



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 17th October 2023** in the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

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

The following members of the public were also present: George Atkinson, Andy Carr, Bea Churchill, Simon Churchill, Jen Cole, Nat Cole, Nigel Daly, Marcus Locock, Jeannie McGraghan, Ed Olivier, John Potter, Liz Potter, Amanda Whyton, Chris Whyton and Fran Wise

1. Apologies for absence

None received

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Correspondence received

RBLI – Remembrance items for the village. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would purchase two silhouette statues. Proposed by Cllr Kirkcaldy, Seconded by Cllr Carmichael

Sandleheath Parish Council – Traffic Action sub-group. Cllr Wise said that we should work with them. Cllr Carmichael agreed. Cllr Wise suggested setting up a group for Rockbourne. Cllr Leeson asked what equipment we own and Mark Baulch confirmed that we have a quarter ownership of a Speed Indicator Unit, held by Damerham Parish Council. Cllr Leeson suggested that we just put a bracket up. Cllr Kirkcaldy noted that we then need Highways permission. There is a hole in the ground for a pole, but the position was deemed unsafe. Cllr Carmichael asked if we could use extra long. **ACTION:** Mark Baulch to check legality. Cllr Wallis asked about the other ones that Cllr Lesson had sourced. How much are they? Cllr Leeson confirmed that they start at £3,000 per pair. Cllr Kirkcaldy said that Highways had said that we could not mount them permanently. District Cllr Richards commented that we could leave them in the same place, the recommendation is to move them to avoid drivers becoming used to their position. She also recommended checking the brand with other villages as some had experienced issues. **ACTION:** Mark Baulch to check. It was RESOLVED to set up a sub-group, proposed by Cllr Wise, Seconded by Cllr Forsbrey. The Village WhatsApp group would also be used to find volunteers.

Pageant Master – Further information had been received with regards to the D-Day 80 Beacon. Cllr Kirkcaldy pointed out that Damerham have one. Cllr Wise suggested that this item be considered under Agenda Item 10, Budget, and this was agreed.

County Cllr Nick Adams-King – Letters for residents living near river. Nigel Daly asked what authority Hampshire County Council have? Cllr Kirkcaldy confirmed that they have ultimate responsibility and

Mark Baulch confirmed that they were willing to send letters themselves. Cllr Wise felt that the Parish Council should send them and even distribute more widely. Cllr Forsbrey asked for it to be put on the Council website. Cllr Wallis noted that letters sent should be recorded on a list of recipients. It was **RESOLVED** that letters will be distributed and recorded. Proposed by Cllr Kirkcaldy, Seconded by Cllr Forsbrey.

Rockbourne Cricket Club – Potential siting of new training net. Ed Olivier said that they would like to promote youth cricket. The concrete base would be 25m x 3.5m, with a three-sided net on top. Cllr Wise asked about location. Marcus Locock said the flatter the better, but concerned about impact on other users. Sited some stakes to indicate location. Ed Olivier continued that it would run parallel with road. Asked whether they needed planning permission? **ACTION:** Mark Baulch to check. Net to go up in April. Cost around £16,000 plus VAT. There may be some English Cricket Board funding. School may be able to utilise. Cllr Carmichael felt that siting was important. If wanting to play football or do other stuff, flat ground is hard to find. It would be a great asset, just do not want to limit other usage. Cllr Wise asked whether any of the ground was in a conservation area. Mark Baulch replied no, this had been ascertained recently by the tree surveyor. Marcus Locock added that they had a verbal commitment to do the groundworks, giving them an expectation that they need to find £6,000 - £9,000. Cllr Kirkcaldy reiterated that the Recreation Ground is not a Parish Council asset but a Rockbourne Recreation Ground Trust asset. Cllr Wise asked who the Trustees were? Mark Baulch confirmed that it was Councillors. Cllr Wise asked about meetings. Cllr Kirkcaldy confirmed that they are twice per year. Cllr Forsbrey asked about timing of the work. Marcus Locock replied that this depended on the funding. District Cllr Richards asked whether Sports England could help and Marcus Locock said no. She added that Martin [Parish] had received £3,000 of funding. Marcus Locock felt that they were better off tapping into local fundraising. Andy Carr spoke as a School Governor and said that the School do a lot of coaching. Chris Whyton asked if they were expecting funding? Cllr Wise pointed out that having looked at Draft Budget, around £8,000 is spent on recreation ground with an income of just £600. We need to decide priorities. Cllr Kirkcaldy stated that we are legally bound to maintain the building and the ground. Cllr Wise added that he was concerned about budget and that we were just running a sports facility. Cllr Kirkcaldy asked whether people had approached him personally? Cllr Wise said on certain things, yes. We currently have no budget for CCTV and that needs funding. Cllr Carmichael suggested that we look at the budget. Cllr Leeson asked how the £16,000 was broken down? Ed Olivier said that most of that was for putting the base down. We want a concrete base to prevent damage to the matting. Cllr Leeson asked if this would be a roll out mat? Marcus Locock replied yes and added that the net would be removable too. Cllr Forsbrey asked if we had something before? Marcus Locock affirmed. Cllr Kirkcaldy said that we need a plan from the Cricket Club. Cllr Wise asked whether they could dig in, to make an area flatter? Ed Olivier replied yes, but really need to keep it away from the play area. Cllr Kirkcaldy suggested that we need a site meeting. Cllr Forsbrey asked the aspirations of the Cricket Club? Marcus Locock said that it was already successful, taking part in Wednesday evening league and with many Clubs wanting to come and play here on Sundays. Aspirations are not much else, but it has been running for nearly one hundred years. Cllr Kirkcaldy suggested **ACTION:** Clerk to set up site meeting with Councillors and Club representatives.

