



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr. Phil Franklin

Clerk: Carolyn Y. May
A209, Victoria Advent House,
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Victoria, Roche,
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12th November 2024

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

To all Members of Rockbeare Parish Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, to be held at **6.00pm**, on Tuesday 19th November at Marsh Green Village Hall, for the purposes of transacting the following business:

Carolyn May

Clerk to Rockbeare Parish Council

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** - To receive apologies and accept the reasons for non-attendance.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - To receive any declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda and accept dispensations.
3. **Co-option of New Member**
4. **Public Open Forum** (strictly 15mins).
6. **Reports**
 - Chairman RPC
 - EDDC Councillor
 - DCC Councillor (Appendix C)
7. **To approve the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2024** (Appendix A)

8. **Member Training**
9. **Finance and Economy:**
 - a. Payments to be approved.
 - b. Bank reconciliations to be reviewed and approved.
 - c. Financial Management report to be reviewed and approved.

Financial Documents to be distributed under separate cover.

10. **Budget/ Precept Setting for 2025/26**
11. **Planning Applications – (Appendix B)**
12. **Planning Decisions – to note.**
13. **Rockbeare Hub Management – Document to be submitted.**
14. **Project Updates**
 - Millennium Field
 - Newsletter
 - 20 is Plenty

PART II CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS

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.

- Asset Acquisition Proposal
- NJC Pay Scale Notice

Next Meeting – 17th December 2024



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DRAFT MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

17TH SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Cllr. Franklin (Chairman), Cllr. L. M. Nequest, Cllr. S. Wall

Also: Cllr T. Olive (EDDC), and two Members of the Public

Parish Clerk: Carolyn May

AGENDA

028/24 Apologies: Cllr. T. Brookes, Cllr. L. Priddis.

It is noted that Cllr. A. Dunn and Cllr. R. Dunn have now forfeited their seats on the Parish Council, having failed to attend six consecutive meetings.

029/24 Declarations of Interest Register both registerable and non-registerable under the Code of Conduct (to declare interests on agenda items), to issue dispensations (if required) & to declare gifts over £50. To consider if any alterations to Register of Interests.

No Interests declared.

030/24 Co-option of New Member – deferred.

031/24 Public Open Forum - none

032/24 Reports

RPC Chairman – Cllr Franklin advised the meeting of the outcome of a recent meeting with a local landowner who has alluded to a potential opportunity for the Parish Council to acquire an area of land within the Parish, close to the Hazel Grove development. It is the desire of the landowner to provide something for the Parish.

It was suggested that the area of land to be made available may be suitable for the construction of a small Parish Hall/ shop/café.

Prior to the matter being progressed, the Parish Council , and Landowner would be required to commission a feasibility study, to determine if the proposal is possible to undertake.

Currently, Rockbeare Parish is classed as a ‘Tier 4’ settlement. These are smaller villages and hamlets that have limited services and facilities, and are typically considered for minimal development, to maintain their rural character and support local needs.

Cllr Olive alluded to a potential application for an NDO (Neighbourhood Development Order), or, Community Right to Build Order (CRO).

Cllr Franklin highlighted that time was of the essence.

EDDC - Cllr Todd Olive – Things have been quiet due to the summer recess. However, one site, within Rockbeare Parish is being considered for development. It is anticipated that the said development would remain part of the parish, rather than being subsumed into Cranbrook.

A great deal of work is taking place in the EDDC Housing Directorate at present.

Warm Spaces Funding may be available again this year.

DCC - Cllr S. Randall-Johnstone – No Report

DCC – Cllr. H. Gent – no report

033/24 To approve the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2024

Members considered the Draft Minutes for the meeting held on the 16th July 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Wall and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes for the Parish Council meeting, held on the 16th July 2024, provided a true reflection of the discussions, and that the Minutes would be approved. Unanimous. **Carried.**

034/24 Baker Estates – a consultation event was held in the Rockbeare Village Hall on 13th August 2024, in relation to PA24/1524MOUT and PA24/1525MOUT. It is proposed that there should be a total of 539 properties constructed (450 at site 1, and 189 at site 2).

The company is currently undertaking a design coding exercise with EDDC, though this is still at an early stage.

These developments will be south of the A30, in Rockbeare Parish. The development is to include a Multi-use games area (MUGA), recreational facilities and a SANGS area.

It is anticipated that this will be a seven year project. Cllr Nequest asked if solar panels are to be incorporated into the building designs, as the new Local Plan will have such a requirement stated within.

