



ROCKBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 9th April 2024** in the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Rockbourne, at **7.00pm**.

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

Cllr Kirkcaldy (Chair)

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Correspondence received

E-mail from Cllr Kirkcaldy with his resignation. A notice of casual vacancy has been issued. Several E-mail from New Forest District Council with regards to costs for mowing as mentioned last month. The Council are offering seven full cuts and nine outfield cuts for £4504.75. This is considerably more than the 2022 cost of £1342.68, the 2023 budget of £1409.10 and the 2024 budget of £1476.95. Also an e-mail from the cricket club proposing to buy some equipment themselves and for Clive Moulard to use his tractor to pull this and cut the grass. This for a cost of £1,200 per year. It was **PROPOSED:** by Cllr Leeson and Seconded by Cllr Wallis to accept this offer and all Councillors present were in agreement. This is subject to the correct insurance and servicing arrangements being in place. **ACTION:** Clerk to make sure of this and to decline offer from New Forest District Council.

E-mail from Royal British Legion regarding D-Day 80th Anniversary. **ACTION:** Clerk to reply that we are not planning an event.

Confirmation received that the order for a free portrait of the King had been accepted.

4. Public participation time

Concern about the weed in the Bourne. Need to move quickly to get rid of invasive species. Also a request for the Terms of Reference for the Working Group to be revised to reflect flooding issue as well. See **ACTION** under Agenda Item 12.

Alderholt managed to raise the money required for the Planning Appeal, referred to last month.

It was asked that the Council gave assurances that no personal comments are included in the future.

Parish Council has done an amazing job over 20 years and everyone is here for the good of the Parish.

There is a need to try and avoid divisiveness and work together more effectively.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on 12th March 2024

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, held on 12th March 2024 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chair. Proposed by Cllr Carmichael and Seconded by Cllr Branagan.

6. Action points from the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th March 2024

Fordingbridge Town Council had confirmed that we received six Lengthsman days with the potential

addition of more from the nine unallocated days.

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

Cllr Richards said that various Parishes had received funding from the recent round of CIL grant requests. Rockbourne Parish Council were not successful but were encouraged to try again next year. Next claim will be in October. There had been a Special Council Meeting on the Midgeham gravel extraction proposals, but there is no objection to be placed by New Forest District Council. NFDC have now adopted their new Corporate Plan for the next four years.

Cllr Wise asked about Assets of Community Value. This could offer a community asset a protected future, with a six-month moratorium on any change of use proposal whilst the Community is given a chance to purchase the asset. Cllr Carmichael asked whether and how we should do this for an asset in the village? [Cllr Richards sent the link to a form to apply for this after the meeting] **ACTION:** Clerk to download form and complete for identified asset.

8. Payment of outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented the latest invoices to the Councillors. The Clerk will be completing the necessary paperwork for the end of the Financial Year in the coming weeks.

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

None

9b. Planning Decisions

Reference	24/10058
Alternative Reference	PP-12748941
Application Received	Mon 22 Jan 2024
Application Validated	Mon 29 Jan 2024
Address	MARSH FARM, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NF Construction of a single-storey side extension to provide therapy pool room; alterations to existing single-storey side addition; change of external finish from cladding to render on the dwelling house.
Status	Decided
Decision	Granted Subject to Conditions
Decision Issued Date	Thu 14 Mar 2024

9c. Planning Appeals

Reference	23/10726
Alternative Reference	
Appeal Received	14 Nov 2023 – in progress 13 Mar 2024
Address	MARSH FARM COTTAGE, ROCKBOURNE SP6 3NF Conversion of garage/workshop to ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling
Original 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. Children's Play Area

Due to the decisions on the Community Infrastructure Levy grant, **ACTION:** Clerk to arrange for companies that had quoted to replace the play equipment to return and give a quote for repair or removal only. Councillors asked to be invited to any contractor meetings.

11. Users of Recreation Ground and Pavilion

The Building Control Inspector is still to visit to inspect the loft. Probably next week.

Cllr Wise asked about the relationship between the Trust and the Parish Council and the Title of the land. Trust regulations need to be sent to the Charity Commission.

12. Working Groups (LGA1972 s7.48)

Cllr Leeson to take the lead on the Bourne Working Group. **ACTION:** Terms of Reference need to be rewritten to reflect this and to include the flooding issues. There was some discussion on a recent pollution incident as well as the use of WhatsApp concerning this. The need to remove Hemlock was also discussed.

Cllr Wise then spoke on the Traffic Working Group, saying that they had met again on 26th March. Two options discussed for CCTV. Cllr Wise also met with PCSO Stephen May to follow up on Speed Watch. Hampshire County Council have changed policy on 20mph speed limits. There is a need to demonstrate community support, as well as to have an active Speed Watch group, have Police support and a budget for streetworks.

13. To arrange the date for the next meetings –

The next meetings will be Tuesday 14th May 2024 (Annual General Meeting) @7pm in the Village Hall. Then Tuesday 11th June 2024 and Tuesday 9th July @ 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.