Planning Application 23/10280 – Dealt with under this Agenda Item as it was received too late to be published with Councillor Summons. Will also be covered in next meeting.

Reference	23/10820
Alternative Reference	PP-12338900
Application Received	Tue 25 Jul 2023
Application Validated	Thu 27 Jul 2023
Address	THE LODGE, MUSHROOM FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Erection of a replacement dwelling; hard and soft landscaping
Status	Decided
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Decision Issued Date	Wed 11 Oct 2023

James Westwood-Beere – Letter circulated to Councillors ahead of meeting and agreed that all points were covered in Agenda.

Tree consultations – Whilst not normally considered by Council, specific emails had been received from New Forest District Council.

Case Reference	CONS/23/0492
Proposed Works	Ash x 1 Fell, Sycamore x1 Fell
Site Address	Manor Farm, New Road, Rockbourne SP6 3NN

It was observed that branches are dropping off of these and therefore it was RESOLVED to support this application. Proposed by Cllr Wise, Seconded by Cllr Leeson.

Case Reference CONS/23/0497

Proposed Works Remove 3m of existing hedge and plant 30m of Yew hedging

Site Address Woodbine Cottage, Rockbourne SP6 3NH

No comment felt necessary.

Case Reference CONS/23/0526

Proposed Works Yew x 1 Reduce, Bay x1 Reduce, Sweet Gum x 1 Fell, Willow x 1 Prune

Site Address Abbots Acre, Rockbourne SP6 3NA

No comment felt necessary.

Dean Brunton – New Forest District Council Planning Implementation and Monitoring Team Leader re Developer Contributions. Cllr Kirkcaldy suggested bidding for funds for the cricket nets. Cllr Carmichael suggested bidding for funds for playground. District Councillor Richards confirmed that it has to be for infrastructure and could be traffic related. **ACTION:** District Cllr Richards to send presentation on this. [Subsequently received and distributed]. Chris Whyton asked whether this could be used for flood prevention. District Cllr Richards replied that it should be used to support new development. Cllr Leeson suggested bids for recreation ground, CCTV & speed monitoring and repair of verges. **ACTION:** Clerk to prepare bids and distribute to Councillors for approval.

4. Public participation time

The Chair, Cllr Kirkcaldy, reiterated that this is an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or interest, ask a question or make a statement or present a petition or be part of a deputation. Public participation time will be conducted in accordance with the Council's 'Policy for Public Participation Time', which is limited to 15 minutes, with no individual speaker exceeding a maximum of three minutes each. (LGA1972 s100). Nigel Daly asked about actions from the previous meeting and so the Clerk went through the Action Log and confirmed all points. Cllr Wallis expressed a concern about Hampshire County Council cutting some verges unnecessarily. **ACTION:** Cllr Wallis to send details of the verges that we would prefer not to be cut so that the Clerk can inform Hampshire County Council.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 5th September 2023

With one amendment, namely that Cllr Kirkcaldy asked for a sentence to be added under the Public Participation agenda point. Chris Whyton made a comment to Council which was responded to as being out of order. It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, held 5th September 2023, were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Wallis, seconded by Cllr Carmichael.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th September 2023

It was agreed that all matters arising were covered in the agenda of the current meeting or had already been addressed under agenda item 4. .

