



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr. Phil Franklin

Clerk: Carolyn Y. May
A209, Victoria Advent House,
Station Approach
Victoria, Roche,
Cornwall PL26 8LG

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11th March 2024

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

To all Members of Rockbeare Parish Council

You are hereby summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, to be held at **6pm**, on Tuesday 19th March, at Marsh Green Village Hall, for the purposes of transacting the following business:

Carolyn May

Clerk to Rockbeare Parish Council

AGENDA

All Councillors are politely reminded of their obligation to declare interests under the Code of Conduct.

Please Note: This meeting will be recorded.

- 1.0 APOLOGIES:** To receive apologies for absence.
- 2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** To receive declarations of interest.
Members – please remember that you must declare any personal or prejudicial interest at the start of the meeting. Please ensure that you state the reason for your interest, as this must be included in the Minutes of the meeting. If your interest is a 'Declarable Pecuniary Interest' then you must leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.
- 3.0 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Strictly 15 minutes in total. Thereafter, members of the public may not enter discussions without the express permission of the Parish Council Chairman.**
- 4.0 MINUTES:** Minutes Of the last Meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on 12th February 2024 to be signed as a true correct record of that Meeting (Appendix A).
- 5.0 REPORTS**
 - 5.1 Chairman's Report
 - 5.2 County Councillors Report – DCC Report (Appendix B)

5.3 EDDC Councillor's Report

5.4 Any other reports

6.0 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

7.0 WARM SPACES / PARISHIONER SUPPORT – Cllr Franklin to report

8.0 PLANNING

8.1 To consider Planning Applications – Appendix C

8.2 To consider Planning Applications received since the date of this Agenda.

8.3 To receive, and note, details of Planning Determinations - Appendix D

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Re-siting of sign at Rockbeare Parking Area

New Innovation & Resilience Fund opens 8th April

10.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

10.1 Schedule of Payments – to follow.

11.0 MILLENNIUM FIELD PROJECT – Update

12.0 BIRCH END - Update

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave.

Next Meeting: 19TH MARCH 2024



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DRAFT MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

12TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Cllr. Franklin (Chairman), Cllrs. R. Nequest and M. Nequest

Also: Cllr T. Olive (EDDC), and two members of the public

Parish Clerk: Carolyn May

AGENDA

87/23 Apologies – Cllr. A. Dunn, Cllr. R. Dunn, Cllr Sarah Randall - Johnson (Devon Council)

88/23 Declarations of Interest - None

89/23 PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Tracey Brookes addressed the Members, in relation to the issue of vehicles speeding through the village of Rockbeare.

Mrs Brookes stated that her driveway leads onto the main road through the village. She has been very concerned, frightened, and appalled at the speed of motorists who drive through the village, it seems that a lot of drivers tend to ignore the speed limit sign completely.

This situation affects her family as they tend to use the driveway for access to the house.

Mrs Brookes believes that the speed limit in the village should be reduced to 20 mph , making it safer for pedestrians who use the road for walking where there are no footpaths.

A large number of drivers do not appear to acknowledge the sign for the playground by the village hall; the fact that there is a bus stop on both sides of the road; or the school signs when lights flashing.

Mrs Brookes asked if it would be worth starting a petition or campaign to try to change this the speed limit in the village?

Mrs Brookes is also very concerned about the area where the children enter/ exit the school.

Mrs Brookes also mentioned the lack of pavements, along the main road, in the village along the main road, stating that she found it very difficult to walk along the road in the village without having to walk in the road due to lack of pavements.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Mrs Brookes had communicated with the PC and that advice had been provided previously. It had been explained that the issue of speeding traffic had been addressed by the PC on several previous occasions.

Traffic speed/ roads and pavements are matters that should be raised with Devon County Council (Highways), as these do not fall within the remit of the Parish Council. It had been explained to the parishioner that several suggestions had been put forward by the PC, none of which had been accepted by either Devon CC/ Devon & Cornwall Police. One argument put forward for non-action, by DCC, was the fact that there had been no reported accidents/ fatalities in the village. Therefore, there had been no evidence to support an application for a reduction in traffic speed. This is the benchmark used to support any application.

