



## ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023** in the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm** (convened at 7:22pm once quorate).

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

The following members of the public were also present: Bea Churchill, Simon Churchill, Jeannie McGraghan, Ed Olivier and Chris Whyton

#### 1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Forsbrey, Cllr Wallis, District Cllr Richards

#### 2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. **Correspondence received**

**Cllr Forsbrey Resignation** – The Council were sorry to receive this and will make a decision on next steps in the New Year

**Precept** – New Forest District Council have forwarded the required form for the Council to claim the 2024 Precept. The figures were agreed as correct and the form signed by the Chair for forwarding.

**Michael Carmichael** – It was agreed that the marquee could be hired out for a cost of £150 plus the cost of any damages plus the cost of the event licence that would need to be applied for. **ACTION:** Clerk to reply and also apply for licence

**Grounds maintenance offer from Darren Griffiths-Hayes** – It was agreed to keep his details on record. **ACTION:** Clerk to confirm his day rate.

**New Forest District Council** – Details of new parking clock charges. No response required.

**David Glasgow** – Offer of Acer tree. The Council would like to accept this and **ACTION:** Cllr Wise will talk to him and Chris Whyton offered to help with the moving of it.

**UK Cycling Events** – Notification of event on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Jasmine Sparshott, Hampshire Police** – Offer to carry out risk assessments.

**Fordingbridge Town Council** - Dates for Lengthsman to work in 2024. 26<sup>th</sup> February, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Other unallocated days may also be available.

**Lucy Matthews, Village Hall** – It was RESOLVED that future Council meetings would be held in the Village Hall during winter months and the Pavilion once the clocks move forwards. Proposed by Cllr Kirkcaldy, seconded by Cllr Leeson.

**Kevin Frenchum, New Forest District Council** – Letter confirming that verges are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and that adding Dragon's teeth may cause maintenance issues.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask Hampshire County Council about these.

**Nigel Daly** – Letter covering a number of topics. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond

#### **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).

Ed Olivier said that there seemed to be an opinion that the Cricket Club was a drain on Council resources. The arrangement with the Recreation Ground is that the Cricket Club pay for the grass cutting and all electricity and gas from April until September, plus half of the mole catching costs. They also spend around £1,000 per year improving the square. In 2016, the Club raised money for the pavilion and removed previous pavilion, portacabins and toilet block. The Club raised £65,000 which included £10,000 from the Parish Council. The new pavilion is a Parish Council asset and they are responsible for it. Cllr Kirkcaldy agreed. Cllr Wise expressed his concern that the Parish Council is spending about £8,000 per year on the Recreation Ground and that nobody else is using it. Ed Olivier replied that it can now be let out. Cllr Leeson added that a Working Group was being put in place. Cllr Wise reiterated that there had been complaints about the state of the facility after use and Cllr Leeson again pointed out that the Working Group is the way forward. Cllr Wise stated that he was not against the Cricket Club, just against the Parish Council paying out on the facility when there were other priorities to consider. Chris Whyton felt that it was important to explain the value of the asset and balance this against other requirements. Cllr Leeson agreed that this needed to be looked at as we go through the year. Bea Churchill said, for the record, it has been lovely to work together and greater collaboration is welcomed. Cllr Leeson agreed that the Working Group was not just for the Recreation Ground but for promoting Rockbourne as a whole. Cllr Wise said that he had sent a note to the Parish Council asking about the Recreation Ground Trust. The current Parish Councillors are not listed as the Trustees and this needs to be legally updated.

**ACTION:** Cllr Kirkcaldy asked the Clerk to update the records.

Jeannie McGraghan asked about raising further money and holding another event, possibly an annual village event? Cllr Kirkcaldy said well suggested. Bea Churchill felt that the reason should be to come together. Cllr Leeson agreed that the last event was so successful, so why not? Jeannie McGraghan added that these events make people see that the facilities are viable and can be used more. Bea Churchill asked whether we could ticket the event? Chris Whyton said that this could be a way to cover costs. Cllr Kirkcaldy reminded him that the Parish Council cannot make a profit. Cllr Wise said that all they were looking to do was cover costs. Bea Churchill agreed that it was fundraising. Cllr Leeson felt that there must be a way to do it.

**ACTION:** Clerk to investigate. Cllr Leeson to add to Working Group agenda.

#### **5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> October and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council, held 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023, were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Leeson, seconded by Cllr Wise.

#### **6. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**ACTION:** The letters to owners of properties on the stream should be printed and distributed. Clerk to send list to work out which addresses need this.

#### **7. Wessex Internet proposed works**

**ACTION:** Clerk to respond to Wessex Internet and explain that a slight change to the route was required, going out of the Recreation Ground before the vehicular access point.

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

County Councillor Heron had sent a report which was summarised by the Clerk and is attached to these Minutes.

#### **9. Payment of outstanding creditors**

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

#### **10. Planning Matters**

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

## 10a. Planning Applications

No current applications for consideration

## 10b. Planning Decisions – *for notification only*

**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

**Reference** 23/11053  
**Alternative Reference** PP-12507946  
**Application Received** Thu 05 Oct 2023  
**Application Validated** Mon 23 Oct 2023  
**Address** WOODBINE COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NH  
**Proposal** Proposed front gate at access to house. New hedge planting.  
**Status** Decided  
**Decision** Full Planning Permission  
**Decision Issued Date** Mon 23 Oct 2023

## 10c. Planning Appeals

**Reference** 23/10726  
**Appeal Received** Tue 14 Nov 2023  
**Address** MARSH FARM COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NF  
**Proposal** Conversion of garage/workshop to ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling

*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. Children's Play Area

Three more specific quotes for smaller pieces of equipment have been requested. **ACTION:** Clerk to check on funding so that this project could be moved forward. Possibly approach Veolia?

## 12. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion – Cricket nets

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council were satisfied with the plans for this project. Proposed by Cllr Kirkcaldy and seconded by Cllr Leeson. **ACTION:** Clerk to ascertain funding procedures.

## 13. Flooding awareness

Clerk had received a response from Natural England stating that they were not responsible for the area. Also, a response from Alex Deacon, Catchment Programme Manager at Wessex Rivers Trust, stating that they would be happy to walk the stream and provide management advice. They can do this in the New Year. **ACTIONS:** Clerk to follow up with Wessex Rivers Trust and Cllr Kirkcaldy to try contacting Environment Agency.

## 14. Working Groups

It was RESOLVED that the terms for the three Working Groups were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Wise and seconded by Cllr Kirkcaldy.

## 15. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @7pm – in the Village Hall, Rockbourne. Those wanting to join the meetings are asked to please contact the Parish Clerk: [rockbourneclerk@outlook.com](mailto:rockbourneclerk@outlook.com) for details.