



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 25th July 2023** in the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

Members Present: Cllr Kirkcaldy (Chair), Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Forsbrey (Vice Chair), Cllr Leeson and Cllr Wallace. Also present Mark Baulch, Clerk & RFO.

Guests Present: District Councillor Richards, Josh Goodchild (Wessex Internet)

The following members of the public were also present: Simon Churchill, Nigel Daly and Chris Whyton.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Wise and members of the public Lucy & Nick Matthews, Jeannie McGraghan

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Welcome to Councillor Janet Richards, New Forest District Council Member for Downlands and Forest North Ward

Lives in Martin and is a new Councillor covering eight parishes. Has also recently joined the Planning Committee and the Housing/Communities Panel. Main aims are conservation, traffic management, waste and recycling and housing for local people. Cllr Forsbrey said that housing should be appropriate to the local community and at a level that could be tolerated. Cllr Richards highlighted that the Local Plan is out of date and that she wants to close any loopholes that may be in the National Plan.

4. Presentation by Josh Goodchild, Community Engagement Manager, Wessex Internet

Josh is local and so is the Company, which was founded in 2010 and is based in Blandford Forum. £14m project to roll out full fibre. Network from Pentridge and Kits Nest, with cabinet in Martin. Work to start in October. Utilises 'soft dig' method, using mole ploughs, but only at actual installation stage. Can use BT OpenReach telegraph poles. Looking to complete by March 2024. Mark Baulch read out the message received from Nick Matthews. Josh replied that they would try to cause as little inconvenience as possible. Use of aerial network is more vulnerable to weather and other issues though. Mark Baulch asked about an issue raised at a previous meeting, that of the copper switch off. This will be in 2025, but VOIP systems will still be viable. The analogue service will cease. Price will be £29 per month with an installation fee of £49. The fact that they are a local company was stressed. If there is a power cut, the battery back up will last for eight to nine hours. If consumers can show that they are vulnerable or that the mobile signal is poor, in property battery pack will be provided. Otherwise, these can be purchased.

Josh Goodchild then left the meeting.

5. Public participation time

Some questions had already been asked in the above two agenda points as recorded. Chris Whyton asked about litter picking. Cllr Kirkcaldy explained that this has to be a community project, as the Parish Council cannot arrange anything alongside the public highway.

Nigel Daly re-iterated the congestion level of the Bourne and urged some action. Cllr Carmichael suggested that we need to take some advice and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would **ACTION** researching the ecological requirements and the possibility of sourcing a speaker on this matter.

6. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 27th June 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, held 27th June 2023, were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Leeson, seconded by Cllr Carmichael.

7. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th March 2023

Cllr Forsbrey stated that he was not happy with the outcomes of the meeting. He is currently waiting for a response on how to deal with speeding in the village.

Mark Baulch responded on the point that referred to the work of the Lengthsman. An additional day was agreed to and the work will be carried out on Monday 31st July. The next scheduled work will then be on 11th August and **ACTION** all Councillors to advise the Clerk on works required by 8th August.

8. Reports by the Downlands & New Forest Ward Councillor and representatives on outside bodies

Cllr Richards has attended two meetings. One on the New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Plan. There will be a consultation on this in October/November. Cllr Leeson asked whether we could piggyback on this to request a 20mph speed limit for the village. The other meeting was the Community Energy Launch Event.

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk gave a financial report, the contents of which were noted. This included the Annual Governance Statement and the Chairman signed this with the agreement of all Councillors.

10. Planning Matters

Before discussing the matters below, there was some discussion over the previous meeting and the planning application for Springbourne Farm (Reference 23/10278). It was agreed that the Clerk will **ACTION** make application to Land Registry to ascertain the ownership of the track leading to this property.

New Forest District Council is the local Planning Authority and consults Rockbourne Parish Council on planning applications received for Rockbourne Parish.

10a. Planning Applications

Reference 23/10567
Application Received Thu 18 May 2023
Application Validated Wed 21 Jun 2023
Address BAY TREE COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NL
Proposal Outbuilding to the rear of the garden
PAR 5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

Reference 23/10650
Application Received Thu 8 Jun 2023
Application Validated Fri 23 Jun 2023
Address BAY TREE COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NL
Proposal New oak joist and replacement flooring in the bathroom; external brick repairs/replace and repoint with lime mortar (Application for Listed Building Consent).
PAR 5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

Reference 23/10726
Application Received Tue 27 Jun 2023
Application Validated Tue 4 Jul 2023
Address MARSH FARM COTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NF
Proposal Conversion of garage/workshop to ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling
PAR 5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

10b. Planning Decisions – for notification only

None

Please note that Rockbourne Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications and as such does not make the final decision on any Application. The decisions and comments this Committee make will be fed into the planning process and added to reports by Planning Officers. New Forest District Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the final decision notice (Planning Determination) once their investigations into the application, consultation period and decision-making process have been completed.

11. Tree Survey

It was RESOLVED that the Council would instruct the Clerk to **ACTION:** Obtain three quotes for the required work, both that required within six months and that required within eighteen months. Proposed by Cllr Carmichael, seconded by Cllr Wallace. Cllr Wallace also suggested Toby Sherwood as one of the people to be approached.

12. Children's Play Area

Two quotes have now been received and were shared with the Council. It was RESOLVED that the Council would instruct the Clerk to **ACTION:** obtain a third quote and research potential funding streams for the refreshing of this asset. Proposed by Cllr Kirkcaldy, seconded by Cllr Wallace. Mention of more traditional 'rustic' equipment was also made.

13. To arrange the date for the next meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday 5th September 2023 @7pm – in the Pavilion, Rockbourne Recreation Ground. Those wanting to join the meeting are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.