



**ROCKBEARE
PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Cllr. Phil Franklin

Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

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18th June 2026

DRAFT MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

17th JUNE 2026

PRESENT: Cllr. Franklin (Chairman), Cllr. Brookes, Cllr. Wall.

Also: Thirteen members of the public

Parish Clerk: Carolyn May

AGENDA

- 22/26-27 Apologies** – Cllr Nequest
- 23/26-26 Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were made.
- 24/26-27 Member Resignation** – The Clerk reported that Cllr. Priddis had resigned as a Member of the Parish Council.
- 25/26-27 Member Co-option** – deferred to next Parish Council Meeting.
- 26/26-27 Public Forum** – no matter raised
- 27/26-27 Reports:**
- EDDC Councillor** – no report received
- DCC Councillors** – no reports received
- Chairman Report** – no report made
- 28/26-27 To Approve the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2026**
- Members considered the draft Minutes for the meeting held on 20th May 2026.

Resolution It was **proposed** by Cllr. Brookes, **seconded** by Cllr. Wall and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes for Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 20th May 2026, provided a true reflection of the discussions undertaken, and that the Minutes would be approved. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

29/26-27 Finance & Economy

The council therefore reviewed the **June 2026** payment schedule.

Date	Payee	Invoice	VAT REG	PMT Type	Gross	VAT	Net
20/05/2026	A.G. Tree & Garden	1342	N/A	BACS	60.00	0.00	60.00
14/06/2026	RVH	2026-53	N/A	BACS	70.00	0.00	70.00
14/06/2026	RVH	2026-59	N/A	BACS	19.00	0.00	19.00
17/06/2026	HMRC	N/A	N/A	BACS	892.65	0.00	892.65
17/06/2026	Carolyn May	N/A	N/A	BACS	1860.00	0.00	1860.00
17/06/2026	Carolyn May	N/A	N/A	BACS	193.75	0.00	193.75
29/06/2026	Ionos	63478	75239027	DD	21.60	3.60	18.00
					3117.00	3.60	3113.40

Resolution It was **proposed** by Cllr. Brookes, **seconded** by Cllr. Wall and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Internal Audit would be accepted. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The Clerk/RFO reported that a bank reconciliation could not be carried out due to recent bank statements having not been issued. It was suggested that the Parish Council should move its account to another bank.

30/26-27 Planning Application

Reference	26/1009/TRE
Application Validated	Fri 05 Jun 2026
Address	Sydney Cottage Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2EG
Proposal	T1: Willow - Prune the branches overhanging the neighbours garden on the south side by up to 2m, with maximum diameter pruning cuts of 45mm. The works are illustrated on the attached annotated photo.

Resolution It was **proposed** by Cllr. Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr. Brookes and **RESOLVED** that the the Parish Council would not object to the application. Unanimous. **Carried.**

31/26-27 Planning Decisions - Noted

Parishioners attended to discuss the Feasibility Study commissioned by the Parish Council regarding the potential provision of a small community amenity.

Before the discussion commenced, the Chairman reminded those present that the Planning Application for five dwellings at The Paddock was not on the agenda and would not be discussed.

Mr Alex Blest addressed the Council and advised that he had submitted photographs of flooding in the area to EDDC Planning and had copied the Parish Clerk. Mr Blest expressed concern that the provision of a community amenity would represent an inappropriate use of Parish funds and raised questions regarding the future management of such a facility.

The Chairman clarified that the feasibility study was an exploratory exercise only and that no decision had been taken to proceed with any project. A parishioner raised concerns about parking capacity should two venues be in use simultaneously.

Reference was made to Policy Rock10 of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Parishioners were informed that the Planning Officer had referred to this policy in correspondence, noting that it supports proposals to improve or extend community facilities where there is demonstrable need and no significant adverse impacts. The Planning Officer had also indicated that the potential transfer of land and delivery of a flexible, multi-use community facility formed part of the wider planning context. The Parish Council's consultee response is available on the EDDC Planning website; the Council did not comment on the planning application itself.

