



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr. Phil Franklin

Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON

TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Franklin (Chairman), M. Nequest, R. Nequest, W. Down

Also: Cllr Richard Lawrence (EDDC) and four members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs A. Roberts, S. Randall-Johnson and H. Gent (DCC)

Clerk/ RFO: Carolyn Y. May

AGENDA

776.0 Declarations of Interest - Cllr. Down – Rockbeare Rockets Football Club

777.0 Questions from the Public

778.0 Rockbeare Rockets - Mr Martin Stephens, Chairman of the Rockbeare Rockets Football Group addressed the meeting. He provided Members with a brief update in respect of the makeup of the group, its progress and future ambitions.

The group now has approximately 60 members (22 are Rockbeare Residents, and a further 7 are affiliated to the Parish through their attendance at Rockbeare Primary School). The remaining club members are from other towns/parishes in the area.

The club wishes to become affiliated to the Football Association (FA), in the near future. This will incur substantial expenditure by the group.

To facilitate the FA application, a full management committee has been established.

It is hoped that the group will be able to field an 'under 11 years' team next season.

A grant funding application has been submitted by the group to the Parish Council.

779.0 Approval of Minutes

779.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 were considered.

779.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr. M. Nequest **seconded** by Cllr R. Nequest and RESOLVED that the Minutes would be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

780.0 Co-option of New Member

780.1 The Chairman welcomed Cllr Wayne Down to the Parish Council.

781.0 Rockbeare Parochial Church Council (PCC) - Grant Application – Brought Forward at the discretion of the Chairman.

781.1 Mrs Mary Franklin and Mrs Hazel May addressed the Parish Council, in respect of an application submitted on behalf of the PCC, for grant funding.

Mrs Franklin outlined the necessary work to be completed at the Rockbeare Church Cemetery. The work was considered by Members to be substantial, and Cllr Nequest asked if the PCC required monetary funding , or use of the contractors currently engaged for other projects by the Parish Council. The former was requested.

Further discussion ensued, and the Clerk advised the Members that the PCC had not been awarded a grant by the PC in previous years. The cemetery is open to all and there are a number of people who like to visit the same.

781.2 It was **proposed** by Cllr. M. Nequest **seconded** by Cllr R. Nequest and RESOLVED that the PCC would be awarded the sum of £2,400, to enable the schedule of works provided to be completed Unanimous. **Carried.**

782.0 Co-option of New Member

782.1 The Chairman welcomed Cllr Wayne Down to the Parish Council.

783.0 Reports

783.1 **Chairmans Report** – The Chairman reported that he had attended the Warm Rooms events. He highlighted the fact that the weekly gathering had been very busy, and that the same was of great benefit to the community.

There have been five sessions to date and the last meeting saw over sixty people in attendance. Consideration would be given to continuing with this project.

The Newsletter has been well received by Parishioners. Two more volunteers have help to deliver the same in the future.

783.2 **EDDC Councillor Report** – Cllr Lawrence advised Members that the Treasbeare Expansion Planning Application would be discussed by EDDC Planning Committee next week. He was

keen to learn which areas, alluded to in the Rockbeare Neighbourhood Plan, were likely to be included in the Application.

Cllr Lawrence stated that he felt that there had been many changes at government level, since the application had been viewed by the Barrister.

- Food shortages have arisen and, therefore, there is now a greater need to preserve farmland.
- Furthermore, parts of Cranbrook are not currently being built.
- The heating system for the existing Cranbrook development is problematical and not coping with the current demand, therefore it is fair to question how the system will cope with a substantially higher demand.
- There has been no investment in infrastructure (the provision of a sewage processing plant).
- South West Water has not asked if it can cope with the demand from new properties.
- Parishes have been granted a greater say in what is being built in their area.

It is therefore believed that a coherent and factual argument could be put forward in an attempt to reduce the impact of the proposed development.