An offer had been made by the PC, to place illuminating speed signs at the entrances to the village had been dismissed by the police, on the basis that there is no evidence to support the view that such signs make any discernible difference to speed.

Again, Mrs Brookes was advised to raise her complaint with DCC, via Cllrs Randall-Johnson and Gent.

90/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on 16th January 2024

Members considered the draft Minutes for the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on 16th of January 2024.

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

91/23 REPORTS

Chairmans Report

Sign at Parking area – The Chairman reported that he had written to Cllr Gent (DCC) in relation to the sign that is currently sited at the parking area in Rockbeare. It has been suggested that this could be moved to a position next to the post box.

Warm Rooms/ Hub – the Chairman reported that he had attended the Hub. The venue is being well used and is a valued amenity.

County Councillor Report

Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC) - This report had been disseminated to Members, prior to the meeting. Report 'noted' and appended at 'A'.

EDDC Councillor Report

Cllr. Olive reported:

- **Cranbrook Governance Review** – a review is to be undertaken, which will impact on Rockbeare Parish. It is intended that a public meeting will be held, to which the Parish Councillors will be invited. Any agreed changes will not take effect until 2027.
- **Green Wedges** – EDDC is undertaking a review of 'Green Wedges' and is considering cutting these by 75%. This will affect the wedge between Rockbeare and Cranbrook, at the point of the Cranbrook expansion. There will be a further report in relation to this matter, in March 2024.

92/23 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors. It was **agreed** that these would be advertised in the usual manner.

93/23 WARM SPACES

Sharon Thorne addressed the meeting in relation to this matter. She reported that she was happy that the amenity was being used by a substantial number of people, with a wide mix of age groups.

The issue of 'signing in' was raised. Members felt that the practice was important and must be enforced for two main reasons:

- **Safety** – in the event of an untoward incident, all patrons will have to be accounted for. Therefore, an accurate list of those present is required.
- **Monitoring Usage** - It had been previously noted that many of those attending the Hub had, in fact, not been parishioners of Rockbeare. Many users were from Cranbrook, Honiton, and Ottery. This situation was one that had to be managed, due to the costs involved.

It was accepted that many attendees did not sign in at the door to the Hub, therefore an accurate record of usage was not available. Sharon advised the Members that, due to her being required to work in the kitchen, she was unable to enforce the 'signing in' rule.

Members suggested that a second person could be appointed to undertake the enforcement of signing in. Sharon advised that not all persons who attended actually stayed for the duration of the event, therefore, it was likely that no one person could be appointed to undertake the task. Members felt that Inspiring Connections was being paid to run the event, and that it was the responsibility of the organisation to find a solution to this situation.

Costs - it was highlighted by the RFO that the Hub had, thus far, cost in the region of £17,000, and that this sum would likely rise to £20,000 by the end of the 2023/24 Financial Year. The RFO highlighted the fact that the amenity had cost substantially more than had been agreed. This is public money and it is incumbent upon the Parish Council to obtain 'best value'.

Members voiced their concern at the number of non-parishioners who were obtaining free food at the Hub. It was felt that the Parish Council should not be subsidising those who did not contribute to the precept. Or offer a donation towards the cost of the facility.

Sharon advised the meeting that a contributions jar had been placed in a prominent place at the venue – this had raised a total of £6.00. Members felt that it was inappropriate that attendees from out with the parish were not contributing to the project in a meaningful way.

Sharon also advised the Members that consideration had been given to fundraising activities, and that there would be a joint fund raiser (fashion show) with Rockbeare Primary School.

In an effort to reduce the cost of the facility, Members were of the firm opinion that all attendees should be obliged to sign in at the door to the hall, and that all **non-parishioners** should be required to pay the sum of £2.50 per person. Parishioners would continue to have **free** access to the Hub. This proposal would be implemented from the 22nd of February 2024, and the result reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting. At present, no charge would be made for children attending the Hub.

It was **agreed** that this change would be advertised on Facebook.

