unanimous. **Carried.**

506.0 CLAY HILL UPDATE

506.1 There is a great deal of concern relating to the length of time that the project will take. Cllr Bloxham advised that the matter which concerned him most was the length of time that Clay Hill would be closed. He stated that he had spoken with the contractors, Devon County

506.2 Council Highways and the Devon County bus providers. The closure will affect the number 4 bus route, with buses being unable to run through the village. The discussions have resulted in the schedule of work being re-examined, to determine the extent to which the route can be kept open during the work. Cllr Bloxham stated that he would pursue the matter further and revert to the Parish Council when further information is available.

506.3 The biggest concern for residents is the bus service. Cllr Bloxham stated that, in the event that the bus service was unable to run for a significant period of time, then there would be a requirement for there to be a shuttle service to a place where parishioners can connect with the required bus service.

507.0 CORRESPONDENCE

507.1 Only one item of correspondence was received. This related to the potential purchase of a mower for the Parish Field. The Clerk will disseminate the completed proforma to Members, once received.

508.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE

508.1 The Chairman advised the Meeting of several observations that had been received from Cllr. Forrest, in relation to applications for funding.

508.2 With regards to the M&T Group, Cllr Forrest supports the funding of 50% of venue costs but raises queries about providing a grant for equipment. This view is based on the fact that, when last considered, the M&T group was holding funds of around £600.00. It was suggested that, if those funds were not made available to the new group, then the M&T Group accounts should be requested for consideration. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would correspond with the applicant to ascertain what had happened to the funds.

508.3 The second matter involves the payment of £18 per hour for gardening services. It was stated by the Chairman that the quoted sum was part of a commercial tender and, therefore the sum quoted was a commercial sum. Cllr Franklin advised that average salaries are not mandated by legislation. Cllr Brodie advised that if one was to 'Google' gardening costs, the average charge across the nation is between £20 and £25 pounds per hour.

508.4 The Clerk highlighted the facts that, the Primary School sought quotations for the work. There were two responses to the request, the accepted quotation was the more reasonable sum and the applicant is a local tradesman.

508.5 **Payment of Invoices** as per the schedule set out on the agenda. It was **proposed** by Cllr Colin Please, **seconded** by the Chairman and RESOLVED that the schedule of payments would be agreed, and payments made in accordance with the same. Unanimous. **Carried.**

508.6 The Clerk raised the matter of payment of business accounts, into personal bank accounts. It was **agreed** that a protocol for 'approved contractors' should be drafted.

509.0 OTHER MATTERS

509.1 Broadband Speed/ Connection at Westcott – already addressed by email by Cllr Bloxham.

509.2 Speed/ Restriction Sign at Westcott – Cllr Bloxham stated that a weight restriction sign was not referred to, Rather, a sign that stated 'Not Suitable for HGV's' was discussed. This matter has been raised again with Devon County Council Highways Department.

The Meeting Closed at 17.29 hrs -

Next Meeting 15th July 2020