



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 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, Mark Readman, Ron Forrest, Susan Wollen, Phil Franklin, and Simon Brodie

Also: Cllr Randall – Johnson (Devon County Council), one member of the public. Sharon Thorne (TRIP)

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllr R. Bloxham, Cllr. K. McLaughlin

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION: There were no requests to address the meeting.

AGENDA

546.0 MINUTES

546.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 18th November 2020 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Franklin, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting of the 21st October 2020 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

547.0 REPORTS

547.1 Chairman's Report – None

547.2 Cllr Randall-Johnson (DCC) – Cllr Randall-Johnson reported that Cllr Bloxham had been hospitalized on the morning of 11th December 2020. He is now at home recovering. It is unlikely to be back to his Council duties before January 2021. Cllr. Randall Johnson requested that any matter requiring attention, should be directed to her, rather than Cllr Bloxham.

Devon County Council is about to enter its budgetary process. The Cabinet has recently considered the draft budget. At present, DCC is awaiting communication from Central Government, which will advise the body of the settlement sum for the next financial year. DCC is currently looking at a budget requirement sum of £571 million.

The Government has afforded DCC the opportunity to increase the ‘care element’ of its budget. It is anticipated that the ordinary Council Tax level will be set at the standard 1.99% and the additional will be specifically related to Adult Social Care.

The county has already received £42 million from Central Government to cover COVID 19 costs.

A substantial number of PCR tests are being undertaken across the county but there has been no information from government in relation to the success of the same. It seems that there are many positive tests being recorded that are non-infectious. However, these are impacting on the operation of the RD&E Hospital, which is currently in Opal 4 – the higher level of alert.

Cllr Randall-Johnson stressed that those who require medical help should ask for the same. The 111 service is particularly efficient at diagnosis and should be the ‘first port of call’. If necessary, that service can make the necessary arrangements for transfer to hospital if required. Where a caller be admitted to hospital (because of a 111 diagnosis) an appointment will be arranged at A&E, thus negating lengthy waiting times.

548.0 PLANNING

548.1 Applications

PA20/2762/FUL – Nightjar Cottage, Road from Quarry Cross to Allercombe Hill Cross, West Hill, EX11 1LA

Proposed single storey pottery studio within grounds of existing dwelling, and associated works. It was **agreed** that no comment would be made in relation to this application.

PA/20/1190/MRES - Cranbrook Phase 6 Land to The North of Southlands London Road Cranbrook Exeter EX5 7GB

Reserved matters comprising layout, scale, appearance, landscaping, and access for the construction of 311 dwellings and associated infrastructure (subsequent application in respect of permission 03/P1900 which was accompanied by an environmental statement). It was **agreed** that no comment would be made in relation to this application.

548.2 Decisions – Noted

549.0 CORRESPONDENCE

549.1 **Rockbeare Quarry Fencing Matter** – the Clerk advised the members that she had now received a response from Mr. Brian Wilshire, Aggregate Industries UL Ltd, which had been disseminated to Members.

549.2 The email highlighted the fact that the organisation was undertaking work to address the issues raised. The Chairman stated that although the response was not hugely satisfactory, it indicated that the company was making a move in the right direction.

Cllr Brodie added that quarry firms are generally quick at addressing matters raised because of the legal and insurance responsibilities involved.

549.3 **Monterey Pine, Bridge View, Rockbeare** – The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received a response from the Tree Officer at EDDC, which she had disseminated to all Members. She had also reported the matter to Devon County Council.

550.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Cheque	Payee	Sum
400833	Clerk – Salary & Expenses	697.00
		£697.00

The Chairman alluded to the Reconciliation Report and the matter of uncashed cheques. These relate to the purchase of signage for the Telephone Box.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie and **RESOLVED** that the accounts presented would be approved for payment. Unanimous. **Carried.**

551.0 TRIP FUNDING REQUEST

551.1 The Chairman invited Sharon Thorne from TRIP to address the meeting.

551.2 Sharon stated that she had forwarded a thank you, and an update re: the grant given by the Parish Council last year. The new minibus has been ordered and will be delivered in January 2021.

551.3 TRIP is currently attempting to address the isolation and loneliness issues which are currently prevalent in all communities. The organization wishes to extend the befriending service within the Parish of Rockbeare. This will comprise regular meetings (at Marsh Green), telephone befriending, trips out for lunch (post COVID 19). There have been three parishioners who have signed up to receive Christmas Lunch on the 25th December, a leaflet drop was undertaken in the parish, advising parishioners of the services available from TRIP (i.e.: ring and ride).

