



**ROCKBEARE  
PARISH COUNCIL**

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## MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2021**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Jeremy Wollen (Chairman) and Cllrs: Colin Please, Ron Forrest, Susan Wollen and Phil Franklin

**Also:** Cllr. Richard Lawrence (EDDC)

**Parish Clerk:** Carolyn Y. May

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Mark Readman and Simon Brodie

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Forrest (Item 600.0 – declared at time of discussion).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:** None

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### AGENDA

#### 595.0 MINUTES

595.1 The Minutes of the meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Susan Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Phil Franklin, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

#### 596.0 REPORTS

##### 596.1 Chairman's Report

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, I attended a meeting of the A.A.C, at Exeter Airport. We were fortunate to be given quite a unique meeting point, on the mezzanine floor within the Walker Hangar, looking down on work being carried out on three 72-seater passenger planes, being prepared for imminent service. There was a brief discussion about the green elements of flying over driving (domestic flights) as road congestion cannot be quantified. It would seem that, at present, passengers are still apprehensive about flying abroad and the possibility of having to quarantine upon return to the UK.

Andrew Bell, C.E.O of Regional and City Airports, gave an interesting talk on the current situation, and the future. At present, there are very few international flights, but as restrictions ease, these should increase.

Engineering work at the airport is very busy, and Exeter Aerospace is actively recruiting new staff. There are currently 30 permanently employed staff members.

Work is proceeding on Long Lane with more passing places being created, and a new bus stop being installed. This means that busses will be routed behind the training centre, with that road forming part of the on-going improvements.

The FAB Project is still active. However, due to circumstances, serious delays to the same have been experienced. The original completion date was 2025. However, that target is no longer achievable.

The airport will continue to operate under COVID 19 prevention measures, even after July 19<sup>th</sup>.

There is to be a trial flight, from Exeter to Newquay, of an Electric aeroplane. I have been kindly invited to the launch (date TBA).

#### 596.2 **EDDC Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Richard Lawrence addressed the meeting. He commenced by explaining the impact of COVID 19 testing on travellers, and those administering the tests. The whole process currently adds approximately £600.00, per couple, onto the cost of a holiday. Testing is carried out both at departure and arrival and even those planning to use the Channel Tunnel attend at the airport testing centre prior to embarking on their journey.

Cllr Lawrence advised the meeting that although the Conservative Party at EDDC has a majority of seats, all other parties (if voting together) outnumber the former. Whilst EDDC is entitled to hold meetings with the full 60 Members, it is currently favouring smaller meetings involving circa 15 Members (a representation from each political group). This, in effect, means that Cllr Lawrence may have to delegate his responsibilities to his electorate, to other persons. He does not agree with this, as conflicts of interests can easily arise.

Cllr Lawrence provided a copy map, highlighting the proposed extension of Cranbrook. He stated that most of the proposal seems to be SANGs land. However, there is no way of knowing if there is an intention to build on such land in the future. A problem arises where land is designated SANGs land but is in another Parish, as the parish in which the land lies is then responsible for the upkeep of the same.

The EDDC Councillor has been on touch with the POWER group, in respect of the mooted expansion. At present, that group is not sure of the wording which they intend to use in its petition, it has to be something that can be realistically achieved.

Cllr Lawrence alluded to the inspector's report on the matter, alluding to the requirements set out in the same. It was felt that EDDC would not be able to comply with the Inspectors requirements and, without the same, her report cannot be finalised in early course.

He thanked the Parish Council for its support in this matter and advised that there was a large group of persons, of differing political persuasions, who wished to get on board to

resist the plans. It is important that we all act together, making it difficult for EDDC to resist the pressure.

The Chairman stated that doing nothing was not an option. There is a very strong feeling throughout the parishes that 'enough is enough'. Rockbeare does not wish to see any development south of the old A30 and Whimble does not wish to see expansion over Cobden Lane.

Cllr Forrest asked how Cllr Lawrence proposed that people can be brought together in order to object to the expansion – this will take a lot of work.

