



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

**Meeting held in the Village Hall, Rockbourne
on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 @ 7.00pm.**

MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr Kirkcaldy (Chair), Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Broadbridge, Cllr Bradwell, CCllr Heron, Gale Pettifer (Clerk)

Also present: Adele Holmes, Geoff Forsbray, Andy Leeson

Apologies: Cllr Ash

1. Welcome from Cllr Keith Kirkcaldy, Chairman of the Parish Council.
2. An update on policing matters from PCSO Steve May 16170, New Forest West Neighbourhood Policing Team.
PCSO May gave a report on speeding and speed watch groups. He mentioned 'evidence based' policing that relies upon people reporting incidents, which are filed and create local priorities when the number of incidents increase. He asked people not to overshare on social media platforms, as criminals are using these to target areas, and to report any suspicious activities or incidents to the police.
PCSO May gave a report from Downland and Forest Ward (copy attached below).
3. A talk with Guy Parker, Flood Incident Management Team Leader, Environment Agency Wessex, a technical specialist in groundwater flooding from Chalk aquifers; with over 20 years' experience in flood incident management.
Guy gave a fascinating report on the geology and fluvial processes of the village. He urged that everyone in Rockbourne who experienced flooding issues to report them to the Environment Agency and offered to return with a slide-presentation.
4. Chairman's Report – copy attached below.
Jeff Forsbray reported dissatisfaction with the Traffic Calming Scheme. Southern end working. Northern end not working.
CCllr Heron shared the frustrations with traffic management, including road repairs.

Road management is determined by funding constraints and addressing the most dangerous roads first. He said that the Parish Council have done all that can be done under the current funding initiatives. However, the '20 is Plenty' scheme is beginning to gain acceptance and the police and highways agencies are changing priorities. He felt that a greater community presence in using the roads (for walking, cycling, horse-riding) and the use of high-visibility planters outside properties would change the perception of road use.

Andy Leeson suggested that other pinch-points might be required in other parts of the village.

A discussion ensued about other initiatives, such as road markings, but CClr Heron reported that uncertainty created hesitation and, consequently, people slowed down.

5. Questions and Comments – these were address during the progress of the meeting.

Next Annual Parish Meeting – May 2023 – date and venue to be confirmed.

DRAFT

An update on policing matters from PCSO Steve May 16170, New Forest West Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Hampshire 12 month comparison

	May 21- May 22	May 20- May 21	Difference	% Difference
TOTAL	173428	142381	31047	+21.81%

Downlands and forest 12 month comparison

	May 21- May 22	May 20- May 21	Difference	% Difference
1b Violence with Injury	4	13	-9	-0.69%
1c Violence without Injury	20	22	-2	-0.09%
2b Other Sexual Offences	1	2	-1	-0.50%
4a1 Burglary Residential	30	21	9	42.86%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	5	6	-1	-0.17%
4b Vehicle Offences	35	26	9	34.62%
4c Theft from the Person	0	1	-1	-1.00%
4e Shoplifting	1	0	1	0.00%
4f All Other Theft Offences	16	12	4	33.33%
5a Criminal Damage	30	22	8	36.36%
5b Arson	2	1	1	100.00%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	0	1	-1	-1.00%
6b Possession of Drugs	3	1	2	200.00%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	1	2	-1	-0.50%
8 Public Order Offences	10	8	2	25.00%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	0	1	-1	-1.00%
TOTAL	158	139	19	13.67%

	Current R12	Previous R12	Difference	% Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	4	1	3	300.00%

Rockbourne 2021-2022 beat report

23 recorded occurrences 6 of which were recordable as crimes

Violence against the Person (0)

Dwelling Burglary (0)

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (0)

Business Burglary (0)

Damage (3) 1 report of damage caused to an outer gate during the below theft, 1 of an air pellet being found by a front door and minor damage caused and 1 incident of an electric fence being driven through and posts being damaged.

Theft (1) Caravan taken from the yard of a local business.

Theft from motor vehicles (0)

Theft of vehicle (0)

Anti-Social Behaviour (0)

Suspicious incidents (6) 1 report of an arrow head found in a rear garden after a neighbouring party, a concern for wildlife during building work, 1 incident of possible fly tipping, 1 report of an unknown person attending a local council site to check work that had been undertaken, an incident of 2 persons seen in a rear garden and 1 banking protocol.

DRAFT

Parish Assembly Chairman's Report 2022.

Good evening and welcome everyone to the Rockbourne Annual Parish Assembly.

I have been involved with the Parish Council since 2000 and was elected Chairman in 2003, following the former standing down after giving many years excellent service to the Parishioners.

