



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr. Jerry Wollen

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON

TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Wollen J., Wollen S., Forest, and Franklin

Also: Three members of the public.

Clerk: Carolyn May

AGENDA

Prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting, Members received a presentation from Melvyn Baldock (Inspiring Connections), in respect of defibrillator options for the parish. Rockbeare Manor has kindly offered to purchase a machine for Rockbeare, whilst the Parish Council intends to provide a commensurate machine for Marsh Green.

Members considered three different models of defibrillator and two designs of lockable cabinets. Maintenance and training costs were also discussed.

Cllr Wollen thanked Mr Baldock for his presentation.

Apologies: None

739.0 Declarations of Interest: None

740.0 Questions from the Public

A member of the public advised the meeting that 'No Man's Land' at Marsh Green had been cleared. However, the detritus emanating from the clearance had not been

removed. A problem may arise if there is heavy rain, which will result in the area drains being blocked again.

The area next to Rose Cottage has also been cleared and EDDC have now accepted responsibility for that piece of land, and it will now be scheduled for regular maintenance.

741.0 Co-option of New Councillors

Rebecca Nequest and Adele Roberts were co-opted as Members of the Parish Council.

Proposed by Cllr S. Wollen, seconded **by Cllr J. Wollen** and RESOLVED. Unanimous. **Carried.**

742.0 Minutes

742.1 The Minutes from the Parish Council meeting, held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 were considered.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr S. Wollen, and RESOLVED that the Minutes would be accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

743.0 Reports

743.1 Cllr J. Wollen stated that, prior to the extant meeting, he had received a telephone call from the Chairman of Upottery Parish Council. Cllr Wollen was advised that EDDC had deemed, through a points system, that four villages were considered unsustainable in the Local Plan. These are Upottery, Colyford, Woodbury Salterton and Rockbeare. The unsustainability label means that no development will be permitted within their boundaries until 2040 - due to lack of amenities. Cllr J Wollen advised the Chairman of Upottery that Rockbeare is in a different position to the other three villages (each of which were out on a limb). Rockbeare is being engulfed by Cranbrook, particularly with the proposed Treasbeare and Cobden sites, therefore we would not be seeking the construction of new properties. The restriction will likely result in local schools being closed and bus services being stopped, turning these villages into potential ghost towns. The initiative is being led by Mr Ed Freeman of EDDC, and there is a Webinar being held on Thursday at 7pm to discuss this proposal. Papers will be available. It was highlighted that this decision overrides any Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. J. Wollen concluded by stating that this would be his last meeting as a Councillor of Rockbeare Parish.

There were no other reports.

744.0 Warm Spaces/ Parishioner Support

744.1 The Clerk reported that an event had been held at the land at Birch End, on Saturday 12th November. Several people had attended, and Inspiring Connections were continuing to liaise with parishioners.

745.0 Planning

745.1 No planning applications had been received by the Clerk.

745.2 Planning decisions were 'Noted'.

746.0 Correspondence

- Letter from Rockbeare Manor – Defibrillator

747.0 Business and Finance

747.1 Members considered the schedule of payments for October 2022. Cllr Forrest advised of an amendment required in respect of the invoice from Mr Hopkins. It was believed that the invoice included a sum of £900, which had already been received by the gentleman. The sum was, therefore reduced to £525.

747.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr s. Wollen, and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments for September 2022 would be approved, and invoices discharged. **UNANIMOUS. Carried.**

747.3 Cllr Forrest suggested that the Parish Council should transfer £50,000 into a separate bank account, and earmark the same for the acquisition of a sports pitch.

748.0 Land Acquisition Proposal

748.1 The Clerk reported that, as a result of the recent Parish Council event, several matters had been raised with Members, including: a request that the Parish Council take over the maintenance of the grass at Delia Gardens and Stoneylands. These areas are both thought to be EDDC property. In particular, the Delia Gardens area was deemed to be a danger to elderly and vulnerable residents – due to the growth and detritus on paths within the complex. Other problems highlighted included the failure to maintain the grass square at the site, thereby preventing its use by residents during good weather and; the congregation of groups of youths at the bench close to the site. Residents stated that they felt intimidated by the same. The Clerk suggested that an approach should be made to EDDC, requesting the transfer of the highlighted areas to the care of the Parish Council, so that the body might arrange for maintenance of the same.

748.2 Members were of the opinion that EDDC would be reluctant to divest the land to the Parish Council but agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries of EDDC. In the event that EDDC does not wish to transfer the land, the Parish Council would then ask for a maintenance agreement to be set up.

