



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

Clerk: Carolyn May
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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2019 AT MARSH GREEN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr Jeremy Wollen (Chairman) and Cllrs: Please, Allen. Readman and Forrest

Also, in attendance – three members of the public

Parish Clerk: Carolyn May

APOLOGIES: None

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

CO-OPTION of MEMBER: Mr Simon Brodie was co-opted onto the Parish Council and joined the Members at the table.

Public Participation Session:

- One member of the public requested that a reminder about overhanging hedges be included in the next Parish Newsletter.
- It was reported that the 'Rockbeare' sign, by the village hall, has been damaged. Devon Highways to be informed.
- The pothole in the passing place at Parsons Lane is now approximately 5 inches deep and 3 feet long. Devon Highways to be informed.
- The ditches by the Rectory/ Parish Church have not been cleared. Devon Highways to be informed.
- The work carried out by Devon Council Highways was commended. It was asked if the drains from Rockbeare to the Old Rectory could be furnished in the same manner.
- Flooding was reported on the London Road, by the entrance to the Grange.
- It was reported that the road surface was cracking in the area of Birchend, Rookwood Lane and Bridge View.
- Beer cans and wine bottles have been discarded in Silver Lane.
- Matter W181186052 – a resident reported that nothing had been done in the area, to alleviate potential flooding. Devon Highways to be informed.
- One member of the public alluded to work carried out at Westcott. He was advised by the Clerk that the monies expended did not arise from the precept. Rather an independent sum had been secured from a private source for the work. The matter was not, therefore, to be discussed.

Despite the advice of the Clerk, there was a further attempt to discuss the matter. Cllr Forrest stated that he had personally met the costs of grass seed and weed killer, whilst the finance secured for the purpose had paid for the posts etc.

It was noted that there had, allegedly, complaints from two parishioners about the cost of the work. Cllr Allen had advised the Members of the same (by email on). Cllr Please asked who the two parishioners were.

It was felt, by the Chairman, that there had been an attempt to cause mischief. Cllr Allen asked for the comment to be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Cllr Allen was then asked the identity of the alleged complainants. It was **agreed** that his response to the question would be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. In response to the question, Cllr Allen stated that he 'was not at liberty to answer the question'.

It was highlighted by Cllr Forrest that serious allegations had been made, which appeared to bring the integrity of himself, the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Clerk into question. Cllr Allen denied this, whereupon Cllr Forrest read the opening lines of Cllr Allen's email to the meeting. It was felt that the email clearly raised questions of legal and financial probity.

The Clerk advised the meeting that where serious concerns are raised, it is incumbent upon those raising the same to identify themselves. In the absence of identified complainants, there is no requirement to invest further time in the matter.

380.0 Minutes

MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council held on **Wednesday 19th December 2018** at Rockbeare Village Hall were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Forrest, **seconded** by Cllr Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the minutes would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Two in favour; 1 abstention. **Carried.**

381.0 Reports – None

381.0 Road Naming – Members discussed the naming of the new road at Highbank and **agreed** that the name Sydney Crescent, was the most acceptable.

381.0 Bus Shelter

381.1 The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been in contact with Peter Prior (Cranbrook Consortium Estate Manager) about the Parish Council owned bus shelter at the top of Clay Hill.

Whilst there is no problem with physically moving the bus shelter, several matters have to be taken into consideration.

Firstly, should we wish to move the facility onto other land, it is likely that the said land would belong to Devon Council. Therefore, consent must be obtained for positioning the bus stop on DCC land. There may also be a charge involved for placing the facility on such land.

Secondly, the cost of re-positioning the bus stop would fall upon RPC. That is, dismantling/ moving and rebuilding costs would have to be determined and agreed;

Finally, Mr Prior believed the bus shelter has an asbestos roof and, therefore, could not be reassembled. He added that the facility will have to be dealt with by a specialist company.

It was confirmed by Members that the bus shelter did indeed have an asbestos roof. Discussions ensued in respect of the purchase of a new shelter and the potential for an income stream derived from advertising.

Cllr Please stated that if it was incumbent upon Devon Highways to move the shelter, then they should be left to do so, therefore the cost of removal would fall upon that body. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would check various sources for funding to provide a new shelter. However, it is likely that this would have to be placed upon DCC Land.

382.0 Business and Finance

It was **proposed** by Cllr Forrest, **seconded** by Cllr Wollen and RESOLVED that the payments would be agreed and the Financial Statement accepted. Unanimous. **Carried**.

383.0 Updates

- 383.1 **Village Signs** – on-going. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact EDDC about this again.
- 383.2 **Highway Matters** – no change noted. The pipe at Westcott remains blocked (photographs provided to the Clerk, who will report this gain to Highways). There is a feeling that outlying districts are not afforded the same service (by Highways) as the village.
- 383.3 **Future use of Telephone Box in Rockbeare** – on-going matter. The shelving has now been purchased.
- 383.4 **Youth Matters** – the Clerk advised that she had written to Youth Genesis, inviting them to make arrangements for attendance at a meeting. She is still awaiting a response.

384.0 Flooding Update

- 384.1 **Gribble Lane** – The ditches have been dug and manhole covers with deep sumps have been installed.
- 384.2 **Trash Screen Maintenance** – The Clerk advised the meeting that she had emailed the gentleman who had agreed to clear the trash-screen but that she had received no response.
- 384.3 **Feasibility Study** – this matter was raised by Mr Randall. He stated that the Parish Council had wasted money on a feasibility study several years ago. He alluded to his wish for further work to be considered. Members stated that there had been no formal requests received, from the general public, for discussion on this matter. Mr Randall suggested that he could speak with others in the community. It was felt by some Members that such a course of action would not fall within the spirit of the Public Participation arrangement, the situation having been somewhat contrived.
- 384.4 For the purpose of clarity, the Clerk advised Mr Randall that the Council had discussed the matter of an attenuation pond at Marsh Green, and that it had been **agreed** that the Parish Council was not in favour of the same, on the grounds of both Health and Safety and Insurance problems. This matter will not be discussed further.
- 384.5 **Ditch Clearing** - Mr Randall advised the meeting that he was still awaiting contact from the appointed contractors about the general clearing of ditches.

The public meeting closed at 20:40 hrs

Part II Deliberations

It was **proposed, seconded** and unanimously agreed that Mrs Sue Wollen would remain for the Part II meeting.

Discussions were held in relation to a confidential matters.

It was **agreed** that anonymous matters will not be considered by the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 08:55 pm.

Next Meeting: 20th February 2019 at Rockbeare Village Hall

DRAFT