551.4 It was established that the organization was seeking a sum of £6,250, to develop the service in the parish of Rockbeare. It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie and **RESOLVED** that Rockbeare Parish Council would donate the sum of £6,250.00 to TRIP, for the establishment of support services within the Parish. Unanimous. **Carried.**

- 551.5 Cllr Readman requested that Sharon provide an article about the service, for publication in the next Parish newsletter.
- 552.0 MEMORIAL BENCH** – Cllr Susan Wollen advised the meeting that, following the death of Mr. Gerard Noel, a request had been made to the Parish Council that a memorial bench, dedicated to Gerard and Caroline Noel, might be purchased, and placed in a suitable spot in the village.
- 552.1 It was suggested that the most appropriate place to locate the bench would be on the bridle path. However, permission to place the bench on the same, would have to be sought from the Manor Estate.
- 552.2 It was agreed that the bench should be metal, cemented into place, to prevent unauthorized removal, and that a suitable plaque should be affixed to the bench.
- 552.3 It was **agreed** that the Clerk would undertake research into the procurement of a suitable bench.
- 553.0 PARISH NEWSLETTER** - Cllr Readman stated that he had been in contact with persons who previously delivered the Parish Newsletter. Some people were willing to help but there were still a few areas where delivery had not yet been catered for. Volunteers were being sought via Rockbeare Residents website.
- 553.1 Cllr Readman had also contacted previous contributors to the Newsletter, requesting that they, again, submit articles for inclusion.
- 553.2 It is anticipated that publication will be undertaken in January 2021.
- 554.0 UPDATES**
- 554.1 CLAY HILL CLEANING/ DRAIN CLEANING** – the Chairman advised the meeting that the cleaning of the drains on Clay Hill has been carried out by Devon Highways, the road was swept by the Consortium.
- 554.2** Enquiries had been received about the new mud bank (bund) at the top of Clay Hill (right hand side). The Chairman contacted Helen Selby (DCC Highways) who provided a copy of the architectural plan for the area. It was noted that the bund had been provided for in the plan and that the purpose of the same was ‘provided to prevent drivers from seeing through to the old alignment’. The bund is therefore a safety device.
- 554.3 **HYDRO LOGIC** – Cllr Brodie reported that he had spoken with a representative of EDDC who had advise him that, should the Parish Council elect to have the gauges removed at this juncture, then replacement of the same in the future would incur substantial costs (thousands of pounds). It was **proposed** by Cllr Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would pay the maintenance fee and work towards ensuring that the system is properly set up, in order to provide the required alerts to parishioners. This work is to be carried out by Hydro Logic under the terms of the agreement and, should the system not function properly by March 2021, further requests for renewal charges will be refused. A caveat is to be inserted into the agreement with Hydro Logic, whereby it is clearly stated that, should the system not function properly by March 2021, the

Parish Council will seek to recover the service charge and that no further payments will be made to that company. It was also **agreed** that once the system is operating properly, a 'grace' period would be requested. Unanimous. **Carried.**

554.4 SOUTH WOOD CROSS – this matter has been reported to Devon County Council.

554.5 MARSH GREEN SIGNAGE - the Clerk advised the meeting that she ha received an email from Helen Selby, in respect of Marsh Green Village signage. Members felt that it was inappropriate for DCC to expect Parish/ Town Councils to meet the cost of items which were the responsibility of DCC Highways department. This amounted to 'double precepting'.

554.6 The Clerk stated that she was not aware of any requirement for Town/ Parish Councils to meet these costs. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would correspond with Helen Selby on this matter.

554.7 ROCKBEARE PLAYING FIELD – the Clerk stated that she had contacted Saville's, who manage the Manor Estate. She had, discussed the granting of a long-term lease on the field, to enable its development for sport/ leisure activities. It was **agreed** that this matter would be placed on the January 2021 agenda, for discussion.

554.8 TRAFFIC ON TURKEY LANE – Cllr Please advised the meeting that he had received a complaint about the level of traffic on Turkey Lane Lane. Large transit vehicles choosing that route become stuck due to the narrowness of the same. Cllr Please asked if suitable signage could be placed at the Allercombe end of Turkey Lane at the Marsh Green Village Hall site, stating that the lane is unsuitable for transit vehicles/ lorries. Cllr Randall-Johnson stated that she would raise the issue with Helen Selby and ask Helen to liaise with the Clerk. In relation to the cost of signage, Cllr Randall Johnson advised that both she and Cllr Bloxham still had monies in the Locality Budget, and it may be possible to receive some funding from that source.

The Meeting Closed at 19.25 hrs

Next Meeting - 20th January 2021 to commence at 18.30 hrs