



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 14th May 2024** in the Village Hall, Rockbourne, at **7.20pm**.

Members Present: Cllr Leeson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Branagan, Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Wallis and Cllr Wise. Also present District Councillor Richards, Mark Baulch (Clerk & RFO) and twelve members of the public from the parish and a record of their names is held.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To elect Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Wise proposed Cllr Leeson as Chair, Cllr Carmichael Seconded this and this was voted on unanimously. Cllr Leeson proposed Cllr Wise as Vice-Chair, Seconded by Cllr Wallis and this was voted on unanimously.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 9th April 2024

All confirmed that they were a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

5. To discuss co-option of a Councillor

As the period for an election to be called had passed, Cllr Leeson had approached a few people, but none had expressed an interest. The Clerk had not received any approaches following the Notice of Casual Vacancy. Daniel Wiggins had expressed interest and Cllr Wallis Proposed that he be Co-Opted, Seconded by Cllr Carmichael. This was voted on unanimously. **ACTION:** Clerk will speak to Daniel Wiggins and make the arrangements for him to accept the position of Parish Councillor.

6. Public participation time

There is some concern over the most recent Planning Application from Springbourne Farm. There has already been a change of use from holiday lets to residential. They have also recently erected a new barn at the top of the track and changed the surface of the footpath. Marsh Farm had their application turned down due to proximity to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Whilst the Highways Authority had made comment on another application in the village, they have done nothing on this one.

Cllr Wise noted that this is the eleventh iteration of this application.

It is also understood that a further application will be made by Mushroom Farm. It is felt that if this was the first application by Springbourne Farm, it would be refused. It was understood that New Forest District Council wanted more holiday lets, but this condition was then removed. Parishioners want the Council to object.

Cllr Carmichael commented that he thought they would.

Cllr Wise added that Hampshire Countryside Service lists conditions for footpaths. Nothing should be altered without consent. Vehicular access should come second.

It is now effectively a concrete road and has been made wider by the double gates. Residents and visitors want to walk in the countryside, not walk on concrete. Can Parish Council report infringements?

Cllr Wise said that the best course of action was for residents to contact the enforcement officer in writing.

ACTION: Clerk to include reference to this in Council response to Planning Application.

The Cricket Club reported that they will be starting work on the nets next week. They also mentioned that they have

gone through the process of registering land, which cost £30 to register but £1,000 in fees for a solicitor. Can the deeds be held by a solicitor?

ACTION: Clerk to determine cost of this.

There was some discussion over removing Hemlock from the Bourne. Cllr Carmichael will be taking the lead on the Bourne Working Group and **ACTION:** we need an agreed policy on how we manage the Bourne, which then needs to be communicated.

7. Correspondence received

E-mail from Bridget Glasgow asking for permission to park vehicles on the Recreation Ground on the evening of Friday 6th September and the lunch time of Sunday 8th September. It was **AGREED** that requests of this type be charged at £50 per day. Proposed by Cllr Leeson and Seconded by Cllr Wise. This was voted on unanimously. In addition, it was **AGREED** at the same time that this fee be waived on this occasion.

E-mail with regards to Dudsbury Homes appeal from Chair of Action4Alderholt. Cllr Wise has communicated with him but not yet spoken to him. Cllr Wise may attend the Public Inquiry at the end of June.

E-mail from New Forest District Council Community Safety Manager with regards to Community Engagement Events. The nearest of these is in Fordingbridge on 29th May. **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate details and place on Notice Board.

E-mail from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police Cyber Crime Unit offering sessions on safety online. **ACTION:** Clerk to gauge interest in Parish and then ask for potential dates if required.

E-mail from New Forest District Council Solicitor with regards to Community Right to Bid nomination submitted by Parish Council. A decision on this to be received by 21st June 2024 latest. Any further supportive information will be welcomed.

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

Cllr Richards asked about the new garden waste bins. Most do not have them, one person was happy with theirs, another said that they held too much liquid which adds to the weight and so they really need holes in the bottom.

9. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices to the Councillors. The Clerk has completed the necessary paperwork for the end of the Financial Year and submitted this to the Accountant. Next task is to complete a VAT claim.

The renewal for the Council insurance has also been received and is £100 more than last year. Whilst alternative providers have been sought, most will not insure the Pavilion which is part of this cover. Therefore, it was **AGREED:** to renew with our current provider. Proposed by Cllr Wise, Seconded by Cllr Leeson. **ACTION:** Clerk to renew cover.

10. Planning Matters

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

a. Planning Applications

Reference	24/10232
Alternative Reference	
Application Received	Thu 14 Mar 2024
Application Validated	Wed 03 Apr 2024
Address	COURT ORCHARD HOUSE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NN
Proposal	Removal of agricultural tie on property (Lawful Use Certificate for retaining an existing use or operation)

The Council decided to respond PAR5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

Reference	24/10278
Alternative Reference	PP-12916761
Application Received	Mon 25 Mar 2024
Application Validated	Mon 25 Mar 2024
Address	SPRINGBOURNE FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NS
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 of application 23/10307 to allow a proposed change to the approved design and siting of the replacement dwelling

The Council decided to respond PAR4: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed.

- Allowing the change would be contrary to Policy STR2 re protecting the AONB
- Allowing the change would be contrary to Policy STR3 re promoting development in an accessible location (this property is located on a public footpath)

- Allowing the change will have impact on the dark skies in this area, with light pollution from the increased number of buildings. The light emissions from the houses will have a negative impact on the Cranborne Chase International Dark Sky Reserve
- The proposal is likely to result in considerably greater traffic density on the well used public footpath.

On this last point, it is noted that this footpath has already had a surface change, from gravel to concrete, which no planning permission has been sought for and is believed to be in contravention of policy STR2 re protecting the AONB. It is also in contravention of Section 131 of The Highways Act 1980 as referred to in paragraph 6 of The Countryside Service Planning Team's response dated 9 April 2024. This states that there must be no surface alterations to a Public Right of Way without consent.

Reference	24/10290
Alternative Reference	PP-12930074
Application Received	Thu 28 Mar 2024
Application Validated	Thu 28 Mar 2024
Address	INWARDLEIGH COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NL
Proposal	New Carport & Retrospective Permission for Replacement Fence & Bin Store

The Council decided to respond PAR1: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

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.

b. Planning Decisions

Reference	24/10152
Alternative Reference	PP-12826366
Application Received	Fri 23 Feb 2024
Application Validated	Fri 23 Feb 2024
Address	INWARDLEIGH COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NL
Proposal	Conversion of garage into studio / home office
Status	Decided
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Decision Issued Date	Mon 08 Apr 2024

11. Children's Play Area

Due to the decisions on the Community Infrastructure Levy grant, the Clerk is arranging for companies that had quoted to replace the play equipment to return and give a quote for repair or removal only. A copy of the insurance in place has been received from Clive Moulard and the Council is grateful to the Cricket Club for their help in making arrangements for the grass cutting. The Clerk has contacted New Forest District Council to confirm that their services are no longer required.

12. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Cllr Wallis had covered points from her Working Group earlier in the meeting.

Cllr Wise had not held a meeting since the last Parish Council meeting, but has a Working Group meeting in two weeks time. He met with the PCSO and agreed five locations where Police deemed it safe for SpeedWatch.

Cllr Leeson said that the Bourne Working Group had met. **ACTION:** Clerk to send Terms of Reference to Cllr Carmichael for review and rewriting as he will now be the lead Councillor for this group, with Cllr Leeson assisting.

13. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 11th June 2024, Tuesday 9th July 2024 and Tuesday 13th August 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.