



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Village Hall, Rockbourne on Tuesday 7th September @ 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Kirkcaldy, Broadbridge, Bradwell, Carmichael, Whitworth, CCllr Heron and Gale Pettifer (Clerk).

Also in attendance: Nick Matthews, Lucy Matthews, Nigel Cole, Jennifer Cole, Nigel Daly, Bernice Churchill, Simon Churchill, E. S. Reffell.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr Ash sent his apologies.

Cllr Kirkcaldy opened the meeting and declared that he would bring Agenda Item 4 forward for immediate discussion. He invited CCllr Heron to make a presentation. CCllr Heron spoke about the history of the scheme and the long-standing traffic problems that had affected the village. He expressed the support of Hampshire County Council in implementing the scheme and explained about the lengthy process of research, design, safety audit, and consultation that had resulted in the proposed scheme. The northern gateway, which had been identified as a safety concern by Mr and Mrs Matthews, had been assessed for safety by HCC Highways. A general discussion ensued about the traffic calming scheme and other road safety measures. CCllr Heron said that all such information, including the 'manual for street' was available on Hampshire County Council's website.

Cllr Carmichael said that a previous study [carried out in 2016] demonstrated that speeding was not the main issue in Rockbourne – it was volume of traffic and size of vehicles. He said that the scheme was trying to reduce speed and the number of drivers that use Rockbourne as a convenient cut-through by making it a less attractive choice.

Cllr Carmichael asked about the merits of introducing a 20mph speed limit through the village. CCllr Heron said that if drivers were not adhering to a 30mph limit they would certainly ignore anything below that. Also, a 20mph limit would have to be agreed by the police, as the traffic enforcement agency, but they would not agree to enforce 20mph. Therefore, a 20mph scheme would not be possible.

CCllr Heron said that research showed that drivers tend to drive at a speed they think is safe. Trials to reduce speed limits have been placed in various locations and the results showed a marginal reduction but not significant enough to introduce them as a matter of policy. He stated that Dorset and Wiltshire CC have introduced numerous 20mph zones in villages but are now in the process of removing them because they consider them to have failed to reduce traffic speeds. CCllr Heron said that unfortunately drivers think that roads are only for cars. Cllr Bradwell said that the whole of village is a pedestrian area, and all traffic needs to be calmed. CCllr Heron said that there needs to be a change in attitude that draws drivers' attention to other roads users, such as walkers, cyclists, and horse riders, etc. Drivers need to be made more aware of their surroundings.

A discussion ensued regarding traffic enforcement and signage. CCllr Heron said that speed activated signs are effective if the locations are moved regularly. He also said that making the village look more like a village with planters, flower boxes on fences, and grassed/wild meadow verges slows traffic down by demonstrating habitation.

Cllr Carmichael said that there had been a previous discussion regarding white lines in the road. CCllr Heron said that a white line scheme in Dorset failed had and that the lines had been removed. CCllr Heron said that white lines can actually increase speed because drivers know where the road is – particularly at night.

In response to questions from parishioners, the Chairman reminded the meeting that the Traffic Calming Plans had been in the public domain since at least spring 2019. A general discussion between parishioners and councillors, about the merits of the scheme, ensued. CCllr Heron said that traffic calming schemes were the most effective method of reducing traffic issues and that the scheme for Rockbourne would proceed if the Parish Council gave the go ahead. While Mr and Mrs Matthews were disappointed that the scheme proposed would be implemented, they agreed that a scheme to calm traffic was required. Furthermore, Mrs Matthews gave thanks to the Parish Councillors for all their work on behalf of the village.

Proposal: Cllr Kirkcaldy proposed that the road traffic scheme to be reinstated. Seconded by Cllr Whitworth. Carried.

2. To receive declarations of interest. *Councillors are invited to declare any relevant interests at this point or at any point during the meeting.* None declared.

3. To review minutes of the previous meeting - held on Tuesday 3rd August 2021 - and discuss/update matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items. Minutes agreed. Proposed: Cllr Kirkcaldy. Seconded: Cllr Bradwell.

4. To review Parish Council finance.

- The Clerk produced the figures for the current financial year. (See Appendix 1). Financial report accepted.
- The Clerk reported that Rockbourne Parish Council had been randomly selected for a further examination of records by external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP.

5. To discuss planning matters:

a. Planning Decisions – *for notification only.*

SITE: Nuthatch, Whipps Hill, Rockbourne SP6 3NQ

DESCRIPTION: Single-storey timber clad detached garden room/outbuilding

DECISION: Granted Subject to Conditions.

b. Tree Work Applications – *for notification only.*

Case Ref: CONS/21/0444

Proposed Works: Ash x 1 Reduce/Yew x 1 Reduce

Site Address: Jade Cottage, Rockbourne, Fordingbridge, SP6 3NA

c. Planning Applications.

d. Other Planning Matters.

6. Quality Parish Status (QPS) and review of RPC policies and procedures. The Clerk reported that, as part of the process of applying for QPS, Rockbourne Parish Council's standing orders, policies and procedures would need to be reviewed. This process would be phased over the course of future Parish Council meetings. This was approved by the Councillors.

7. To hear reports from other meetings. Cllr Carmichael reported that he had been informed that the balance beam in the Recreation Ground needed repair. **ACTION:** Clerk to assess and instruct repairs as necessary.

8. To discuss correspondence. No correspondence received that had not been considered in other parts of the meeting.

9. To arrange the date for the next meeting: Tuesday 5th October 2021 @7pm – in the Pavilion, at Rockbourne Recreation Ground.

Appendix 1: Financial Report to Councillors

<u>INCOME</u>			
Apr	1	Current Account (carried over)	1,122.42
		NFDC - Precept	6,474.00
		Rockbourne Cricket Club	350.00
			<u>7,946.42</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Apr	1	Clerk wages - March	260.00
	6	DD 1&1 Internet Ltd	18.00
	12	Play Inspection	180.00
May	1	Clerk wages - April	260.00
		DD 1&1 Internet Ltd	18.00
	14	SLCC - CiLCA	410.00
		HALC - HR/Employment Services	192.00
		Came & Co. Insurance	692.71
	26	Tech B & IT Shack	182.46
Jun	2	Clerk wages - May	260.00
	3	DD 1&1 Internet Ltd	18.00
Aug	4	Clerk wages - July	320.00
		DD 1&1 Internet Ltd	18.00
		J Bonello - RRT Auditor	110.00
		HALC - Annual Membership	199.56
Aug	1	DIY Marquees	2,820.00
		Clerk wages - July	260.00
		DD 1&1 Internet Ltd	18.00
		Rockbourne Village Hall	28.50
			<u>6,265.23</u>
		Income	7,946.42
		Expenditure	6,265.23
		Total	<u>1,681.19</u>
Apr	1	Deposit Account	20,141.23
			<u>20,141.23</u>
Apr	1	Rec Ground Account	45.59
			<u>45.59</u>
		Grand total	<u>21,868.01</u>