It was **proposed** by Cllr M. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. R. Nequest and **RESOLVED** the sum of £2.50 per person, for non-Rockbeare Parishioners, would be charged for attending the Hub, and partaking of hospitality. Unanimous. **Carried.**

It was **proposed** by Cllr M. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. R. Nequest and RESOLVED an approach would be made to Morrison's Supermarket, requesting that they donate fruit to the Hub (for children). Unanimous. **Carried.**

94/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application – PP12719553

Address - Land South of Hazel Grove, Rockbeare

Proposal – Approval of Reserved Matters

Members considered the matter. Mrs Brookes stated that the access at the site would only exacerbate the current traffic problems in the area.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr. R. Nequest and RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not object to the application but that a comment relating to traffic speed would be appended to the response. Unanimous. **Carried.**

PLANNING DECISIONS – Noted

95/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered a number of email items received.

It was **proposed** by Cllr M. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Franklin and RESOLVED the correspondence would be accepted as a resignation by Cllr Brodie. Unanimous. **Carried.**

96/23 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

96/23.1 Members considered the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Rebecca Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Franklin, and RESOLVED that the schedule of payments would be accepted, and the liabilities discharged. Unanimous. **Carried.**

96/23.2 The Bank Reconciliation was accepted.

97/23 MOBILE SHOP PROPOSAL

Cllr Franklin had discussed the proposal further, with Cllr. A. Dunn. It was **agreed** that the provision of this service would be too difficult. Having read the prepared business plan, and considered the SWOT analysis, it was felt that the dependence on the goodwill of volunteers would leave the parish open to substantial losses.

98/23 MILLENIUM FIELD UPDATE

No further work has been undertaken. However, a suitable storage unit has been identified. The Clerk is to ascertain whether planning permission is required for 4 corner foundations. In order to ensure that the structure remains in keeping with the area, it is proposed that it should be timber clad.

Rat poison has been found on the field. This has now been removed. It was **agreed** that further incidents would be reported to the police.

99/12 BIRCH END

The covenant to be discussed, again, with the person who donated the land. Cllr Nequest confirmed that he had spoken with the donor, who had indicated that he had no objection to the proposals put forward by the Parish Council.

It was **agreed** that a local solicitor would be identified to deal with the land transfer, and that suitable seating would be sought to be place on the site in the first instance.

100/23 DEFIBRILATOR AT MARSH GREEN

Cllr M. Nequest reported that SW Power had advised him that the power would be cut to the unit unless a suitable electricity (unmetered supply) supplier could be found. Enquiries had not been fruitful. However, EDDC has a supplier, and Cllr. Oliver stated that he would enquire about the defibrillator being connected to that supply. It was **agreed** that Cllr M. Nequest would email Cllr Olive with the details of the unit.

The public meeting closed at 19.20 hrs.

101/23 It was **proposed** by Cllr R. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Franklin and **RESOLVED** the Parish Council would, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, enter into confidential discussions.

102/23 It was **proposed** by Cllr M. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Franklin and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's remuneration would be raised by one full scale point. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The Meeting Closed at 19.40 hrs.

March 2024 - DCC Monthly Report

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson

Covid 19 update

As we approach the 4th anniversary of the first Covid 19 lockdown in England, on the 23rd of March 2020, it's hard to forget the stress, anxiety, economic hardship for many and a genuine fear that the worldwide pandemic brought with it. It seems a very long time ago that we were forced to change how we lived our lives overnight, often being separated from family members, working from home and not being able to socialise in person being just a few things that the uncertainties Covid inflicted on us.

While Covid 19 may have largely disappeared from most of our lives, the impact of the lockdown is still having an unwelcome legacy of slow economy recovery high energy costs (matters elsewhere contributing to that) and long standing health waiting lists.

Our local Nightingale Hospital is the only one in the country which has been adopted to deliver elective (non A&E) urgent treatment.

Devon Diagnostic Centre

The Devon Diagnostic Centre is an extension of the Medical Imaging Department at the Royal Devon Eastern (previously RD&E), and is where you may be invited to attend if you need a CT, MRI, Plain Film X-ray, Ultrasound or Fluoroscopy services. This range of technology is used to help diagnose, monitor or treat a range of conditions.

