



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Jeremy Wollen

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MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH 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, Susan Wollen, Simon Brodie and Phil Franklin

Also: Cllr Ray Bloxham (Devon County Council). Mrs Lucy Sellers

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (Devon County Council)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION: Mrs Lucy Sellers addressed the meeting, in relation to the issue of the lack of street lighting in some areas of the village. In particular, the lack of lighting on the corner, by the Primary School was alluded to and the dangers for pedestrians and school children highlighted.

Mrs Sellers identified the need for appropriate lighting to be provided at the Corner of Stoneylands, and at the bridge (on the opposite side of the road from Stoneylands).

The Clerk stated that this matter had been raised previously and that there was, in fact, correspondence between the Parish Council and Western Power on the issue. It was **agreed** that Cllr Bloxham would raise the matter with Devon CC (Highways) and that the Clerk would locate the previous correspondence and forward the same to Cllr Bloxham.

AGENDA

567.0 MINUTES

- 567.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Simon Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr

Colin Please, and RESOLVED that the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday 17th February 2021 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous.
Carried.

568.0 REPORTS

568.1 **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that the signage for the telephone box 'library' had now been installed.

568.2 **Cllr Ray Bloxham (DCC)** – Cllr Bloxham was welcomed to the meeting.

568.3 B3174 Road Closures - Cllr Bloxham reported on the proposed timetable of closures for the B3174 works, to deliver new eastern transmission main for the provision of district hot water and heating to the eastern parts of Cranbrook. This is to replace the temporary energy centres, that are currently in situ.

568.4 The planned works will be carried out in three phases, and planned road closures are as follows:

Phase 5A Traffic Management Plan – 6th April to 14th May 20221 – Younghayes Road to Treasbeare Cottages.

Phase 5B Traffic Management Plan – 17th May to 25th June 2021 – Treasbeare Cottages to Parsons Lane.

Phase 7 Traffic Management Plan – 28th June to 3rd September 2021 – Parsons Lane to Court Royal.

568.5 Whilst no guarantees can be provided, in relation to the implementation of the timetables, it can be clearly noted from the maps provided (Appendices A, B & C) that closures of sections of the B3174, these will involve disruption being kept to a minimum for local road and public transport users.

568.6 Cllr Bloxham added that he advertised diversion is rather long, and that he had questioned this matter. The roads through Cranbrook (which he felt sure that most locals would use, to avoid the closures) are unadopted and that Highways England has declined consent for the use of the A30, as there are some works planned there too. Consequently, the advertised diversion is via Daisymount, Halfway and the B3052.

569.0 BROADBAND PROVISION

569.1 Mr. Matt Barrow (DCC) addressed the meeting in relation to the matter of the provision of 'superfast' broadband provision for the rural areas of Devon.

569.2 Mr. Barrow advised the meeting that the group, with which he is working, is tasked with arranging the provision of superfast broadband (30 megs p/s) across Devon and Somerset. It is intended that the provision will extend to those areas deemed 'not commercially viable' by the major providers.

569.3 Phase 1 of the project has now been completed. This phase related to work carried out in partnership with BT, in order to update the 'green cabinets'. He added that of 380 premises

in Rockbeare Village, 200 currently receive superfast broadband. Those properties are situated near a green cabinet. However, with the copper wire system, the broadband speed reduces at distance, and at approximately 1.2km from a cabinet the drop is noticeable. Consequently, wider parts of the Parish are not currently being well served by broadband.

- 569.4 Phase II of the project commenced but had to be cancelled after 2.5 years, due to the non-performance of the contractor, who did not manage to complete more than 2% of the contract, in total. However, this phase of the contract was re-tendered, and work is currently underway with a different contractor.
- 569.5 Rockbeare falls into Lot E, of the new contract (Clusters E8 and E10). Whilst there are still areas within the Parish which will be without superfast broadband (properties which are not likely to be picked up by the contracts) these properties will not receive less than 24 megs p/s.
- 569.6 If lockdown is lifted soon, it is anticipated that there will be a 'staycation' summer season, which (in turn) will see a much-increased number of visitors to the area, and on the roads. As the projects require work to be carried out on the roads, it may be necessary for the order of works to be altered to accommodate this and some properties may be placed into other clusters.
- 569.7 Cllr Brodie asked what infrastructure was being put in place to facilitate the delivery of superfast broadband. Matt advised that Airband (contractors) will install a full fiber system. Therefore, no wireless connection is required for the system. The new system will not be linked with the current copper wire arrangement.
- 569.8 Timescales for provision of the service will be published in the next few weeks.

570.0 PLANNING

- 570.1 None considered.
- 570.2 **Planning Decisions** – Noted.

571.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- 571.1 It has been noted that lorries are still being driven across Westcott Green.

572.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- 572.1 Members considered the payment schedule provided within the Agenda papers.
- 572.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments would be accepted and that all invoices presented thereon would be paid. Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 572.3 The bank reconciliation was noted.

573.0 HYDRO LOGIC SERVICES

- 573.1 Members discussed the on-going non-performance of the flood alert system. Yet again, during heavy rain and high-water levels, residents did not receive any warning from Hydrologic yet, the Environment Agency provided a warning 6 – 7 hours in advance of the potential flooding.
- 573.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie, and RESOLVED that the Clerk would correspond with Hydro-Logic and cancel the contract. Unanimous. **Carried.**

19:17 hrs Cllr Bloxham withdrew from the meeting.

574.0 PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CRANBROOK CGR

- 574.1 Members considered the response to the Cranbrook CGR, prepared by Cllr Readman. It was **agreed** that the document would be forwarded to the relevant parties by the Parish Clerk.

575.0 RETURN TO PHYSICAL MEETINGS

- 575.1 The Clerk advised the meeting that the legislation, permitting the holding of Parish Council meetings by Zoom, was shortly to come to an end (May 2021), unless an extension to the agreement could be obtained from Central Government. Local Associations and Councils have given their support to an extension however, preparations must be made to return to physical meetings to address any possibility of the extension being refused.

756.0 SIGNPOST CHARGES

- 756.1 The Clerk appraised Members of the charges for new village signs for Marsh Green.
- 575.1 It was **proposed** by Cllr Jeremy Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie, and RESOLVED that the Clerk would correspond with Devon County Council to arrange for the installation of the new village signs. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The meeting closed at 7.40 hrs pm.

Next Meeting: 21st April 2021.