



## ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024** in the Village Hall, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

**Members Present:** Cllr Kirkcaldy (Chair), Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Wallis and Cllr Wise.

**Guests Present:** District Councillor Richards

The following members of the public were also present: Lee Bradley, Bea Churchill, Simon Churchill, Jen Cole, Nat Cole, Nigel Daly, Nick Matthews, Jeannie McGraghan, Malcolm Smith, James Westwood-Beere, Chris Whyton and Frances Wise

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Leeson (Vice-Chair), County Cllr Heron, Mark Baulch (Clerk).

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Correspondence received**

There was no correspondence received

**4. Public participation time**

Nigel Daley asked when there will be a Working Group meeting for The Bourne.

Cllr Kirkcaldy said that the legal part of the Bourne Working Group has to be put in place but it would be a good idea to set up a Working Group Meeting as soon as possible. Cllr Kirkcaldy also said the Environmental Agency have been contacted but they are apparently very busy and there has been no response from them as yet.

Nick Matthews suggested the Council stop digging ditches to aid the escape of water from the road back to the river as the reverse was occurring, making flooding of the road worse.

[Post-meeting information: Residents were clearing drainage channels and these were not authorised or agreed by the Council].

Lee Bradley asked if we needed sandbags. District Cllr Richards mentioned that there is apparently some funding available towards the Bourne.

**ACTION:** Leader of the Bourne Working Group to set up a meeting and Clerk to find out about sandbags and funding.

**5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Nigel Daley declared that the minutes could not be signed off as none of the topics covered in the last meeting were addressed. **ACTION:** The phrase 'most covered in this agenda' to be removed and the minutes represented for signature at the next meeting.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Cllr Wise asked about the process to elect a new Cllr but said the decision seemed to have already been made by the Chairman and Clerk. Cllr Kirkcaldy said the process was a legal one and had to be done in a legal and proper way. We have to wait to see if anyone wants to apply for the role and take

it from there. The Clerk and Councillors have no authority to make a decision on the vacancy.

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

It was decided to leave this topic and discuss it at the meeting scheduled for 10th January in the Village Hall.

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

Cllr Richards said that more money needs to be raised for public parking in the New Forest as there is due a 30% increase in parking charges which will inevitably come from Council Tax. There is the worry that more road users will go elsewhere to shop (where it is free) leading to less funds to the Council which is a concern. There was no mention of how to raise more money.

Cllr Richards also mentioned that the Council were looking into affordable housing and possibly in Rockbourne.

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

In the absence of the Clerk and the Vice-Chair, this item was deferred to next month.

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

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

The following two items were on the Agenda but were not discussed in detail and no decisions were made.

<b>Reference</b>	23/11240
<b>Alternative Reference</b>	PP-12635641
<b>Application Received</b>	Tue 28 Nov 2023
<b>Application Validated</b>	Mon 11 Dec 2023
<b>Address</b>	2 YONGES COTTAGES, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NJ
<b>Proposal</b>	Two storey side extension; demolish existing lean-to

<b>Reference</b>	23/11262
<b>Alternative Reference</b>	PP-12634753
<b>Application Received</b>	Mon 4 Dec 2023
<b>Application Validated</b>	Mon 4 Dec 2023
<b>Address</b>	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
<b>Proposal</b>	Demolition of existing barn consented for conversion to 3 dwellings; replacement new barn to provide terrace of 3 dwellings with parking

*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**

The Clerk is still waiting for quotes. Cllr Wise said we will probably now need three new quotes as time had lapsed.

#### **12. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion**

Lee Bradley was present from the Rockbourne Cricket Club and had no updates so progress on the cricket nets was not discussed.

#### **13. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)**

The Bourne Working Group had already been discussed.

Cllr Wallis explained that due to absences at meetings and illness over Christmas the Recreation Working Group would be meeting as soon as possible and would report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Wise spoke about the successful meeting for the Traffic Working Group, held on 4th January 2024. Minutes for that meeting have been published. Cllr Wise also said he has set up a meeting with the Sandleheath traffic representative. Also meetings with Alice Tubbs and Andy Carr. The state of the road was again discussed and Cllr Carmichael stated that the better the road the busier

the village traffic will be. Cllr Wallis agreed and asked if anyone had noticed a decrease in the volume of traffic through the village since the deterioration of the road. Cllr Kirkcaldy said the Council are committed to keeping the roads in the best possible condition and that safety is a priority. A meeting with Jasmine Sparsholt from Hampshire Police is also being set up regarding '20 is plenty'. It was agreed that getting '20 is plenty' is a priority for the village and trying to attain a 40mph speed limit from Sandheath to the end of the County (ie: Toyd Corner) would also help to discourage commuters.

**14. To arrange the date for the next meetings –**

The next meetings will be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @ 7pm, in the Village Hall, Rockbourne. Also, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto:rockbourneclerk@outlook.com) for details.