



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST 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); Cllr Peter Faithfull

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Readman and Forrest

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

Cllr Faithfull addressed the meeting in relation to issues on Warren Road, at the boundary between Rockbeare and West Hill. He advised Members that, on the West Hill side of the boundary (private road) approximately 40 tons of land fill has been dumped. A garage is being built (without planning permission) next door to the site.

The barbed wire fence between the road and the quarry, and the safety wire around the quarry, is missing, as is the fencing on the top road by a deep pond (reservoir) which backs onto the main Daisy Mount / Exmouth Road.

Cllr Faithfull alluded to the practice of 'Beating the Bounds'.

Cllr Faithfull stated that he would forward a copy of the old Tithe Map to highlight the area being referred to.

The Chairman undertook to inspect the area and report his findings to the next Parish Council Meeting.

AGENDA

516.0 MINUTES

516.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 15th July 2020 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Simon Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting of the 15th July 2020 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

517.0 REPORTS

517.1 Chairman's Report – On Wednesday 5th of August I attended a Zoom meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee at 10.00 a.m. Richard Bartlett was re-elected as Chairman. The planning application for the FAB project was discussed, construction due to start in 2022, Long Lane to be widened and improved.

Matt Roach the Managing Director of the Airport then gave a detailed resume of the past five months at the airport, starting with the demise of Flybe on the 4th of March, 40% of routes were taken up immediately only to be followed by all commercial flights stopping on the 23 of March because of the governments Covid 19 restrictions. Well over 200 airport and ancillary staff were furloughed, 4th of July Ryanair started flights to Malaga 24 July Logan Air began flights to Scotland and Skybus resumed flights to the Isles of Scilly, TUI then cancelled its Spanish flights due to quarantine concerns, September will hopefully see new routes to Newcastle and Belfast but as yet no plans to resume London City route. The airport faces a very uncertain future especially when the Government furlough scheme comes to an end

The moving of Tipton St. John Primary school to a site at Cadhay near Ottery St Mary may be a problem as it close to the location of one of the airport's beacon

Virtual meeting closed at 10.50

517.2 County/ District Councillors – substantial information has been received and disseminated to Members, on the subject of Covid-19. Cllr Bloxham invited questions on the same.

517.3 Cllr Randall-Johnson reminded attendees that there is a substantial amount of information about Covid-19 on the home page Devon Council website, as that is where the updated information and advice to people is posted.

517.4 There are 11 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Devon, with no deaths reported in the past week. The total number of deaths in the County Council area is 214. Total number of confirmed cases throughout the period is 1,238. As of the afternoon of the meeting, there are no persons in any Devon Hospitals (excluding Torbay) with Covid-19. No positive tests have been found in visitors.

518.0 PLANNING

518.1 Applications – None

518.2 Decisions - Noted

519.0 CORRESPONDENCE - none

520.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

520.1 It was **proposed** by Cllr Phil Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr Colin Please, and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of accounts payable, be accepted, and discharged. Unanimous. **Carried.**

521.0 LACK OF BROADBAND WIDTH AT WESTCOTT

521.1 Cllr Brodie advised the meeting that Westcott falls within the 5% of the country that will not receive 'faster broadband' anytime soon. Therefore, he has taken it upon himself to try to get BT Openreach to provide all of the properties in the area with a quotation for the installation of their service to each of the premises in the hamlet. There are approximately 14 interested parties at present and Cllr Brodie intends to carry out a 'leaflet-drop' in that area in order to determine any further interest.

521.2 Cloud Wireless in Torquay, have submitted a licence request to BT Openreach to utilise Openreach's poles for the erection of transponders in the (inter alia) Parish Council area, which would enable them to transmit a signal further, hopefully filling in some of the existing 'black spots'.

521.3 There are still black spots within the village, particularly at the bottom of Silver Lane – which is not furnished by the green cabinet at the top of the road. At present, half of the village can receive faster broadband and half cannot. It is the same at some spots on the London Road. This is not being helped with the construction of the new roundabout – which is disrupting the comms to the village. The current situation is also disrupting those who are working from home but there is not much that can be done until the cabinet at the roundabout site is moved.

522.0 LORRY WEIGHT LIMIT AT WESTCOTT

522.1 Cllr Forrest has raised concerns that lorries from the FAB project will opt to use the lane at Westcott, thereby causing problems in that area. Cllr Brodie advised the meeting that the situation should not arise as lorries from the project would be provided with adequate turning circles so that they can easily enter and exit the site. It is also believed that a slip road from the A30, into the site, is to be constructed. Long Lane is currently being widened to enable the lorries to access and exit the same.

522.2 It was highlighted that a similar problem exists at Silver Lane, where last week a lorry, which was destined for the airport ended up in the village, causing damage to property on the way. The lane is very narrow in places and there are very few passing places, therefore, the lane is unsuitable for long vehicles. It was felt that there should be a weight limit set for the lane. As a minimum, this should run from Higher Southwood Farm to the village. Cllr Bloxham stated that he would be happy to discuss the matter with Devon Highways.

522.3 In relation to the situation at Westcott (weight restriction), the problem remains about where to put the signage. There must be a suitable area for HGV's to turn around. Cllr Brodie suggested that any signage would have to be placed at the industrial area, so that there would be adequate space for lorries to turn around. The type of signage is also having to be considered ('advisory' or 'weight restriction' – the latter being more difficult to enforce).

523.0 UPDATE

523.1 **Telephone Box** - Cllr Susan Wollen asked the meeting if the Parish Council would agree to a sign being procured for the old telephone box, which advertised the box as a 'book-swap' facility. This had been done at Sampford Peverel and sounded like a good idea. It was **agreed** that the Chairman would obtain a sign, on behalf of the Parish Council, and arrange for the installation of the same- all costs to be met by the Parish Council.

523.2 The Clerk advised the meeting that it was necessary for the 'six-month rule' to be considered. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, they shall cease to be a member of the authority. The only exception is if their non-attendance has been approved by the authority before the expiry of the six-month period.

523.3 Advice from NALC states that where the 6-month rule is applicable, a co-opted Member can be co-opted back onto the Parish Council.

523.4 It was **proposed** by Cllr. Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Forrest would be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Unanimous. **Carried.**

523.5 Cllr Brodie stated that he would, for the next Parish Council Meeting, provide Cllr Forrest with an i-pad with 4G capability, so that he can join the meeting.

The Meeting Closed at 17:27 hrs

Next Meeting 16th September 2020