



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 14th January 2025** in the Village Hall, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

Members Present: Cllr Leeson (Chair), Cllr Branagan and Cllr Carmichael. Also present District Cllr Richards and Mark Baulch (Clerk & RFO).

There were no members of the public from the parish.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Wallis, Cllr Wiggins and Cllr Wise.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Correspondence Received

The Council had received a number of e-mails as follows.

Various dates from a commenter on the Planning matter concerning Threeways Cottage. These involved objections against the plan and had been replied to by the Chair and Clerk.

4th December from Fordingbridge Council with the dates for the Lengthsman to work in the village. The Clerk will distribute these dates and asked for Councillors to inform him of any works that they felt required attention a week before each visit.

2nd January from The Co-Operative Bank informing us that they had merged with Coventry Building Society.

This will not change the operation of the Bank Accounts held by the Council at this time and it is not anticipated that any name or operation changes should affect the Council either.

4. Public participation time

There were no members of the Public in attendance.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 10th December 2024

All confirmed that they were a true record and they were PROPOSED by Cllr Branagan and SECONDED by Cllr Carmichael and were signed by the Chair.

6. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th December 2024

All completed or covered in this Agenda.

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

D.Cllr Richards spoke about the Government Devolution plans. The goal is to roll out elected Mayors. We will have a Mayor of Hampshire and they will lead a strategic authority. Some housing, transport, energy and other strategic decisions will be made by them. At the same time, there will be a re-organisation of two-tier Councils into Unitary Authorities. District Councils will be replaced by four Unitary Authorities across Hampshire. Cllr Carmichael asked whether local Government had any say in this? D Cllr Richards said that there was no consultation and that they had been asked to put together a plan by the Autumn. If a plan cannot be agreed, then Government will make a decision. Cllr Leeson asked whether Parish Councils remain? D Cllr Richards confirmed that they stay and are probably unaffected. Some powers and assets may be transferred from District level to Parish. Local elections due in May might also be postponed for a year. Elections for the Mayor will be held in 2026. Cllr Carmichael asked what happens to the District Councillor's job? D Cllr Richards replied that New Forest District Council will remain and carry on alongside the new authority until 2027. Very little detail has been seen yet.

8. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices and statement of accounts to the Councillors. The Clerk informed Council that he had been asked to produce a report on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money that had been previously awarded but not spent. This report had been submitted. The two claims for a new CIL award had also been submitted and a telephone conversation with New Forest District Council had confirmed receipt of these and some fine details on location of the projects which are for some new play equipment and a car park for the Recreation Ground. Cllr Branagan stated that she was surprised by the amount of claims that had been made across the County and the value of them.

9. Planning Matters

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

9a. Planning Applications

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|------------------------------|---|
| Reference | 24/11051 |
| Alternative Reference | PP-13558972 |
| Application Received | Mon 02 Dec 2024 |
| Application Validated | Mon 02 Dec 2024 |
| Address | CHALKE COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NA New Front Porch |

Already permitted as planning not required.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Reference | 24/11111 |
| Alternative Reference | PP-13645672 |
| Application Received | Tue 17 Dec 2024 |
| Application Validated | Tue 17 Dec 2024 |
| Address | MISTS FARM, ROCKBOURNE ROAD, ROCKBOURNE SP6 1QG New agricultural building (barn) for a machinery store (Prior Approval Application) |

Already permitted as planning not required.

9b. Planning Decisions

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|------------------------------|--|
| Reference | 24/10761 |
| Alternative Reference | PP-13327376 |
| Application Received | Thu 22 Aug 2024 |
| Application Validated | Thu 29 Aug 2024 |
| Application Decided | Fri 20 Dec 2024 |
| Address | SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS |
| Proposal | Agricultural Pole Barn (Retrospective) |
| Decision | Refused |

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.

10. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

The Clerk had obtained some quotes for a goalpost and these were passed around all the Councillors. Cllr Branagan will now pass these on to Cllr Wallis for discussion within the Recreation Ground Working Group and a decision based on size required and storage needs.

11. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Although not able to attend the meeting, Cllr Wallis had sent a report as follows:

No particular update on Recreation Ground as Cllr Leeson is hopefully sorting out the Building Regulations. Ed Olivier telephoned to say that the concrete is coming on Friday for the nets. It might be a good idea to warn pet owners to keep away for a few days. I can do that. [Clerk confirmed that he had agreed and this had been done]. The invoice is £1,084 plus VAT.

Cllr Wise had also sent a report as follows:

We have continued looking at the potential specification of a CCTV system and where it could be located. Unfortunately, we have been unable to make as much progress as we would like on Speedwatch due to a lack of cooperation and communication from Hampshire Police. The Speedwatch Team have been trying to help us but the problem seems to lie with the local Police in Fordingbridge who have failed to deal as promised with the paperwork.

We have a further Traffic WG meeting scheduled for 28th January.

Cllr Leeson reported that the Bourne group had managed a couple of good clean outs of the stream. The bank at the North end was supposed to be fixed this week, but Council did not turn up. We have a walk through this week to clear the Hemlock as far down as Minty's Hill. There has been a lot of positive feedback. The water is clear and a lot of trout have appeared. Rob at Harolds Cottage, by the bus stop, has rebuilt the whole bank there. It looks good. Cllr Carmichael asked whether that was his land? Cllr Branagan said no, but he had done some tree work and so I think that an agreement was made. Cllr Leeson added that he had done a good job. We have a couple of weekend events scheduled and I will put a shout-out on WhatsApp for these. There is no further update on flooding issues. There was some discussion around grants to provide stop panels, but these are not well thought of anyway. There will probably be another meeting at the start of February.

12. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 11th February 2025 and Tuesday 11th March 2025 @ 7pm in the Village Hall, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk:

rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.