



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr. Phil Franklin

Clerk: Carolyn Y. May
A209, Victoria Advent House,
Station Approach
Victoria, Roche,
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9th April 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 16th April 2024, 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 19th March 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 RESIGNATION OF CLLR.

7.0 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

8.0 PLANNING

8.1 To consider Planning Applications – None at date of publication.

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

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

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

10.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

10.1 Schedule of Payments – to follow.

11.0 MILLENNIUM FIELD PROJECT – Update

12.0 BIRCH END – Update

13.0 20 MPH - Update

Next Meeting: 21st May 2024



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DRAFT MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

19TH MARCH 2024

PRESENT: Cllr. Franklin (Chairman), Cllr. M. Nequest, Cllr A. Dunn, Cllr. R. Dunn

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

Parish Clerk: Carolyn May

AGENDA

103/23 Apologies – Cllr. R. Nequest, Cllr Sarah Randall – Johnson, Cllr. H. Gent (Devon Council)

104/23 Declarations of Interest - None

105/23 PUBLIC SESSION

Baker Estates – Mr P. Butler and Ms N. Stacey, representatives from Baker Estates (Development Company) addressed the meeting.

The company wished to consult with the Members of the Parish Council, in relation to the proposed development at the far end on Rockbeare, which will be part of the Cranbrook Extension Plan. It was acknowledged that the proposed, small housing estate planned by Baker Estates will be built on the 'Green Wedge', east of Gribble Lane, and south of the A30.

Mr Butler acknowledged that the land earmarked for the development does, in fact, fall within the parish of Rockbeare, and is referred to in the Cranbrook Development Plan as 'The Grange'.

However, EDDC has plans to subsume the Grange area of the extension into Cranbrook, thus denying Rockbeare Parish the opportunity to benefit from increased precept and CIL payments.

Meeting attendees were advised that, at present, surveys are being undertaken and that plans for the site will be available by the end of April 2024. The site will include SANGS, to satisfy environmental and green space requirements.

It was agreed that the development company will write to all householders in the parish in respect of the proposed development. Consultation events will also be held at Cranbrook and Rockbeare. A link

to the consultation website is to be provided to the Parish Clerk in early course. This link will then be added to the Parish Council website.

One member of the public present asked how Rockbeare would benefit from the proposed development. Mr Butler advised the meeting that a 'neighbourhood centre' would be incorporated into the plans. The centre would provide, inter alia, a shopping area, café's etc.

Mr Peter Faithfull advised the meeting that, initially, Cranbrook (south of the airport) was to provide for 2,900 properties, this was then increased to 4500, the again to 8,000. Recently, Mr Faithfull was told (by SWW) there are now to be 20,000 homes in the area outlined.

Cllr Todd Olive (EDDC) advised the meeting that there is to be a Parish Boundary Consultation (organised by EDDC) and that any changes would not be made until 2027 at the earliest.

Signpost for Prickly Pear Cross - Mr Peter Faithfull raised the matter of the lack of signage at Prickly Pear Cross. He added that the original, fingerpost, sign, identifying the area, had been removed. Mr Faithfull requested that Devon County Council should be asked to provide a new sign. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would make a request to DCC Highways department, to replace the missing sign.

20 mph Speed Limit - Mrs Tracey Brookes addressed the Members, in relation to this issue. Mrs Brookes stated that she had communicated with the two local DCC Councillors. Cllr Gent had advised that THE Parish Council could still submit an application, to Mr Chris Parkes at DCC, requesting that the village of Rockbeare be designated a 20-mph area.

Mrs Brookes had also spoken with Mr Adrian Berendtt, Co-ordinator for the '20 is Plenty' campaign, in relation to the provision of appropriate signs.

106/23 It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr Nequest, and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should apply to DCC, requesting that Rockbeare should be designated a 20mph zone. Unanimous. **Carried.**

It was further suggested by Mr Adrian Berendt, to Mrs Brookes, that the speed sign located at the boundary of Rockbeare towards Marsh Green is going to be moved anyway, because of the new development proposed on Land South of Hazel Grove Rockbeare (see 24/0120/RES) and therefore It is an ideal opportunity for the speed limit sign to be changed to 20mph at the same time.

Rockbeare Rockets – Ally (name) introduced herself as the new (title) of the Rockbeare Rockets Football Club.

Ally highlighted to the Members that she was keen to engage with the Parish Council on a regular basis. She provided the following update, in respect of the club:

- There are between 70 and 75 children attending training (from the wider area).
- The club is now Football Association affiliated.
- The under 11 years team now plays in the local league.
- There is an under 8 years team.
- There is an under 9 years team (which provides for children with special needs).
- Training for the under 7 years age group has commenced.
- Training for the under 6 years age group will commence shortly.