748.3 There was some doubt in relation to the ownership of the land at Stoneylands, this would have to be clarified.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Forrest, **seconded** by Cllr M Nequest, and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would commence discussions with EDDC in respect of the land at Delia Gardens and Stoneylands. Unanimous. **Carried.**

748.4 Cllr Forrest asked if any further consideration had been given to the purchase of a piece of land for a possible sports complex and meeting area? He suggested that the Members should discuss the allocation of £50,000 to a separate bank account, specifically for the purpose of acquiring land for the said purpose. The Clerk highlighted the fact that the lack of available, suitable space in the Parish presented a problem.

748.5 A brief discussion ensued, relating to the Rockbeare Parish Field. The Clerk stated that she had been in contact with the owners, who were not of a mind to sell the field. Members discussed the problems with dogs being permitted to foul on the Rockbeare Field, despite their being a 'No Dogs' sign at the entrance. The failure to enforce the dog ban was discussed, with Cllr Forrest highlighting the problem that such fouling caused for sports teams using the field (particularly the Rockbeare Rockets).

The absence of the children's football training on the field was noted. Cllr Forrest advised that, apart from the dog fouling problem, Cranbrook has turned semi-professional in terms of junior football/ It appears that the Cranbrook team is appealing more to local children. Cllr R. Nequest stated that it should be determined if the Rockets are still training on the field and, if not, why not? If the reason is down to dog fouling, then the Village Hall committee should be asked to address the matter.

Cllr S. Wollen stated that the appearance of dogs on the field commenced during Covid. Cllr J. Wollen stated that enforcement of the rule was the responsibility of the Rockbeare Village Hall Committee.

749.0 Ford Oaks Solar Farm Update

749.1 Cllr Forrest advised the meeting that Mr Hopkins was still seeking information relating to grade 3a and b land yield. The issue of removing Grade 3b land is still being debated by Government, if such a move is agreed, we have no way of knowing if this will be effected prior to the determination of the Marsh Green Solar Farm application.

749.2 Cllr Forrest is still awaiting the report for Highways

749.3 Cllr J. Wollen asked if Members had noted the report submitted by Mr Julian Turnbull, shortly before the meeting. The document is a fifty-page report from EDDC.

750.0 Millennium Field Update

750.1 Cllr Forrest reported that work to the hedges could not be undertaken at an earlier point in time, due to the laws relating to nesting. Work had been commenced in October with all of the hedges adjacent to the road being cut, outside and inside. Paths have been cut to the left and right of the gate. We are now at the point where volunteers are required to help fell tree limbs to enable the tractor to reach the other areas of the hedge.

750.2 The matter of the condition of the Millennium Field had been raised by Parishioners the Parish Council event on the 12th of October. A group had been identified, which could take over the management of the site, following the necessary clearance. Prior to any work being undertaken to the area, a number of trees would have to be removed. It was felt that the wood from these could be cut up and made available to parishioners.

It was **proposed** by Cllr S.Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr M Nequest, and RESOLVED three quotations would be obtained for the felling of trees, and that the work would be undertaken expediently, preferable by the end of November. Stoneylands.

750.3 Cllr Forrest reported that he had attended at the land on Quartermile Lane and inspected the perimeter of the Parish Council land. It would appear that householders adjacent to the site have unlawfully extended their boundaries onto Parish Council land.

750.4 It was **agreed** the Cllrs Forrest and M. Nequest would attend at the site to inspect the same, and that Office Entry copies for the said properties would be obtained from the Land Registry. Thereafter any encroachment onto Parish Council land would be addressed.

751.0 Defibrillator

751.1 Members discussed the purchase of defibrillators and cabinets.

It was **proposed** by Cllr M. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr R. Forrest, and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would procure two IPAD SPI Defibrillators (at a cost of £1,520 each) and two square cabinets (at a cost of £600 each). A training package would also be purchased (at a cost of £200) .UNANIMOUS. **Carried.**

752.0 Election of Chairman

752.1 Due to the resignation of Cllr J. Wollen, Members were required to elect a new Chairman for the Parish Council.

It was **proposed** by Cllr S. Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr J. Wollen, that Cllr Franklin be appointed to the position of Chairman.

It was **proposed** by Cllr M. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr R. Nequest, that Cllr Forrest be appointed to the position of Chairman.

A vote was then held, and the result tied at two votes each.

Discussions ensued and Cllr Forrest stated that he was of the opinion that in such a matter, the Vice Chairman was automatically placed into the role. The Clerk advised that she had taken advice on the matter from DALC and had been informed that there was no automatic appointment of the Vice Chairman and that a full vote would have to be undertaken.

Cllr Forrest articulated the view that he was the most qualified to undertake the task of Chairman, and that he would not be willing to act as Vice Chairman to the other candidate. Cllr. J. Wollen considered the matter and utilised his casting vote in favour of Cllr Franklin.

It was **proposed** by Cllr S. Wollen, **seconded** by Cllr J. Wollen, and RESOLVED that Cllr Franklin would be appointed to the position of Chairman. Two in favour, two against. Casting vote in favour. **Carried.**

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Next Meeting November 15th at Marsh Green Village Hall