7. Update from Wessex Internet

Josh Goodchild [JG] informed Council that work was progressing well. Had to delay start due to an issue with a key stakeholder. Work from Kites Nest will commence from January/February. Want to bring a core piece of Network through Recreation Ground. This work falls under Government Legislation, through the Communications Act 2003. This allows infrastructure to pass through. If agreed, Wessex Internet will pay £1.05 per metre, equalling around £200. In addition, Broadband connection can be provided for the Pavilion at a cost of £1 per month for a limited period of time. Cllr Forsbrey commented that this was a poor deal. Cllr Wise said it was the same as other landowners. When asked if they could do the groundworks for the cricket nets, JG replied that they could do construction favours. The payment terms are the standard agreement. Cllr Wise asked about the proposed route for the work? JG answered that they will drill under the play area to the Pavilion, then use the outer side of the cricket playing area. Will make good afterwards. Network for Rockbourne will be powered from Martin. There will also be a spur through West Park. Cllr Leeson asked 650-750mm deep and JG confirmed. Cllr Leeson mentioned the marquee spikes and JG said that this would not be a problem. The cable is in ducting and armoured. A detailed map will be provided. If Council wanted the cable removed, would need to give three years notice. Repairs and maintenance will be at cost of Wessex Internet. The rest of the Network will pass through private land in the village. Andy Carr spoke in favour of the plans and reiterated the importance of good connection for the School. **ACTION:** Clerk to distribute plans to Councillors. A response to Wessex is needed by December, therefore Council will decide at their next meeting on Tuesday 28th November 2023.

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

District Councillor Richards offered to send her report in writing as time was moving forwards. Her report follows:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) update

We are now able to bid for Community Infrastructure Levy funds. NFDC is releasing £1m of CIL money in this financial year. The bidding window opens this week and the deadline is mid-December.

I attended an online briefing for parish councils which explained how to bid and what bids would be suitable. The money is intended to fund infrastructure to support new development in the area (not necessarily in our parishes). We should be able to bid for funding for traffic calming measures in our parishes, either individually, or as a group of parishes.

Community Energy

I previously reported on the launch of the Community Energy programme in the New Forest. A workshop has now been organised for 3rd November, which aims to provide background about what's involved in community energy, how to develop community energy projects and how we move forward in the New Forest. They would like as many communities as possible to be represented, so please book your place if you are interested. I shall be attending the workshop anyway so can feed back.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-forest-community-energy-workshop-tickets-736316200577?aff=oddtcreator>

Report from full council meeting – Monday 9th October

- The new Medium Term Financial Plan was approved. The plan identifies significant budget pressures over the next few years, predicted to result in the £3.5m cumulative deficit by 2027/28.
- Increase in parking charges was agreed.
- Motion to support the Climate & Ecology bill currently going through parliament was not supported by the Conservative administration and so was not passed.

County Councillor Heron had also sent a report which was summarised by the Clerk and is attached to these Minutes. The section on Winter Gritting Routes was of concern and it was **RESOLVED** that **ACTION:** Clerk to draft a letter to the Council on this matter, highlighting the fact that the School Bus uses the routes to the village. Proposed by Cllr Wise and Seconded by Cllr Kirkcaldy.

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk gave a financial report, the contents of which were noted.

