



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021

**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 and Simon Brodie

Also: Cllr Randall – Johnson (Devon County Council)

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllr P. Franklin, Cllr. R. Bloxham (Devon County Council)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

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

AGENDA

560.0 MINUTES

560.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Simon Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting of the Wednesday 20th January 2021 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous.
Carried.

561.0 REPORTS

561.1 **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that Cllr Kathy McLaughlin (EDDC) has resigned as a District Councillor, with immediate effect. It is likely that there will be a By-Election in May 2021.

561.2 On Monday 25th January 2021, the Chairman inspected the village signs at Marsh Green and noted the following:

- The sign at the bottom of Rockbeare Hill has disappeared entirely.
- The sign at Quarter Mile Lane, is barely legible and.
- The sign between Rockbeare and Marsh Green is fine.

Therefore, two signs require replacing, which the Parish Council will have to finance at a cost of (circa) £450.00. The Clerk is to ascertain whether that sum is for both signs, or for each sign and if this includes installation.

561.3 On Thursday 28th January 2021, the Chairman participated in a Zoom meeting with Mr. Mark Williams, CeX of EDDC where he was advised of the Cranbrook Governance meeting. The Chairman was advised that Cranbrook Town Council wishes to go ahead with the proposed expansion – including the planned development at the Grange Hotel location (PA 19/1798/MLUT) which is included in that plan. This is notwithstanding that none of the plan has been approved by the Planning Inspector.

561.4 **Cllr Randall-Johnson (DCC)** – Cllr Randall Johnson advised, in relation to the meeting with Mr. Mark Williams, that this was probably just a ‘tidying up exercise’. Cllr Randall-Johnson stated that she did not know if, as Whimple had done, Rockbeare had handed over any land to Cranbrook in the past. She added that, should Rockbeare wish to retain any such land, there would be a need to factor in the potential maintenance costs for issues arising in that area.

561.5 At present, Cranbrook Town Council does not receive any funding from EDDC for the running of the country park, or other facilities. The costs must be taken from the Council Tax. Should the Parish Council elect to retain such land and the proposed development proceeds, then the Parish Council would not receive any Section 106 monies for any community spaces included in the same. Therefore, the Parish Council would have to fund those facilities.

561.6 Devon County Council will be setting its budget on 18th February 2021.

561.7 The general roll-out for the Corona Virus vaccinations is going incredibly well. It is anticipated that 3,000 people will be inoculated at the West Point center each day. Cllr Brodie asked if there was a waiting list for unattended appointments. Cllr Randall-Johnson stated that she believed there was. She added that all Care Homes (apart from those who currently have cases of COVID-19 – less than 5% of care homes in the DCC area) have been provided with inoculations. Those establishments with COVID-19 cases will be addressed once the 28-day quarantine period has elapsed.

561.8 The Chairman praised the manner in which the inoculation programme had been managed in Devon.

562.0 PLANNING

562.1 P/A 21/0110/FUL – Lower Marsh Farm, Marsh Green EX5 2EX

562.2 This matter has already been passed, in relation to the conversion of the property into holiday lets. However, the applicant felt that creating a residential let would reduce the number vehicles in the village, as there would not be a weekly changeover.

Cllr Readman pointed out that any tenant residing in the property would create as much traffic as they travelled to and from the property. However, there is nothing in the Neighborhood Plan that would permit the Parish Council to object to the proposal, either for residential or holiday lets.

562.3 It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Readman, and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not object to the application. Unanimous. **Carried.**

562.4 Cllr Brodie raised the issue of broadband to Marsh Green. Jurassic Fibre Ltd still have not decided if they intend to put fibre into Marsh Green and West Hill. The internet speed at Marsh Green is about 2 meg (maximum). Once Cllr Bloxham is working again, the Parish Council should raise this problem with him.

562.5 **Planning Decisions** – Noted.

563.0 EAST DEVON COUNCIL – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE

563.1 Cllr Readman advised the Members that we have until 15th March 2021 to respond to the consultation. He explained that the situation had arisen because of a change in political leadership at EDDC and Government pressure has brought about the need for a new local plan. The original plan was agreed in 2016 and the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan was approved in 2018.