Section 106 funding discussions were entered into, with the Clerk asking what benefits would be brought to the Parish. Cranbrook had already identified some requirements and it was felt that the Parish Council should do the same, putting their ideas forward to EDDC for consideration.

The Clerk asked if the precept collected from the said properties would be paid to Rockbeare Parish. It was felt that they would – unless EDDC elects to change the Parish boundary (to be considered by May 2027).

035/24 Withdrawal of Winter Fuel Allowance

Members considered the proposal of the Government to withdraw the Winter Fuel Allowance from a substantial number of recipients. It was felt that the proposal highlighted a strange priority for the government.

It was proposed by Cllr. Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr. Nequest and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should correspond with David Reed (MP for the area), indicating our opposition to the proposal, highlighting that the said proposal represented an inappropriate priority for the Government, at this time. Unanimous. **Carried.**

036/24 Member Training - adjourned

037/24 Business and Finance

Members considered the Schedule of Payments provided.

Cllr Wall alluded to the costs incurred by the Hub. The Clerk added that she had attended the same the previous week and that eight people were present.

Members felt that the number of attendees did not justify the cost of the facility, stating that the project was not sustainable in the long term. It was felt that an alternative means of supporting those who use the facility should be considered. The creation of a CIC was mooted. It was **agreed** that a discussion would be held with Sharon Thorne.

Having considered the same, it was **proposed** by Cllr. Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr. Franklin and RESOLVED that the listed payments would be approved, and the liabilities discharged.
Unanimous. **Carried.**

Schedule of Payments – September 2024

Date	Payee	Invoice Ref	Gross	VAT	Net
17/09/2024	MGVH	14/2024	30.00	0.00	30.00
17/09/2024	J.C.ECROYD SERVICES	210	140.00	0.00	140.00
17/09/2024	INSPIRING CONNECTIONS (HUB)	081	1724.02	300.61	1423.41
17/09/2024	PKF LITTLEJOHN	DV0300	315.00	63.00	378.00
17/09/2024	IONOS	203041523983	21.60	3.60	25.20
17/09/2024	HMRC	N/A	777.30	0.00	777.30
17/09/2024	SALARY	N/A	1952.80	0.00	1952.80
17/09/2024	EXPENSES	N/A	323.01	0.00	323.01
17/09/2024	HOUSE IT	DD	145.00	24.17	169.17
17/09/2024	SIMON A. MARTIN	234804	24.00	0.00	24.00
17/09/2024	T. BROOKES REFUND	Deferred	60.00	0.00	60.00
Total			5512.73	391.38	5218.89

038/24

Conclusion of External Audit

The Clerk reported that the External Audit had now been completed by PKF Littlejohn. No issues were highlighted and, again, the financial statement had been given unconditional approval.

All documentation has been posted onto the Parish Council website.

039/24 Planning Applications

Application	Consideration
24/1721/FUL	This application relates to 'infill'. Therefore, the Parish Council does not object.
24/1728/DOC	It was ' agreed to 'leave this matter on the table'.
24/1403/LBC	It was ' agreed to 'leave this matter on the table'.

040/24 Planning Decisions - Noted

027/24 Project Updates

(a) Birchend Update

This matter is on-going. Solicitor appointed.

(b) Millenium Field

The Storage Shed has been ordered, and has to be paid for - 12 x 10 ft, renovated container. This will have to be clad in wood. Cost £3000.00, plus VA

(c) Newsletter

Next edition – October 2024

The meeting closed at 1920 hrs.

Next Meeting – 15th October 2024

Planning Applications

Reference	24/2311/DOC
Alternative Reference	PP-13529501
Application Validated	Fri 01 Nov 2024
Address	Land Between A30 And Marsh Green Marsh Green
Proposal	Discharge of conditions for 24/0215/VAR: Condition 5 (CEMP) Condition 6: (Landscaping Details) Condition 7 (Arboricultural Method Statement) Condition 8: (Ecology Management and Maintenance Plan) Condition 9 (Ecological Appraisal) Condition 12 (CCTV Installation) Condition 13 (Drainage Details)
Status	Awaiting decision

Planning Decisions – None

November 2024 - DCC Monthly Report

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson

An interesting couple of weeks where the impacts of the recent Budget are yet to fully understood, or realised in Devon. Things will no doubt become clearer in coming weeks and months where at the County Council we are expecting to be asked to do more with no real terms uplift in funding.

Broadband

Rewe and many other rural areas in Broadclyst Division are losing out yet in the delivery of high speed Broadband yet again, which is incredibly frustrating following many years of lobbying to be treated equally with other communities and a number of false dawns.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) and Airband (contracted to deliver full fibre broadband) have agreed to significantly scale back Airband's contract agreements to deliver full fibre to properties in the two counties.