107/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on 12th FEBRUARY 2024

Members considered the draft Minutes for the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on 12th. It **proposed** by Cllr. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. A. Dunn, and **RESOLVED** that the Parish the Minutes would be accepted as a true representation of the meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

108/23 REPORTS

Chairmans Report – No report

County Councillor Report – Appended at A

EDDC Councillor Report – Appended at B

Cllr. Olive reported:

- **EDDC Emerging Local Plan** – a Section 18 Consultation is to be held on the Emerging Local Plan (including the proposals for the reduction of ‘Green Wedges’), Cllr Olive is to hold a consultation event.
- EDDC is trialling ‘Kerbside Nappy Collections’.

109/23 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Mrs Tracey Brookes indicated her willingness to serve as a Parish Councillor n RPC.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr Franklin, and **RESOLVED** Mrs Tracey Brookes would be co-opted to the Parish Council, as a Member. Unanimous. **Carried.**

Cllr Brookes joined the Members at the table.

110/23 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 (40-50 each week), with a wide mix of age groups.

The signing-in process appeared to be working, and the Clerk commented that it was ‘heartening’ to note that a large number of attendees were parishioners. Charging for non-parishioners has been implemented, with monies collected being deducted from the PC Invoice from Inspiring Connections.

111/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application – 24/0366/VAR - Noted

Application - 24/0488/OHL – Noted

Application – 23/0394/FUL – no objection.

PLANNING DECISIONS – Noted

112 /23 CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that a skip had been placed on Parish Council land in Rockbeare (newly surfaced parking area). Permission had not been sought from the Clerk for this and there was concern that the new tarmac may have been damaged.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would write to the householder responsible for the siting of the skip, advising that such action was not permissible.

113/23 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

113/23.1 Members considered the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation

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

13/23.2 The Bank Reconciliation was accepted.

114/23 MILLENIUM FIELD UPDATE

The first phase of the project is almost complete, with the final stages of planting and re-wilding being undertaken. The final part of the path is to be completed. It was noted that, despite torrential rain, the field has not flooded.

Phase 2 of the project is currently being agreed. Ideally, a board walk around the site would be installed. This would enable visitors with disabilities to easily access the area. The approximate cost of the walk way (which would be DDA compliant and constructed of wood – with suitable picnic areas) is £95,000.

Grant funding opportunities are to be researched to assist with this phase.

115/12 BIRCH END

It was **agreed** that Cllrs Franklin and Dunn would appoint a local solicitor to deal with the land transfer, and that suitable seating would be sought to be placed on the site in the first instance.

The meeting closed at 19.30 hrs.

April 2024- DCC Monthly Report

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson

As we move towards spring and summer, it seems that our traditional four seasons are now more like the Northern Territory of Australia with just two, the wet from November to April and the dry, May to October.

Unfortunately, our wet season seems to be far longer than the dry one, having a detrimental impact on the Devon Highways network, particularly in rural areas where the potholes are all too obvious to see, appearing on what are effectively former cart tracks with tarmac on the top. In urban areas, most roads are purpose built with proper foundations that are generally more robust.

This state of the public highway is by some distance the item that features most in conversations and correspondence with constituents and below is a more detailed report on how this last winter has gone for DCC Highways who are trying to keep up with rising demand, combined with limited human and financial resources.

Winter 2023/24 Highways update

DCC has established a 'Planned and Reactive Maintenance: Potholes and Drainage Task Group' first reporting in March 2019 and an updated Performance Dashboard Report has now been produced to Councillors.