The past few years have been a very unstable environment for the country. Coronavirus has created all sorts of problems both in terms of finances and the mental health of many people. We are fortunate in Rockbourne that we have managed to keep the worst of the disease at bay, after the initial wave, by isolation, minimal contact, and good hygiene.

Recreation Ground.

Due to Coronavirus the Recreation Ground has been little used for organised events and activities over the past few years. However, it still represents an important resource for recreation. The Recreation Ground Trust, a Registered Charity, has sole responsibility for the management of the Grounds and all the Parish Councillors serve as Trustees.

Pavilion

The Pavilion is a new building and as such requires to be inspected by New Forest District Council to ensure it conforms to current Building Regulations. Following an inspection from NFDC Compliance Officer we were found to be in breach of regulations. Nothing to do with the main structure but the more aesthetic aspects and appropriate signage. All points raised have now been rectified and we are awaiting an inspection and approval of Building Regulations. The Trustees of the Charity have prepared a Fire Risk Assessment and is kept on site. A first aid kit is also available and kept in a convenient easily accessible drawer in the kitchen area. The accident book is kept in the 'documents folder'. Other policies and procedures are in process.

St. Andrews Church

St Andrews Church has been in Rockbourne since the 12th Century.

Maintaining the grounds has been tricky over the years with several private contractors carrying out the maintenance.

Following a meeting at the Church with the PCC Chairman, Patrick Thompson, and Rory Smith who was tasked with maintenance of the churchyard, I instigated an investigation into the legal aspect of how the Parish Council could legitimately use public funds to help keep the grounds maintained.

Those of you who do visit the church will notice how the churchyard has sometimes appeared to look overgrown. We apologise that it may have looked untidy. However, this was intentional, as we have had a study carried out by Clive Chatters, conservation biologist and independent ecologist, who gave a fantastic report on the amazing varieties of flora and fauna that exists in the churchyard. From his report, we intend to work with the PCC to put a maintenance program in place that is sustainable, practical and offers value for money, whilst keeping all the flora and fauna at its best. The report is available on the PC website for further information.

We will be entering into an agreement with a local contractor, who understands the annual cycle of wildlife in the church yard and knows when and not to cut the vegetation, to encourage further growth and sustainability.

Traffic Calming

The Council have worked tirelessly on traffic calming measures over the entire time I have lived in the village. Various schemes have been set up and for one reason or another been dropped.

The Parish Council have carried out speed checks, as a Community Speed Watch Team, and the results found that the majority of those that flouted the speed limit were locals. It was also observed

that it may appear that cars are speeding when in fact they aren't, it is just the illusion that they are travelling at more than 30 miles per hour.

I wanted to eliminate all the things we couldn't do and concentrate on what we could. So, with consultation with NFDC and Hampshire County Council, who are the statutory organisations and aware of what can and can't be done with planning and highways, the scheme that is being implemented now, with some adaptations, was adopted. The scheme is designed to alert road users that they are in a residential area and allows them to adjust their driving methods accordingly.

Quality Council Status. – The future.

Parish Councils are described by Government as a 'tier of government closest to the local community has a central role to play in improving local quality of life.' There have been some massive changes to the way accountability for local Parish Councils since the introduction of the Localism Act 2011. The Coalition Government, at the time, decided to set out the case for a huge shift in power - from central Whitehall to local public servants, and from bureaucrats to communities and individuals.

Rockbourne Parish Council is proud to be part of a local government putting this vision into practice. We are pleased that the decision was made that society is not for central government to try and seize all the power and responsibility for itself but it is to help people, and their locally elected representatives, to achieve their own ambitions. Rockbourne Parish Council work closely with other stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcomes for our Parishioners.

We have decided that we would like to get Rockbourne up to date and apply for Quality Council Status. We are developing our policy documents and procedures in line with the criteria to allow us to become a Quality Council. It has always been my desire to serve the people of Rockbourne and to give them a quality Parish, we don't want to be a Mediocre Council.

The aim of the Scheme is to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils. The Scheme is supported by six National Stakeholders, the Commission for Rural Communities, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Local Government Association, the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Crime.

We are fortunate in living in a relatively low crime area. This does not mean we are without crime and the Parish Council applied to The PCC for access to the Safer Communities Fund with a view of supplying DNA property marking materials to deter criminals from even targeting Rockbourne.

We were unsuccessful this time and look forward to applying for further grants to prevent crime and protect our resident's property and personal items.

I hope you have found this useful and welcome questions from the floor. The Parish Council will attempt to answer them tonight, if not then we will endeavour to get the answer and come back to you.

Thank You.

Rockbourne Parish Council: www.rockbournepc.org.uk
Email: rockbournechair@outlook.com
Email: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com