Both CDS and Airband remain committed to finding possible alternative delivery solutions for those communities who were due to receive fibre broadband.

CDS contracted with broadband supplier Airband, initially in 2016 to deliver fixed wireless infrastructure and additionally in late 2020 to rollout fibre broadband networks to communities across Devon and Somerset, with four contracts originally due to conclude at the end of 2024.

In total, Airband is contracted to deliver 55,493 premises. To date the operator has delivered 18,794 premises in collaboration with CDS.

However, following Airband's restructure earlier this year, the company is seeking to maximise take up across its existing network while slowing down on build activity which means it can no longer complete its contracted build for CDS in full and they sought a change to its contract.

Along with many others, I am extremely disappointed to see a reduction in coverage by Airband via the CDS contract, which directly impacts too many of you. CDS is also discussing alternative options with BDUK, the Government's national agency, responsible for the delivery of Gigabit Broadband.

CDS is urging BDUK to re-enable rural voucher applications to open promptly in communities where Airband will no longer be delivering. This should offer communities a potential alternative. At the same time CDS is seeking confirmation of the Devon and Somerset premises that will be connected under the nationally led contracts awarded to Openreach as part of the Government's Project Gigabit programme.

Devon colleges and council collaborate to enhance SEND education

Colleges in Devon are working with us to provide more places specifically to support the further education of hundreds of young people with special educational needs and disabilities, (SEND).

At least 350 additional post 16 education places for young people with SEND will be created at Exeter College and PETROC College's two campuses in Barnstaple and Tiverton, thanks to a multi-million pound bid to the Department for Education (DfE) and Devon County Council.

The plans involve creating new on-campus facilities at the three sites, Exeter, Barnstaple and Tiverton, with dedicated, purpose-built spaces designed to meet the requirements of young people with a range of additional needs. The courses that the colleges will offer are currently under review and will be confirmed shortly.

The funding from the DfE is essential in providing quality further education, local to families in Devon, that will help young people achieve better educational outcomes, leading to improved employment prospects and independent living.

The colleges are also developing a wide-ranging programme of support for young people with SEND, beginning even before students attend to help make the transitions from school or other educational setting to the colleges as positive as possible.

Devon prepared for winter

Whatever the weather, Devon's highway teams are prepared and ready to keep the county moving this winter.

Last winter's biggest issue was the prolonged wet spell which caused extensive damage to Devon's highway network. This led to a 31% increase in pothole repairs between January and April, compared to 2023, and 94% more than the same period in 2022.

However, in terms of dealing with icy conditions, last winter was relatively quiet, with Devon County Council's gritting teams only using around 6,200 tonnes of salt, which was less than half the amount used the previous winter.

But more time was spent cleaning gullies and clearing debris from roads due to torrential rain and several named storms.

This highlights that Devon's highway teams have to be prepared for all eventualities over the next few months where a generally dry winter would be preferable!

The Morocco - UK Power Project

Positive and exciting news about renewable electricity generation that positively affects Devon. The Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project will be a new electricity generation facility entirely powered by solar and wind energy combined with a battery storage facility. Located in Morocco's renewable energy rich region of Guelmim Oued Noun, it will be connected exclusively to Great Britain via 4000km (2485 miles) HVDC sub-sea cables.

This first of a kind project will generate 11.5GW of zero carbon electricity from the sun and wind to deliver 3.6GW of reliable energy for an average of 19+ hours a day. This is enough to provide affordable, clean power to the equivalent of over 7 million British homes and once complete, the project will be capable of supplying 8 percent of Great Britain's electricity needs.

Alongside the consistent output from its solar panels and wind turbines, an onsite 22.5GWh/5GW battery facility will provide sufficient storage to reliably deliver each and every day, a dedicated, near-constant source of flexible and predictable clean energy for Britain, designed to complement the renewable energy already generated across the UK.

When domestic renewable energy generation in the United Kingdom drops due to low winds and short periods of sun, the project will harvest the benefits of long hours of sun in Morocco alongside the consistency of its convection Trade Winds, to provide a firm but flexible source of zero-carbon electricity.

Four cables, each 4000km long, form the twin 1.8GW HVDC sub-sea cable systems that will follow the shallow water route from the Moroccan site to a grid location in Great Britain, passing Spain, Portugal, and France.

Agreement has been reached with National Grid for two 1.8GW connections in Devon. Voltage source converter stations will enable the Xlinks project to secure high value

balancing contracts with National Grid, and a HVDC Technical Feasibility study has been completed to validate reliability and cost.

ENDS

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