10. Budget

A Draft Budget had been distributed at the previous meeting. Cllr Wise asked whether we were going to pay the rest of the invoice for the traffic calming works? Cllr Carmichael confirmed that he last spoke to County Cllr Heron about this last November. There are things that can be done with white lines etc., so asking Mandy Ware [Assistant Highway Manager, Hampshire County Council] to respond. She has replied to say that we can do speed monitoring. Cllr Wise asked if we can not pay for it and spend the money on something else? Cllr Carmichael responded that we want to settle this and need to rebuild the relationship. Cllr Kirkcaldy said that we want the traffic calming to calm the traffic. We need to work on this. Cllr Wise added that we also want to work on CCTV and need to budget for this. Cllr Leeson said that a camera at each end would be around £3,000. Data can be put on cloud, but have to pay monthly for that. Or, can use an SD card, which will record 'events' only and needs to be downloaded every couple of weeks and cleared. Cllr Wise felt that the SD card was better, especially with the poor mobile signal in the village. Nigel Daly asked whether it would be vandalised? Cllr Leeson explained that it needed to go high up. Would suggest that total cost would be £4,000. Cllr Wise proposed adding this to the Budget. Cllr Leeson added that signage would also need to be produced. Cllr Kirkcaldy said that a camera at each end of the village would allow the recording of registration numbers. Nigel Daly asked about them working in the dark? Cllr Leeson said that they had infrared coverage up to 200m. Cllr Wise moved on to ask about the play equipment. Whilst the Clerk had been informed that the zipwire was sound, Public comments suggested that it was losing oil or something on rainy days. Cllr Carmichael said that it is an important amenity. Chris Whyton asked if we could fundraise for this instead? Cllr Kirkcaldy said that there should be other funding opportunities. Chris Whyton asked how many children use it? Marcus Locock said that it is used. Cllr Carmichael added that, nonetheless, the £20,000 quotes to date could not be justified. Cllr Kirkcaldy reiterated that we would have to seek external funding. Moving on, Cllr Forsbrey pointed out that the budget did not cover the purchase of the silhouettes agreed earlier, or the speeding reduction matters discussed. We also need to consider opportunities for revenue. Cllr Wise added that no income was being generated from the Pavilion or Recreation Ground and that they were not being promoted either. Chris Whyton added that the marquee was not being promoted for use. Cllr

Leeson asked if we needed to budget for flyers or promotion? Cllr Carmichael agreed that we should try and promote. Cllr Wise suggested sub-groups? Cllr Wise agreed that a separate group to make the Ground and Pavilion run more efficiently and to see it used more would be useful. We ought to have a website and we could have weddings here. Cllr Leeson added that we need to promote the village as a whole. Cllr Wise queried why we were not working with the Village Hall. Cllr Kirkcaldy referred to Minutes of previous meetings on this matter. The Clerk referred to his recent meeting with Lucy Matthews [Village Hall] and the hope that collaboration was improving. Bea Churchill said that it should be and that agreement was being sought to share Parish Council information with those on the Village Hall mailing list. Village Hall communications are now being redistributed via the Parish Council list. Cllr Wise reiterated the need for a working group. Cllr Leeson reiterated the need for £4,000 for the speed awareness/reduction work. Bea Churchill asked about the beacon cost? [discussed under agenda point 3, Pageant Master]. Cllr Wise said that he did not think that we can. It was RESOLVED that the total budget would be set at £35,586. [Draft budget plus £8,400. £4,000 for CCTV, £4,000 for Speed Awareness/Reduction, £400 for silhouettes.] This would give us a cost neutral budget, with expenditure balanced against income, with the Precept being increased from £13,594 to £14,274 (5%). Proposed by Cllr Kirkcaldy, Seconded by Cllr Leeson. Cllr Carmichael reiterated that this was a neutral budget. Nigel Daly asked whether the precept would increase or stay the same? The Clerk responded that it would increase by 5%. Chris Whyton stated that it was important to minimize the increase by fundraising.

11. Planning Matters

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

11a. Planning Applications

No current applications for consideration

11b. Planning Decisions – for notification only

Reference	23/10726
Alternative Reference	
Application Received	Tue 27 Jun 2023
Application Validated	Tue 01 Aug 2023
Address	MARSH FARM COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NF
Proposal	Conversion of garage/workshop to ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling
Status	Decided
Decision	Refused
Decision Issued Date	Tue 26 Sep 2023

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.

12. Tree Works

Clerk confirmed that the tree works will be carried out on 14th November 2023.

13. Children's Play Area

Three more specific quotes for smaller pieces of equipment to be requested **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain quotes so that this project could be moved forward.

14. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

The current hire terms and conditions were distributed to the Council at the last meeting. Cllr Wise said that a lot needed to be considered and the procedures definitely needing updating. Suggested a working group for this.

15. Flooding awareness

Cllr Wise advised that residents were somewhat unwilling to engage in reporting requests. The Clerk advised that he awaited responses from various people including Environment Agency and it was felt

that these were required in order to ascertain further actions.

16. To arrange the date for the next meeting –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 28th November 2023, Tuesday 9th January 2024 and Tuesday 13th February 2024 @7pm – in the Pavilion, Rockbourne Recreation Ground. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: rockbourneclerk@outlook.com for details.