



## **ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

**Meeting held in the Pavilion, Rockbourne  
on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 @ 7.00pm.**

### **MINUTES**

In attendance: Cllr Kirkcaldy (Chair), Cllr Forsbrey, Cllr Leeson, Cllr Wallis, Cllr Wise, Mark Baulch (Clerk)

Also present: Bea Churchill, Simon Churchill, Adele Holmes, Sara Jayne Pierrepont, Alice Tubbs

1. Welcome from Cllr Keith Kirkcaldy, Chairman of the Parish Council.
2. Apologies received from Cllr Carmichael and Jeannie McGraghan
3. Chairman's Report – Cllr Kirkcaldy read this out and a copy is attached below.
4. Questions and Comments –

Bea Churchill said that the village is looking a little messy, with so much overgrown and nettles etc.

Cllr Kirkcaldy said that the lengthsman will be coming again soon. He will be concentrating on the entrance gates and the war memorial.

Adele Holmes said that they used to do both sides of the verge and that she had cut her own verge.

Cllr Kirkcaldy replied that this was a long time ago. We have not used the community payback team for a while. The Council would not do it. Hampshire County Council still do verges.

Adele Holmes stated that it was dangerous for pedestrians, especially with the nettles etc.

Bea Churchill asked about the Bourne itself? Who is responsible?

Cllr Kirkcaldy explained that it is the responsibility of the bordering property owner.

They have to clear it at the edge of the land that they own.

Bea Churchill asked if they will do a bot of the verge?

Cllr Kirkcaldy said no, that is the responsibility of Highways.  
Cllr Forsbrey said that it makes the village look awful.  
Bea Churchill asked if we can put a working party together?  
Cllr Wise stated that we would need agreement from landowners.  
Adele Holmes agreed that it needed clearing out and tidying and that a working party was needed.  
Cllr Wise pointed out that the clear out needed to start upstream.  
Bea Churchill suggested starting at the pinchpoint at the North end.  
Cllr Kirkcaldy said that part may belong to the Matthews.  
Adele Holmes said that weather conditions had made it grow more. Moving on to the road closure from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July, she also said that the condition of the Damerham Road [the official diversion route] was awful.  
Bea Churchill felt that it might put people off of coming this way.  
Cllr Kirkcaldy pointed out that it will affect the school the most.  
Alice Tubbs said that they will be notifying the bus company and the parents.  
Cllr Kirkcaldy thought that although they were saying road closed, it may be open in the evening.  
Mark Baulch advised that it was a 24-hour closure and that this had been the case at several other pylon work sites.  
Adele Holmes pointed out that the Whitsbury Road was another alternative.  
Cllr Kirkcaldy addressed her earlier point on the state of the roads by suggesting the use of the App "Fix My Street".  
Cllr Leeson said that whilst it was closed off, they could fix the road at the same time.  
Cllr Kirkcaldy thought it more likely that they would do this in six months time.  
Cllr Wallis said that they would probably temporarily fix it.

Meeting closed at 19:20

*Next Annual Parish Meeting – May 2024 – date and venue to be confirmed.*

# **Parish Assembly Report 2023.**

Good evening and welcome 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.

Although covid is behind us it is still around and we need to be aware of our actions.

## **Traffic Calming**

Traffic is an issue for Rockbourne. Unfortunately we live in a 'rat run' to the A354 from the South. There is nothing that can be done about genuine users accessing local properties and businesses. We live in a technology driven society and unfortunately we become victims of Sat Nav traffic.

We have investigated and put it to HCC that we should have a 7.5 tonne weight limit except for access but have always been told the road does not meet the criteria.

We have had 2 pinch points installed at a cost to the PC. The Northern design works very well and has reduced the speed of traffic entering the village from the North.

However, the South end of the village appears to be causing more problems than it has solved. For that reason only half of the invoice was paid and we are waiting for the department to come back with another proposal.

## **Queen Elizabeth II**

The late Queen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in May 2022. The celebration in Rockbourne was an overwhelming success with the use of the land in front of Bourne Cottages and a picnic that coincided with the Nations Big Lunch. We chose the location as a central point in the Village that could be accessed by all.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 1510 Queen Elizabeth II died at Balmoral in Aberdeenshire. She was the UK's longest-serving monarch, after reigning for 70 years.

Serving soldiers and Veterans, myself included, were deeply saddened when the news was broadcast. I went to visit my friend Lee who served with the Queens Regiment, she was a fantastic ruler, a true leader, and a beautiful human being.

## **Coronation of King Charles III and Camilla.**

The Coronation of Charles III and his wife Camilla took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Rockbourne celebrated in style by making use of the Marquee on the recreation ground and the pavilion. The event was well attended with some fun activities in the afternoon leading to a band in the evening and everyone has said how much they enjoyed it.

A big thank you to all those involved in organising and making these events such a roaring success.

## **War Memorial**

The memorial is special to Rockbourne remembering the fallen. The clean up has started and you will notice the area is taped off at the moment so special chemicals can be used to remove lichen and other parasites and dirt.

A grant has been applied for to the War Graves Commission to help cover the cost of repairing this important structure.

Once this has been completed the lettering will be renewed and the area around will be renovated too.

### **The Parish Council.**

As the retiring Chairman I would like to express my thanks to all those that have dedicated their time in making Rockbourne the great place it is to live.

### **New Council.**

Rockbourne has a new Parish Council. The inaugural meeting will take place immediately following this meeting. The positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be voted in and the Councillors will fill out the legal paperwork as laid down in The Local Government Act.

Everyone is welcome to remain to see the new council 'sworn' in.

Thank you for attending this evening and I wish you a safe onward journey.

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