Cllr Lawrence responded by stating that POWER would be willing to do that work, however, Parishes have to determine how best to promote the action within the Parish.

Cllr Wollen (Chairman) stated that it was important that the Parish Council to set up a petition in the parish magazine and to reconvene with the POWER Group.

## **597.0 PLANNING**

### **597.1 Planning Matter 21/1688/MFUL**

597.2 It was **agreed** that the proposed development does not fall within Rockbeare Parish.

## **598.0 Correspondence**

598.1 Mr David Stam – re: No Man's Land

598.2 Rockbeare School – re: Garden

## **599.0 BUSINESS & FINANCE**

599.1 Members considered the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation.

599.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr Susan Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Forrest, and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments would be accepted, and the liabilities discharged. Unanimous. **Carried.**

599.3 The Bank Reconciliation was accepted.

## **600.0 MILLENIUM FIELD**

600.1 The Chairman alluded to the current condition of the Millennium Field at Marsh Green. He stated that the field was overgrown and not accessible. Cllr Forrest stated that, should the situation be discussed with Devon Wildlife, they would say that we are doing the best thing by leaving it as it is. The area is providing habitat for wild plants and animals. He acknowledged that the area requires management and suggested that the Parish Council should contact both Devon Wildlife and the Hedgehog Group, who would maintain the area for the Parish.

600.2 The Chairman questioned the validity of the Parish owning the field at all. The PC is obliged to maintain an area which is not used. And suggested that it may be worth considering disposal of the same.

- 600.3 At that juncture, Cllr Forrest stated that he was obliged to declare an interest as he was a member of a group that would be interested in purchasing the area. He asked if he should leave the meeting. The Clerk suggested that Members should vote on the matter.
- 600.4 It was **proposed** by Cllr. Susan Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Phil Franklin and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Forrest would not be asked to vacate the chamber during the extant discussion. Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 600.5 Cllr Wollen (Chairman) then stated that, the lease of the Village Hall/ Field, expires in 2023. He stated that he would like to see the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council work in partnership, writing to the agents of the Manor to request a new lease for 25/ 50 years. If this could be achieved, the monies available from Sport England, the sale of the Millennium Field and a donation from the Parish Council, might be used to provide an all-purpose, indoor, sports hall for the Parish. To maintain the building, concessionary rates for Parishioners would be available, with a higher rate being charged to non-Parish Groups wishing to use the facility. It must be remembered that Cranbrook is close by and that it is likely that there were several groups from there, which would use the hall. This cannot, however, be progressed until an agreement is reached with Savills.
- 600.6 The Chairman proposed that, in the meantime, the Parish Council should expend monies to 'tidy up' 'no man's land' and the entrance and hedges to the Millennium Field. Councillor Susan Wollen is to contact Devon Wildlife about the Millennium Field. Cllr Wollen (Chairman) to contact an appropriate contractor for quotations re: 'no man's land'.
- 600.7 It was **proposed** by Cllr Wollen (Chairman), **seconded** by Cllr. Susan Wollen, and **RESOLVED** that the area known as 'no man's land' would be cleared and that the Parish Council would meet the cost of the same, Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 601.0 GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS – deferred**
- 602.0 UPDATES**
- 602.1 Defibrillators – SWA is unable to undertake this work at present - Deferred
- 602.2 Silver Lane – No response, yet. Cornwall Council Officer not available.
- 602.3 August Meeting - TBA

#### **PT 2 CONFIDENTIAL (BY REQUEST AND APPROVED)**

- 603.0** Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were asked to leave the chamber. **Proposed** by Cllr Wollen (Chairman), **seconded** by Cllr Please. Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 604.0** Audio Equipment – It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED**, that the appropriate equipment would be purchased. Unanimous. Carried.
- 605.0** Clerks Remuneration – It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's remuneration would be set at Band LC3. Unanimous. Carried

The meeting closed at 7.08 pm