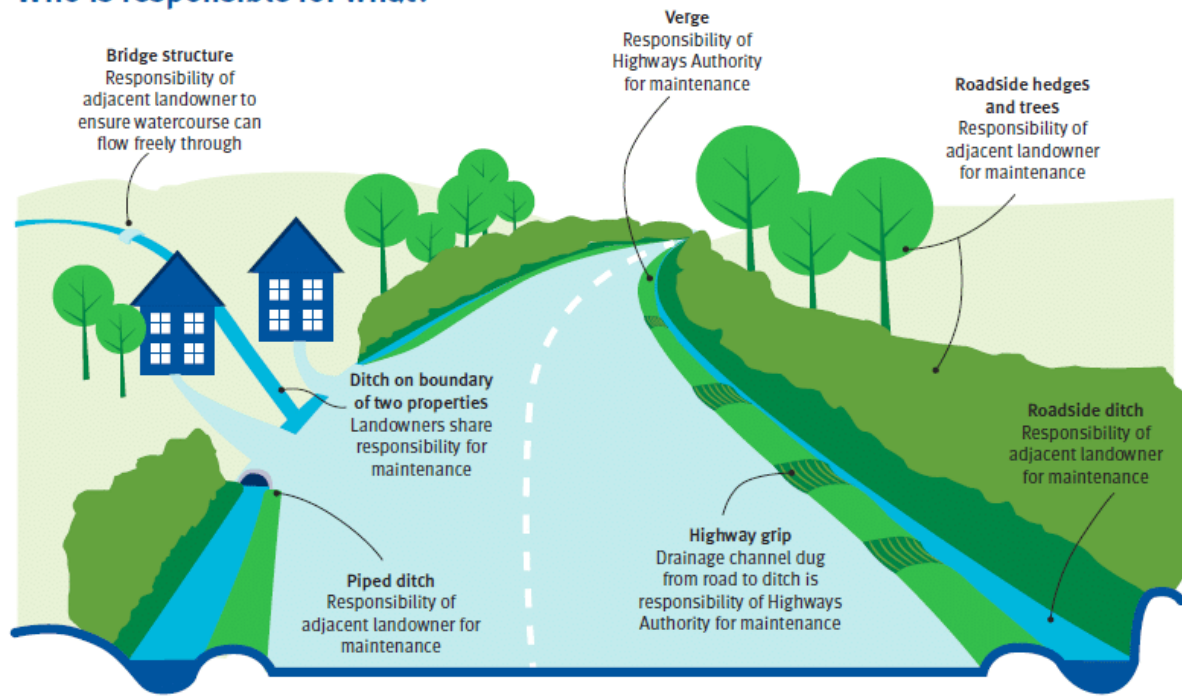
As is typical for the winter period, DCC Highways the Service has recorded a gradual increase in the number of publicly reported pothole defects (PIPs) since November, mainly via the 'Report a Problem web site. A team of Highway Safety Inspectors undertake assessments, using extended weekday and weekend working where resource allows. The Main contractor called Milestone are currently in the process of recruiting three additional permanent inspectors to assist in driving further efficiencies and timely inspections.

There have been more pothole defects this financial year than 2022/23. Whilst a further 12 months of network deterioration has occurred, the impacts on network condition of the relatively early and harsh freeze/thaw cycles experienced during last winter (2022/23) were felt deep into the summer months of 2023, added to by a number of severe storms and torrential rainfall.

Additional in year Government funding of £7.5 million is enabling more reactive, short notice and planned works, including minor hand patching and dragon patching will be delivered on the minor network in Devon as a result of it.

While there have been challenges around plant breakdowns and availability relating to gully cleaning, it is anticipated the programme to clean 150,630 gully assets will be completed on time for the current financial year. The additional high pressure jetting resource is currently resolving approximately 800 recorded issues per month, effectively maintaining pace with the number of issues reported during the flooding events experienced over the 2023/24 winter period. The Service continues to trial a different approach to cleaning both urban gullies and gullies that require multiple cleans per year.

Who is responsible for what?



Special Educational Needs Deficit (SEND)

After a protracted and very difficult period of negotiation, a **high-level agreement has been signed between Devon County Council and the Government, which will see an extra £95 million of national funds set aside to reduce the deficit on special needs education.**

The cumulative spending on education for children with special needs and disabilities (SEND) over the past 10 years is set to create a deficit of £163 million by the end of this financial year.

In common with many councils across the country, DCC had been negotiating with the Government for extra funding for special needs education under the so-called Safety Valve programme.

£10 million has been set aside in 2023/24 to help bring down the deficit.

The new agreement will see the Government contribute £38 million by the end of March with the remaining cash being spread out over the following eight years.

We will contribute a further £5 million a year from its revenue budget and £20 million from reserves to bring the deficit back into balance by the end of the agreement.

It is recognised that DCC must improve its service to children needing help in this area and is committed to doing this, as well as managing its finances most effectively, keeping the Council on a long term sustainable basis

Locality Budgets

Devon County Councillors have a small amount of money each year called a Locality Budget to support projects in their Division with small grants, where demand invariably outstrips supply.

The fund opens up again in mid-April and budget for 2024/25 is £8,000 per Councillor. Further details of qualifying projects and an online application form can be found at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

ENDS

Reference	24/O228/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12763592
Application Validated	Thu 01 Feb 2024
Address	4 The Old Smithy London Road Rockbeare Devon EX5 2EA
Proposal	Garage conversion to habitable space to include replacement of garage door with matching wall and fenestration.
Status	Approved
Decision	Approval – standard time limit
Decision Issued Date	Mon 25 Mar 2024