563.2 Going through the EDDC consultation document, Cllr Readman has responded to EDDC points by demonstrating the similarities between the new EDDC proposals and what is contained within our existing plan, and also emphasizing the strength of our main points (i.e. The protection of the countryside and the green wedge).

563.3 There were 32 questions within the EDDC Consultation document, to which Cllr Readman has responded to approximately 50%, the balance comprising multiple choice options. One main question (no.28) which related to the potential building of properties and the focus of where such development should be focused (West Devon/ local towns/ infill in villages). Cllr Readman suggested 'an even spread' in response to this point. He added that COVID-19 may have placed a different emphasis on business development, with more weight being given to home working. Therefore, the need for industrial estates and business parks being at an all time low. The demand for retail units will also be impacted, therefore, Cllr Readman believed that the Consultation is out of date.

563.4 The Chairman thanked Cllr Readman, stating that, as always, he had done a fantastic job in relation to drafting the Parish Council's response. The Chairman requested that his comment should be recorded in the Minutes for this meeting.

563.5 The document is to be submitted to EDDC on 18th February 2021.

564.0 CORRESPONDENCE

564.1 TRIP – two pieces of correspondence have been received. The first is a thankyou letter from the Chief Executive of TRIO and the second is a letter from the Rockbeare Co-ordinator. These will be disseminated to all Members and placed on the PC website. Cllr Readman

asked that Sharon Thorne be reminded about contributing to the Newsletter. It was also noted that the donation from the Parish Council had not been listed on the TRIP website. The Clerk will correspond with Sharon about this.

565.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- 565.1 Members considered the payment schedule provided within the Agenda papers.
- 565.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the additional payments would be appended to the schedule and that all invoices presented thereon would be paid. Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 565.3 The bank reconciliation was noted.

566.0 UPDATES

- 566.1 Village Signs – The Clerk is to determine the total cost for purchase and installation of the signs and to report the findings at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- 566.2 Signpost Replacement (Westcott) – this requires replacement. The angle of the post requires amending so that the finger directing traffic to Rockbeare does not point to the dead end (which should be identified as such). Consideration should be given to the advised route to Rockbeare from Westcott Green. The options are via Marsh Green (Quarter Mile Lane) or, via Southwood Cross.
- 566.3 Cllr Forrest stated that the road conditions for drivers were better along the Quarter Mile Lane route but only for 4 x 4 type vehicles (due to the degradation of the camber). For other vehicles, redirecting drivers via Southwood Cross to Rockbeare would be favourable.
- 566.4 It was **proposed** by Cllr Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Forrest and **RESOLVED** that a request should be made to Helen Selby to have Rockbeare bound traffic directed from Westcott Green via Southwood Cross and Silver Lane to Rockbeare. Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 566.5 Memorial Bench – it was **agreed** that the Clerk would correspond again with Jeremy from Saville's.
- 566.6 Rubbish Collection – Cllr Susan Wollen raised the matter of an email received from EDDC about fly tipping by bins in the village. It was highlighted in the email that recycle centres were in fact open. However, Cllr Wollen stated that there was a parishioner who undertakes a substantial amount of litter picking. This lady emailed EDDC stating that she did not have enough room in her bin for the litter collected and requested to be advised how she could best dispose of the same. She was advised to sort the litter out, place the recycling on her doorstep and place the rest in her bin. However, this lady was not prepared to do that because most of the rubbish consisted of broken glass and excrement. EDDC then stated that she should place it all by the public bins. Therefore, the photographs disseminated by EDDC, with the email, probably related to the actions of people who were told to place their rubbish there. Cllr Randall-Johnson stated that it may be worth a telephone call to Street Scene at East Devon, advising them of the situation and asking, if given

prior warning, the rubbish could be collected. Cllr Brodie elected to communicate with the appropriate agency to try to resolve the problem.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Next Meeting: 17th March 2021.