A parishioner expressed concern regarding the enforcement of planning regulations by EDDC, and several parishioners raised issues relating to flooding and the potential impact of further development. The distribution of rubble across the field to the rear of Hazel Grove was also mentioned.

Clarification Regarding the Proposal Introduced on 16 June

The Clerk advised Members that, during the meeting of 16 June, a proposal concerning the "uncoupling" of the land offer from the planning application had been introduced and voted upon, despite the matter not appearing on the published agenda. Members noted that the circumstances in which the proposal was introduced and considered had created uncertainty regarding the validity of the decision. The Council therefore agreed that no further action would be taken on the basis of that vote.

Community Governance Review

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Objection to the proposed sequestration of land from Rockbeare Parish for the benefit of Cranbrook. The document submitted is substantial and identifies procedural and legal concerns with the process employed by EDDC. The Clerk is still awaiting a substantive response to the concerns raised.

Members considered whether to publish the parish council's objection to the EDDC/Cranbrook boundary review. It was noted that the document concerns the whole parish. To ensure transparency and good governance, members were invited to consider whether the council wished to authorise publication of the objection. Members were also advised that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this type of document is almost always disclosable upon request. Proactive publication therefore supports openness, reduces administrative burden, and aligns with the expectations expressed by many of the parishioners present at the meeting, who were asked for their views on the matter.

Resolution It was **proposed** by Cllr Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr Franklin and **RESOLVED** that the parish council authorises the publication of its formal objection to the EDDC/Cranbrook boundary review, noting that the document relates to all parishioners and that parishioners at the recent meeting expressed a clear wish for it to be made publicly available. The document shall be published on the parish council website and made available upon request. Unanimous. **Carried.**

It was **agreed** that out of courtesy to EDDC, the parish council authorises the Clerk to notify East Devon District Council of the council's intention to publish its formal objection to the Cranbrook boundary review, noting that the document concerns the whole parish and that parishioners have expressed a clear wish for it to be made publicly available."

Resolution **Consideration of Redaction Prior to Publication** - Members considered whether the name of the EDDC ward Councillor should be redacted from the parish council's objection to the EDDC/Cranbrook boundary review prior to publication.

It was noted that EDDC Cllr. Olive's comments were made during an open public meeting, were accurately recorded in the January 2026 parish council minutes, and those minutes were approved and not contested. Members further noted that information disclosed in an open meeting forms part of the public record and that there is no legal requirement or justification to redact the name.

Resolution It was **proposed** by Cllr Nequest, **seconded** by Cllr Franklin and **RESOLVED** that the parish council would not redact the name of EDDC Cllr. Todd Olive from the objection document, as the information is already in the public domain, was recorded in uncontested minutes, and is necessary for maintaining an accurate public record.

21/26-27 RPC Project Updates

Project	Current Position	Action
Rockbeare Café/ Hub/ Bingo	Remains well attended. Self-funding.	Noticeboard purchased. £100 allocated for purchase of plants for village baskets

Birchend – Transfer of Land	Signature of Deed to be arranged	Deed received. Signatures to be obtained.
Millennium Field	Well used. Requires water/ electrical connection. Still awaiting costs from Paul and Julian	Costings to be obtained for additional shelter, tables and chairs, lighting and water connection, bus stop repair and replacement fencing at war memorial. (MG residents), Clerk to discuss additional groundworks with Infinis.
Telephone Box (Library)	New shelving installed. Box to be painted, new access path to be laid.	Cllr. Brookes Clerk
EDDC Boundary Review	Interim objection sent, FOI Breached, letter to CeX. Final objection forwarded to EDDC Awaiting responses to FOI Classification complaint and Monitoring Officer	Clerk
Newsletter	Distributed	Complete and to be distributed
20 is Plenty	Cllr Brookes to contact group to advance the project.	Cllr Brookes

The meeting closed at 2010 hrs

Next Meeting: 17th June 2026