784.0 Correspondence

784.1 TRIP Funding Application (Letter) – Members considered a letter received from TRIP, in which a request for funding had been made.

Members noted that the organisation was not dedicated to the Rockbeare area, and that substantial donations had been made in the past. The Parish Council has now moved the befriending service forward, through the provision of the Warm Rooms project, which was likely to be continued.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr M. Nequest, and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not provide funding to TRIP, on this occasion. Unanimous. **Carried.**

784.2 Rockbeare Rockets Funding Application

Members inspected the application for funding, submitted on behalf of the Rockbeare Rockets. The total value of the application totalled £3850, split into two parts;

- Essentials (£2099.99)
- Required in the Future (£1,749.99)

It was acknowledged that the Rockets had received funding from the Parish Council in the past (totalling circa £1,800). Part of that funding was intended to finance training/ fees etc. Approximately £700 of the initial grant of £1,400, remains unspent, therefore, it was felt that affiliation and DBS Check costs should be met from that sum.

One Member queried the request for 'Coaches Kit' (£700.00), suggesting that adults should procure their own items (as is the case with most other sports coaches).

The issue of funding for two separate kits was also raised. Members felt that a 'home' and a separate 'away' kit was not necessary.

It was **agreed** that the application would be discussed further under a Part II (Confidential) discussion.

784.3 EDDC Co-option Advice - the Clerk read out the advice received from the Elections Officer, relating to Co-option and the six-month rule. This confirmed the legitimacy of the co-options to date.

785.0 Business and Finance

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr M. Nequest, and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's salary, expenses and HMRC invoices would be paid. Unanimous. **Carried.**

786.0 Planning Matters

786.1 PLANNING APPLICATION 22/2824/OUT – The Littlefield Land, South of Hazel Grove, Rockbeare - Outline application (all matters reserved) for the construction of up to four dwellings.

Members considered the documentation relating to the application. Members also considered the objections raised by Parishioners at the meeting of the 17th ultimo. It was felt that there were no legal reasons to object to this application, and that potential flooding and intrusion will have been considered by Planners.

No objection

786.2 PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0184/VAR - Lower Marsh Farm Marsh Green Exeter EX5 2EX

Members considered the documentation relating to the application and determined that there would be **no objection to the application.**

786.3 PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0175/LBC - Lower Marsh Farm Marsh Green Exeter EX5 2EX

Members considered the documentation relating to the application and determined that there would be **no objection to the application.**

DECISIONS – Noted

787.0 Warm Spaces

787.1 Sharon Thorne gave an update on the Warm Spaces Project. During the recent half-term break, the take – up of the amenity was exceptionally high. Although reduced numbers are present during the rest of the period, there are still a fairly large number of people who attend each week.

787.2 The Parish Council discussed the future of the project. Members were of the opinion that the benefits provided to parishioners, justified the cost. Members were keen to ensure that the project continued past the trial period.

- 787.3 It was **proposed** by Cllr. M. Nequest **seconded** by Cllr R. Nequest and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would enable the project to continue following the end of the trial period. Unanimous. **Carried**.

788.0 Parking Area within Rockbeare Village

The Clerk confirmed that she had undertaken an investigation of the usage of the Parish Council Parking Area in Rockbeare.

Members discussed the matter further.

It was clear to those present that the manner in which vehicles were parked at the site could not be challenged, in light of the absence of marked parking bays, and that Rockbeare Parish residents had a right to park their vehicles there.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Franklin that the parking area should be upgraded. Tarmac should be laid, and five parking bays marked out. Should it be necessary, bays could be reserved for residents (to be rented) and one bay reserved exclusively for disabled parking. Remaining bays would be available for any other person wishing to park (including residents).

It was suggested that should the prevailing situation continue, there would be little alternative other than to convert the area into a garden/seating area. The Parish Council does not own any other land suitable for parking, and the site itself is unable to accommodate every vehicle seeking to park in the area.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. M Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr R. Nequest, and RESOLVED that the matter would be progressed. Unanimous. **Carried**.