They provide diagnostic services to patients from across Devon, with referrals from Royal Devon Eastern Services (previously RD&E), Royal Devon Northern Services (previously NDDH), Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (TSDFT) and University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust (UHP).

The department is open for outpatient appointments from 8am – 8pm, 5 days a week, currently seeing approximately 225 patients per day.

South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre

Orthopaedics is the branch of surgery that looks after your body's musculoskeletal system, including your bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles and nerves.

In addition to running two operating theatres for day cases, our team at the South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre (SWAOC) also carry out short stay elective orthopaedic procedures. They are experienced in every aspect of orthopaedic health.

Patients from across Devon and beyond are being cared for at SWAOC, including;

[Royal Devon – Eastern Services \(previously Royal Devon and Exeter\)](#)

[Royal Devon – Northern Services \(previously North Devon Healthcare Trust\)](#)

[Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Somerset NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Their staff pride themselves on being part of this highly specialist team and their mission is to provide the best care possible for people with orthopaedic conditions.

Centre of Excellence for Eyes

Ophthalmology is a branch of medicine and surgery which deals with eye disorders, including cataracts, glaucoma and medical retina.

At the Centre of Excellence for Eyes (CEE) which is based at the NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter, we provide low complexity cataract surgery as well as diagnostic imaging for monitoring and diagnosing glaucoma and medical retina problems.

Patients from across Devon will be cared for at the CEE, with referrals from;

[Royal Devon – Eastern Services](#) (previously Royal Devon & Exeter)

[Royal Devon – Northern Services](#) (previously North Devon Healthcare Trust)

[Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[University Hospitals Plymouth](#)

The CEE team at the Nightingale consists of Ophthalmic Surgeons, Surgical Trainees, Specialist Nurses, Theatre Support Workers, Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) and Eye Healthcare Professionals such as Optometrists and Specialist Practitioners, supported by a great team of Ophthalmic Technicians.

Rheumatology Department

Rheumatology covers the treatment of medical disorders which affect the musculoskeletal system, particularly the joints, surrounding soft tissues and organs.

They see patients with various types of arthritis, osteoporosis, connective tissue and autoimmune conditions, and we offer a wide range of clinics to diagnose, care and treat the whole spectrum of rheumatic disease.

The Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's rheumatology services has relocated to the Nightingale.

[NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter \(nightingale-exeter.nhs.uk\)](https://nightingale-exeter.nhs.uk)

Highway – winter update

Following the very difficult winter last year the DCC Asset Management and the Network Response teams have worked very closely together through late summer and autumn to prepare for the winter season. Because of this hard work and the milder winter, the service has recorded 5,500 safety defect potholes in January, slightly below the 7-year average (5,926). This compares well to the 7,500 in 2023.

The significant reduction in the gritting operations mentioned above frees up resources to continue the planned patching operations, again helping to reduce safety defect potholes across the county, but prolonged wet weather in the last few months does not help matters when trying to make repairs to the highway.

Changes have now been made to the 'front end' of the public 'report a problem' website, <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>. Additional information will help provide inform future enhancements and will highlight that members of the public can add themselves to existing reports, rather than duplicating reports.

Gully cleaning operations have slipped behind programme due to the high number of extreme weather events the Service has responded to this year, as well as a series of unexpected equipment breakdowns. Main DCC Highways contractor Milestone

Infrastructure have worked hard to get this back on programme and are confident that all programmed gullies will have been attended by the end of March.

A lot of work has been put into addressing drainage referrals raised by the cleaning gangs. Over 14,000 gully issues have been resolved this 2023/24 financial year across Devon; however, the backlog remains high with new issues identified as quickly as the old ones are being tackled.

The joint trial with Devon's Flood team to place gully sensors in selected streets in Devon is in now live. The data recorded will provide insight into whether technology can be used to inform policy or reaction for cyclical gully cleaning. The trial intends to run for an 18-month period.

Is your food bill eating away at your weekly budget?

If so, a few simple measures can help save money and reduce waste too.

A Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) Food Trends survey last year found that despite the Cost of Living crisis, people are still wasting food that could otherwise have been eaten.

Food prices remain the number one food concern for almost three quarters of participants, and nearly one in four (24%) reported struggling to keep up with household bills. Yet, food waste is still on the rise for four key products – milk, potatoes, chicken and bread.

Keep Cool

Keeping the fridge temperature between 0-5°C can help keep food fresh for three days longer than usual. If you want to test how cold your fridge actually is, an easy way is to use a thermometer. If you do not have a fridge thermometer, pop a regular thermometer into a glass of water and leave it in the fridge for a few hours. Try not to open the door as this can affect the reading. It is worth checking as the average UK fridge temperature is set at least 2°C too warm!

Know Your Dates

Understanding the difference between use by and sell by dates can save perfectly edible food from being thrown away.

'Best before' refers to the quality of the food and your food will be at its best when used before the date given. After this peak freshness date, it might not be at its best, but it will still be safe to eat. You can use your senses to make a judgement.

Here's a quick guide to a few key food items and how long they are likely to remain edible after the best before date:

- Biscuits – six months
- Canned food – 12 months
- Cereals – six months

- Confectionary – 12 months
- Crisps – one month
- Dried pasta – three years!
- Pasta sauce – 12 months

'Use by' refers to the safety of the food. You must not eat food past the 'use by' date. You cannot always smell the bacteria that causes food to spoil, so after the 'use by' date, the food may appear perfectly fine to eat, but it could be unsafe. You can freeze food right up to and including the 'use by' date. If you are not sure you will eat it in time, freeze it for another day!

'Display until / sell by' is for retailers' attention only.

Reducing the amount of food we waste is a simple way for households to save money and reduce carbon emissions. 60% of UK food waste comes from households, having a value of £17 billion a year and is associated with [18 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions](#).

If we kept food waste out of the black bin, it would save £2.8m a year in disposal costs.

[Using up leftovers](#), [making the most of our freezers](#) and understanding use by dates are just a few ways to help prevent food waste, and save money too. When food waste is unavoidable, it can still be put to good use. Either recycle using your food waste caddy (where available) or [compost at home](#). [Check here to see if there is a food waste collection in your area](#).

ENDS

Reference	24/0366/VAR
Alternative Reference	PP-12819010
Application Validated	Tue 05 Mar 2024
Address	Rockbeare Hill Quarry Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2HB
Proposal	Variation of additional condition added (by NMA dated 26 January 2024) to planning permission 16/1464/MFUL to allow the use of the building for operations falling under Use Class B2 General Industry and/or B8 Storage and Distribution Use. Variation of condition 4 of planning permission 16/1464/MFUL to vary the approved drainage strategy
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown

Reference	24/0394/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12749749
Application Validated	Thu 29 Feb 2024
Address	Rockbeare C Of E School Rockbeare EX5 2EQ
Proposal	Replacement Modular Unit
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown

Reference	24/0488/OHL
Alternative Reference	

Application Validated	Fri 23 Feb 2024
Address	Land Near Westcott Lane (Land At Marsh Green Farm) Exeter EXD5 2LU
Proposal	New 132kv tee off connection from tower 81AC21
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown

Reference	24/O215/VAR
Alternative Reference	PP-12759258
Application Validated	Fri 23 Feb 2024
Address	Land At Marsh Green Farm Marsh Green EX5 2EU
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans), 5 (Construction Traffic Management Plan), 9 (Ecological Mitigation, 13 (Drainage) of planning permission 22/O990/MFUL (Construction and operation of a ground mounted solar farm) to allow changes to the approved substation and associated infrastructure contained within field parcel D4 including ground works to create level platform and revised solar panel layout
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown

Reference	23/2617/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12650310
Application Validated	Thu 04 Jan 2024
Address	Brake View Rockbeare Hill Rockbeare EX5 2EZ
Proposal	Demolition of existing bungalow, erection of a replacement bungalow with associated works.
Status	Approved
Decision	Approval with conditions
Decision Issued Date	Wed 28 Feb 2024
Appeal Status	Unknown