789.0 Mobile Shop Project – deferred.

- 790.0 **Land Acquisition** - The Clerk advised Members that, prior to making an application for the transfer of land at Delia Gardens, there would have to be a consultation with parishioners. Cllr Franklin suggested that the area at Stoneylands might also be considered for transfer. The site is unkempt, and he felt that parishioners would appreciate the area being kept neat and tidy.

791.0 Policies - deferred.

792 MILLENNIUM FIELD UPDATE

- 792.1 Cllr Nequest gave a brief update in relation to the project. Contractors have now started to thin the trees at the site, and paths are being cut. It is intended that a 'kissing gate' should be installed at the entrance to the area.

The procurement of a suitable store has been undertaken, and it is felt that electricity to the same should be installed.

- 792.2 A letter from a Marsh Green parishioner, appertaining to the Millenium Field Project, was read out to those present. Inter alia, the letter alluded to the proposed gated entrance, a lack of consultation and the proposal that the area should be maintained by the Marsh Green Hub.

792.3 Members discussed the letter, and the following observations were made;

- The matter has been listed as an Agenda item for the past several months. At no time had the parishioner attended a Parish Council meeting in order to discuss the project.
- Discussions relating to the project have been well documented in Parish Council Minutes, on notice boards in the area, and in a letter, delivered to households.
- A meeting was organised, and held, in the village. The author of the letter had been specifically invited to attend but had declined the invitation (indeed, only one Parishioner attended the meeting).
- It was always the intention that the Parish Council would finance the clearing of the Millennium Field, and that parishioners would maintain the same. Indeed, there has been a great deal of enthusiasm for the project among several parishioners.
- The Millennium Field is a Parish Council asset, which is being improved mainly for the benefit of parishioners. It is only fitting that parishioner volunteers should participate in the maintenance of the same.

792.4 The installation of appropriate play/ exercise equipment at the site was discussed. It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr, Down and **RESOLVED** that the sum of £20,000 would be made available for that part of the project. Unanimous. **Carried**

793.0 BIRCHEND PLAN

793.1 It was **agreed** that the Birchend site would be used to provide a seating area for parishioners, and a play area for young children (under 7 years). The site is totally enclosed and is, therefore, suitable for the proposed works.

793.2 It was felt that the nursery, and pre-school classes should be invited to provide an input into the equipment to be installed. The Parish Council is keen to provide an exciting, dedicated and safe area for all parishioners.

793.3 It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr, Down and **RESOLVED** that, initially, the sum of £10,000 would be made available for that part of the project. Unanimous. **Carried**

793.4 It was **agreed** that further funding should be sought from other providers, to increase the amount available for both the Millennium Field and Birchend Projects.

PART II

Confidential Discussions

8.35 pm.

794.0 Due to the confidential nature of the discussions to be held it was **proposed** by Cllr R Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. M. Nequest and **RESOLVED** that the meeting would enter into Part II deliberations, and that the public and press would be required to leave. Unanimous. **Carried.**

794.1 Discussions relating to the Rockbeare Rockets Funding application were entered into.

It was **agreed** that the following items would be purchased by the Parish Council, by way of a donation to the Rockbeare Rockets:

- Goal Posts (16ft x 7ft) x 2
- Goal Post Ties
- Safety Barriers x 2
- First Aid Kit x 1
- Football Pump x 1
- Cones

Proposed by Cllr R Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. M. Nequest and **RESOLVED** that, in principle, that the Parish Council would purchase the said items for the Rockbeare Rockets Football Club. Unanimous. **Carried.**

794.2 It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would purchase, for its retention as parish assets;

- Line Marking Machine x 1.
- Line Marking Kit x 1.

The line marking equipment to be available for local groups and schools – on request.

Proposed by Cllr R Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Franklin and **RESOLVED** that Parish Council would purchase line marking equipment, to be retained as a Parish Asset. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The meeting closed at 8.51 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st March 2023